North Castle to County: Stop Shirking Elijah Miller House Responsibility

By Martin Wilbur
North Castle officials sternly told County Legislator Michael Smith last week that the town wants the historic Elijah Miller House in North White Plains to be rehabilitated and preserved at its current location.

The town board and residents bluntly relayed their demands to Smith during a June 24 board discussion of the issue, urging the lawmaker to inform County Executive Rob Astorino to authorize funding for urgent restoration needed to save the 277-year-old house. The structure, located at 140 Virginia Rd., was George Washington's headquarters for the 1777 Battle of White Plains during the Revolutionary War and is a local, state and national landmark.

Although the site is county owned, the town had been asked by Astorino’s office last year to provide a recommendation on how to proceed.

At last Wednesday’s board meeting, Supervisor Michael Schiliro repeatedly expressed frustration that no action has been taken following what appeared to be a productive meeting last July between town representatives and various county officials. At that meeting, which occurred after the town board passed a resolution asking for rehabilitation of the house based on recommendations from a town Committee and Friends of Miller House, Schiliro said Westchester Parks Commissioner Kathleen O’Connor agreed with a prior study concluding that the house could be seriously damaged if moved.

However, he said the town received a letter from the county about three weeks ago stating that it had no interest in paying for restorative work if the Miller continued on page 2

Local Communities Look to Cash in on State’s Hotel Tax Approval

By Martin Wilbur
The New York State Legislature approved a 3 percent hotel tax last week for eight Westchester municipalities that could add tens or even hundreds of thousands of dollars to local government coffers.

Last Thursday night in the waning hours of this year’s legislative session in Albany, the Senate made the surprising last-minute move to approve the requests for North Castle, Mount Pleasant’s village of Sleepy Hollow, Harrison, Greenburgh (including its villages), Port Chester, Tuckahoe, Mamaroneck and Yonkers. Until now, only White Plains, New Rochelle, the City of Rye and Rye Brook were permitted to charge the tax in Westchester.

The measure must be signed into law by Gov. Andrew Cuomo to take effect. Then the municipalities would each have to hold a public hearing and pass their own legislation to enact it in their jurisdictions.

“This is a major step forward,” said Assemblyman Tom Abinanti (D-Pleasantville), part of the group of Westchester state representatives who teamed up to fight for the legislation. “It’s a user fee that would be paid by people coming in from the outside and it would raise revenue for our local communities.”

State Sen. George Latimer (D-Rye) said for years Westchester communities that had hotels had made requests to have the same opportunity to raise continued on page 4

Superhero for Super Readers

By Martin Wilbur
The Mount Pleasant Public Library kicked off its summer reading program with Sgt. Major Major last Friday afternoon (aka David Engel), a children’s performer, at his Superhero Training Academy.

The children were invited to dress up as a superhero to get into the spirit of the program. Over the next six weeks children from pre-school through sixth grade can borrow books from the library in Pleasantville or the branch library in Valhalla and have their reading logged. If they finish 10 books they receive a prize and are eligible for a raffle.

MTA Approves Long-Term Lease for Chappaqua Affordable Housing

By Martin Wilbur
The Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA) granted a 99-year lease last Wednesday to the developer of the Chappaqua affordable housing project, clearing one more hurdle in its quest to construct the building on Hunts Place.

Conifer Realty obtained a four- to five-foot strip of land from Metro-North, the sublessee, to construct a pervious parking and storage areas. An eight-foot tall safety security fence must also be constructed by the developer to prevent entry onto the tracks.

The approvals were granted by the MTA’s Finance Committee despite continued critical comments made by opponents of the project. MTA spokesman Aaron Donovan said the area was examined by the agency, and officials were satisfied.

“We looked at it very carefully and we concluded that it would be safe,” Donovan said.

Although Conifer still must satisfy a long list of conditions outlined in the town’s special use permit before it can obtain a building permit to start construction on the 28-unit structure, an attorney for the developer was happy with last week’s progress.

“Conifer is pleased with the MTA’s decision and looks forward to completion of this important project,” lawyer Randolph McLaughlin said in a brief statement.”

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North Castle to County: Stop Shirking Miller House Responsibility

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House wasn't relocated. The county offered no solution other than to try and find another site, he said.

Schiliro said that the condition of the house continues to deteriorate and its survival could be in jeopardy if there is no resolution to the issue.

“Quite frankly, I was disgusted at the condition of the Miller House, with icicles handing off of the side of it,” Schiliro said of when he visited last winter. “It looked like it was going to come down and I said to (Astorino’s Chief of Staff) George (Oros), I’m trying to be patient but something’s got to give.”

Smith said Astorino does not want to authorize significant money to keep the house in an area that is not conducive to allowing visitors comfortable access to the property. It is located next to a cement factory.

Four years ago, the county approved $1.2 million for restoration but those funds have expired, he said.

“The county is just simply not interested in rehabilitating on site,” Smith said.

“The issue that we have, the issue that we continue to have, is the cement factory. The reality is I don’t hear anybody really talking about re-siting the cement factory and that’s going to be an ongoing issue with whatever happens.”

The legislator said the town and the county were on the verge of an agreement about two years ago to move the house to the town-owned Fountain Park in North White Plains. However, former supervisor Howard Arden, who supported the Fountain Park proposal, was defeated and the new town board had another vision for the house, he said.

Smith called on the town to sit down with county officials to work out an acceptable agreement.

“We need to have a substantive discussion and negotiate what is going to be,” Smith said.

But Schiliro countered that there is nothing for the town to negotiate. The county owns the property and is responsible for preservation and maintenance.

“I just have a real hard time understanding how putting more tarps and covering more holes is preserving and maintaining the Miller House,” Schiliro said. “I’m sorry. Preserving and maintaining the Miller House is taking the $1.2 million or the $1.5 million and preserving this thing the way it should be.”

For about an hour, town residents, some of them emotional, lambasted the county for failing to live up to its obligations. Instead, it has permitted the house to fall into greater disrepair, they said. Westchester has owned the property since 1917.

Friends of Miller House President Ed Woodyard, who said he had an ancestor fight in the Battle of White Plains, said the county’s position has been appalling.

“Right now the County of Westchester, with regard to the Miller House, is like ISIS blowing up Palmyra in Syria,” Woodyard said. “Right now the County of Westchester is no different than the Taliban blowing up a religious symbol.”

Co-town Historian Sharon Tomback said between the county’s disappearing trust fund to maintain the house and attempts to move it to town land, it is apparent the county is attempting to dodge its commitment. Tomback and several other speakers referenced the state attorney general’s Assurance of Discontinuance in 1994, which affirmed the county’s ownership and responsibility to preserve the property.

“The facts simply show the county’s pattern of deliberate neglect and deliberate efforts to erase county responsibility,” Tomback said.

Lifelong North White Plains resident Nancy Batastelli called the county’s actions leading to the current situation “unbelievable.” A supporter of having the Miller House moved to Kensico Dam Plaza, which had been discussed about five years ago, Batastelli implored Smith to find the money for its preservation. The town was told that the plaza is no longer an option.

“I really hope that you will find it in your budget to chalk up whatever it is to have this fixed and perhaps to have it moved,” she said.

Smith, who later in the week expressed outrage at Woodyard’s comments comparing the county government to terrorist groups, said the community’s response was loud and clear and he will meet with Astorino and other county officials to discuss the options.

“I want to get something done to the property,” Smith said.
Bedford Councilman Announces BOL Candidacy

By Neal Rentz

Veteran Bedford Councilman Francis Corcoran (R-C) announced his candidacy last Thursday morning for the Westchester County Board of Legislators seat.

Corcoran, 52, will be opposed by Democratic Mount Kisco village Trustee Karen Schleimer. They will vie for the District 2 seat that was vacated by former Legislator Peter Harckham earlier this month.

"Family, community and service are the reasons I'm running," Corcoran said. "I've proven over the last 12 years as a councilman, in my community and as a leader in business and through my service in many important positions on the state level, that I have the qualifications, the expertise and experience to do the job and the passion to do it well."

Corcoran, surrounded by a group of supporters at the downtown Katonah gazebo that included County Executive Rob Astorino, touted his bipartisan approach to represent the residents of Bedford and help the town through the economic crisis that started in 2008. The town has maintained its Triple A bond rating and budget reserves and has preserved open space, he said.

Corcoran said he would fight to make Westchester more affordable by supporting responsible spending and lower taxes. The county also needs to combat the federal government's “overreach” in the affordable housing settlement by threatening to assume local control over zoning and planning.

“We need a legislator who will be a fearless and vocal champion for preserving our environment, protecting the character and quality of life we enjoy in Westchester, especially here in northern Westchester,” said Corcoran, who until March was president of a national stock exchange and is now a real estate investor.

Astorino said the election of Corcoran would be important for his administration because the District 2 winner would be seated as soon as the results are certified, usually a few weeks after Election Day, a process that is required since Harckham resigned his seat. As a result, the new legislator will participate in the 2016 county budget process, which Astorino cautioned could be difficult.

"The county executive said he needs allies that will make the hard choices to maintain crucial services but avoid raising property taxes.

“Francis will make those hard decisions,” Astorino said. "He's made them here in Bedford and now it's time that he moves up to White Plains and on a countywide level, still protecting this district, he makes those decisions for the people of Westchester.”

"I can't think of anyone else that I would rather have in White Plains fighting with me, for all of Westchester, than somebody who knows how important the environment is, knows how important services are, but never loses perspective that taxes are extraordinarily important and are driving people out of this county," Astorino added.

Schleimer said she is looking forward to the campaign against Corcoran and getting her message out to the public.

"I don't know him, but I'm confident that my record and past performance as village prosecutor and trustee will make a strong case to the voters," she said.

Harckham, who was elected in 2007, announced earlier this year he would not run for re-election. He then resigned his seat on June 1 to join Gov. Andrew Cuomo's administration. On June 15, the Board of Legislators’ Democratic majority appointed Lewisboro resident Alan Cole to fill the vacancy on an interim basis.

District 2 includes Bedford, Lewisboro, Pound Ridge, North Salem, Mount Kisco and a portion of Somers.
Local Communities Look to Cash in on State's Hotel Tax Approval

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revenue that is afforded to the large cities and counties. The Republican-led Senate had repeatedly opposed the measure because it would raise taxes, he said.

However, this year, Latimer said sharp-eyed legislators, including Assemblyman David Buchwald (D-White Plains), noticed that bills for the hotel tax — usually referred to as an occupancy or bed tax — were coming up for votes in several upstate counties and backed by Republican senators.

Democrats in the Assembly who typically support the measure regardless of location, decided they would not support those bills unless municipalities that had requested the same tax for years were also approved, he said.

The tax would go into effect for a three-year period for each municipality, Latimer added.

A couple of local officials who had regularly fought for the extra revenue were pleased that their town will be in a position to levy the tax.

Greenburgh Supervisor Paul Feiner estimated that his town, which has nearly 2,000 hotel rooms, could gain between $200,000 and $500,000 a year, virtually all of which would come from nonresidents. The money would be used to reduce property taxes and comply with the tax cap, Feiner said.

In addition to the four municipalities in Westchester, 43 counties in the state have been allowed to impose the tax, making it an issue of fairness, he said.

“Fourty-six-and-a-half percent of the counties that had previously been granted permission to have a hotel tax by the state have smaller populations than the Town of Greenburgh,” Feiner said.

“We argued that New York State was not treating Greenburgh fairly.”

North Castle Supervisor Michael Schiliro said while the town has only one hotel, La Quinta Inn on Business Park Drive in Armonk, the tax could raise $60,000 to $80,000 a year, money that could be applied toward capital projects, which the state doesn’t exempt from the tax cap.

He praised the area’s state representatives for fighting for their towns and residents.

“It seemed impossible and has been for years,” said Schiliro, who indicated the town board would likely move quickly to set a public hearing on the issue. “They were doing the right thing in fighting for their constituencies.”

MTA Approves Long-Term Lease for Chappaqua Affordable Housing

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New Castle Supervisor Robert Greenstein said he disagreed with the MTA’s conclusion. Although he opposed the decision, Greenstein said the town doesn’t have any recourse to challenge the outcome.

“We still have serious concerns about safety. Apparently, the MTA doesn’t,” Greenstein said.

However, Conifer has a substantial number of conditions its representatives have to work through, plus state Department of Transportation approval, he said.

Still, one project opponent continued to urge town officials to do whatever it can to use the municipally owned parcel on Washington Avenue for affordable housing. Chappaqua resident Will Wedge recently wrote to Greenstein and the town board urging officials to relocate the Conifer project to Washington Avenue.

Wedge cited fatal train accidents in Valhalla and Philadelphia earlier this year as a valid argument against wanting to put residents within 10 feet of the Metro-North tracks.

“Some of the contortions that Conifer, local and county municipal authorities, state boards of review and now the MTA have put themselves through would be ludicrous if they weren’t so morally shameful,” he said. "No matter what easements, fire-code variances, no-build agreements or brownfield remediation plans are concocted one simply can’t turn the pig’s ear of 54 Hunts Place into an affordable housing silk purse."

McLaughlin has repeatedly dismissed the town’s overtures to move the project to Washington Avenue.
By Martin Wilbur

About 20 Mount Kisco and North Castle residents collaborated Saturday morning to pick up garbage around Byram Lake, which serves as Mount Kisco’s water supply.

The small crew of volunteers, armed with gloves and large trash bags, picked up bottles, cans, wrappers, plastic bags and any other litter they could find during the first Restore Byram Lake Reservoir Watershed clean up.

Organized by North Castle resident John Halloran and the Village of Mount Kisco’s Byram Lake Committee, the volunteers split up into groups, with one starting at the north end of the lake closest to Mount Kisco and another at the south end. They left the bags along the roadside on Byram Lake Road to be picked up by local highway department crews.

Halloran, who grew up around the lake, said a few years ago he first noticed deplorable levels of garbage around the water body’s perimeter, in particular at various locations where access is easier for people to reach.

“Three years ago I took it upon myself to clean up an area around the lake after having seen the amount of litter and debris,” he said. “Three months ago I had visited the same area that I had cleaned and it was in a state of disaster. I was appalled by the condition and knew something had to be done.”

Halloran, a corporate affairs administrator at Nestle Waters North America in Stamford, Conn., was successful in having his employer sponsor the effort. The company, which bottles a variety of different types of drinking water, supports similar events throughout the United States as part of its Healthy Waterways Initiative, he said.

Mount Kisco resident Pamela Geismar said when she heard about the event it seemed like a worthwhile and important undertaking. Although her Byram Lake Road residence isn’t on the lake, she is familiar with the water and the area.

“For an hour of my time, it was worth it,” Geismar said.

Another Mount Kisco resident, Hank Freeman, participated in the clean up with his 13-year-old son Patrick. Freeman said that while some might assume that much of the lakeside trash would be generated by kids, he found a large amount of “adult litter,” such as beer bottles.

Halloran and Mount Kisco Trustee Peter Grunthal, who is a member of the Byram Lake Committee and participated in Saturday’s event, said they are optimistic that future clean ups can be scheduled around the reservoir.

Halloran said the problem of debris around lakes and other water bodies can’t be solved only through cleanup efforts, but recycling campaigns have to improve. In the United States, only 38 percent of PET plastic water bottles are disposed of properly, according to the National Association for PET Container Resources.

Nestle Waters North America has set a goal of achieving a 60 percent recycling rate for PET plastic bottles in the U.S. by 2018.

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Mapping of Brynwood Zone Approved; Site Plan Review to Follow

By Martin Wilbur

The North Castle Town Board approved the mapping of Brynwood Golf & Country Club’s new zone, the final step for the applicant before moving on to the planning board for site plan review.

Approval of the mapping for the Golf Course Community Floating Overlay (GCCFO) District was completed last week as town officials continue to tighten the language in the conservation easement. The easement will severely restrict what the applicant can do with the 120-acre portion of the 156-acre property that will contain the redesigned golf course.

Town Attorney Roland Baroni said at the board’s June 24 meeting that the easement will provide the potential for a second grantee in the event one is located. Neighboring residents, particularly many at nearby Windmill Farm, pressed for assurances that the land outside of the area where the 73 luxury townhouses would be constructed and the clubhouse can only be a golf course or open space.

“I think it’s a very good document,” said Supervisor Michael Schiliro. “The changes really tighten it up significantly but we want to make sure we get it as best we can and that’s what we’re working toward.”

Schiliro said the town has yet to find a second grantee to join the town to help monitor whether the conditions placed on the applicant are met. There had been discussions with the Westchester Land Trust but that organization has been removed from consideration as a potential grantee after its representatives indicated to the town that it had never been involved in a comparable situation to Brynwood, he said.

A search for another entity will continue but is not required for the project to be built.

Although it took Brynwood about four years to obtain the required zoning change since the time its original proposal was submitted, there were no comments from the public at last week’s hearing for the mapping of the property.

Board members complimented the Brynwood Partners and their representatives for being receptive to the community’s requests.

No. Castle Awards $251G Bid to Contractor for New Gazebo

By Martin Wilbur

A year after the roof of the gazebo collapsed at Armonk’s Wampus Brook Park, North Castle officials last week awarded the bid that is expected to have a new structure built by November.

The town board unanimously approved on June 24 the winning bid of $251,600 to M.E. Jennings, Inc., a Harrison-based contractor.

Project architect John Sullivan said the bid that was accepted represented about a 30 percent price reduction from the first round of proposals received earlier this year. Minor changes to the design, including the use of different roof materials, and a more competitive bidding process were the key factors behind the sharply lower cost, Sullivan said.

“I think it’s just a better level of participation, a little bit of contacting, on my behalf, to get certain people to participate in this who weren’t available previously,” he said.

Only two companies bid on the project the first time it was open, helping to balloon the cost to more than $320,000, said Supervisor Michael Schiliro. Five companies competed when bids were reopened.

Work is scheduled to begin as soon as next week after the Fourth of July weekend and is expected to last about four months, Sullivan said.

“I have confirmed with them that it will be completed before Thanksgiving, so it should be good barring any catastrophic weather conditions,” Sullivan said.

The timing of the anticipated completion is critical for North Castle. The Saturday of Thanksgiving weekend is one of the most anticipated days of the year for the town. The area in Wampus Brook Park around the gazebo is where there is music and the tree lighting is done inside the structure at nightfall following an afternoon of activities and the Frosty Parade.

Despite the minor revisions, Sullivan assured the board and residents that the design is the same one that had been agreed to by the board and one that matches the old gazebo. He called it “a very, very unique product” that cannot be mass-produced.

Officials said the town’s insurance company will reimburse the municipality the entire cost of the project.

Awarding of the bid last week concludes a yearlong process that began with the roof collapse of the previous gazebo on June 25, 2014. At the time, crews were working to reinforce the structural supports that had deteriorated over time. No one was injured in the mishap.

Schiliro said he was looking forward to having a new gazebo at the park that can be enjoyed by the town, including for special events.

“You’ll start to see it coming up from the ground real soon,” he said.

Mt. Kisco Planners Voice Concern Over Holiday Inn Lighting

By Neal Rentz

The Mount Kisco Holiday Inn’s parking lot lighting plan drew critical comments from the village’s planning board last month, though concerns were expressed about the lighting, Hertz said he supported the proposed renovation plan.

“This is going to be an improvement to the site,” he said.

The board also supported Holiday Inn’s landscaping proposal.

Williams said his client hopes to install 11 tables for outdoor dining. Holiday Inn is also working with the New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) on stormwater-related issues, he said.

The applicant will return to the board to present its lighting changes at a future meeting.

Brynwood Golf & Country Club in Armonk can now concentrate on site plan review before the North Castle Planning Board for its project calling for 73 townhouses, a renovated clubhouse and a golf course redesign.
Dolores Briante

Dolores Briante of Thornwood passed away on June 23.
She was 87.
Briante was born on March 3, 1928, to the late Anthony and Lecia Briante in White Plains. She was predeceased by her mother, father, brother Rocco and sister Elizabeth. She is survived by brother Anthony (wife Pamela), numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.

In 1945, she accepted a position in the admissions office at New York University’s Undergraduate Business School at Washington Square in New York City. She was promoted to the dean’s office, and in the early 1950s, moved to the Graduate School of Business in lower Manhattan. In 1993, she returned to Washington Square to a new facility for the Graduate School of Business Administration (renamed the Stern School of Business), where she assumed the position of executive assistant to the dean, from which she retired in December 1994. To honor her almost 50 years of service to NYU on her retirement, faculty, alumni and staff contributed to a fund in her name. Today, the dean’s office bears the name of Dolores Briante’s Suite. Her passion in life was her family, friends, work and love of music and animals.

Visitation was at Hawthorne Funeral Home on June 26. A funeral Mass was held at Holy Name of Jesus Church in Valhalla on June 27 followed by interment at Mount Calvary Cemetery in Greenburgh.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the ASPCA by telephone at 1-800-628-0028 or by visiting www.aspca.org/donate.

Ardeshir Ommani

Ardeshir T. Ommani of Armonk died on June 20 at his residence. He was 75.
Ommani was born on Oct. 8, 1939, to the late Mohammad and Robabeh in Abadan, Iran. He was a retired teacher at JFK High School in the Bronx. He is survived by his devoted wife, Eleanor (nee DiRisio) Ommani, of Armonk; his loving daughter, Zheila Ommani, (Brian Houghton) of Claremont, Calif.; his cherished grandson, Arman Houghton; his brother, Assadollah Ommani; his two sisters, Aghdas and Farangese Ommani; and many nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his beloved son, Arman Ommani, in 2005.

Visitation was at Hawthorne Funeral Home on June 25, where funeral services were held on June 26. Interment followed at Kensico Cemetery in Valhalla.

Ruth Terrible

Ruth Emmy Muenkel Terribile died on June 26 in Raleigh, N.C. after a period of declining health.
She was 89.
Terrible was born Apr. 2, 1926, in Brooklyn to the late Joseph and Frieda Stoesser Muenkel. Having married and started her family in Queens Village, Terribile lived in Pleasantville for 44 years before moving to Raleigh in 2013. One of her proudest achievements was graduating from Westchester Community College with an associate’s degree in business. She worked for nearly 25 years at Westchester Community College in administrative and secretarial roles. Terribile loved playing the piano, reading mystery stories and crocheting.
She is survived by her husband, David R. Terribile, of Queens; her sons, Mark Andrew Terribile of Mattawan, N.J. and Matthew Thomas Terribile and his wife, Janet Elaine Seabock, of Raleigh; her sister-in-law, Ann Fenniman, of Brooklyn; her brother-in-law and sister-in-law, Richard and Santa Terribile, of Staten Island; and many loving nieces and nephews.

The family will receive friends today (Tuesday) from 3 to 5 p.m. and 7 to 9 p.m. at Hawthorne Funeral Home. A graveside service will be held July 1 at Kensico Cemetery in Valhalla at 11 a.m.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Pleasantville Volunteer Ambulance Corps or Wake County, N.C. Meals on Wheels.

Police Blotter

Pleasantville Police Department

June 21: Report of a possible illegal dumping incident on Lake Street at 12:39 p.m. The garbage that was put in a village dumpster was traced to a nearby resident. The responding officer informed the resident that household garbage needed to be placed in front of the house on designated days.

June 23: A larceny was reported on Cooley Street at 11:59 p.m. A resident stated that a red bicycle was stolen from the front porch.

June 24: Report of a past criminal incident on Maple Hill Road at 7:40 p.m. No further information was available because the matter is under investigation.

North Castle Police Department

June 19: Report of a loose dog running on Whippoorwill Road at 10:07 a.m. The department’s dog control officer was able to return the dog to its owner, a Whippoorwill Road resident. The resident was issued a summons.

June 19: Report of a dispute between a male and a female at the Shell station on Main Street at 5:50 p.m. Multiple officers responded to the scene. There was a second dispute between the two subjects at the service station at 6:51 p.m.

June 20: A Limestone Road resident reported at 9:47 a.m. that a jewelry chest has gone missing from the house. The resident stated that she noticed the chest was missing two days ago but she delayed contacting the police until she talked to her daughter. However, the daughter has not returned her calls. Responding officers reported no signs of forced entry. The complainant filled out a witness deposition.

June 20: A School Street resident reported at 5:36 p.m. that an unknown male entered her house and asked to use the bathroom. The woman stated that he is very sick and is vomiting.

June 21: A complainant arrived at headquarters at 5:14 p.m. to report that his tote bag with various personal and work items was stolen at the Brynwood Golf & Country Club. Witness and owners depositions were secured.

June 24: A Henker Farm Lane resident reported at 10:55 a.m. that her 18-year-old daughter received a suspicious phone call stating that someone was coming over to her residence to arrest her. The caller stated her daughter was home alone and is afraid and wished an officer to check on her. The responding officer reported that the party and residence checks okay.

Blood Drive at P’ville’s Emanuel Lutheran July 11

The Emanuel Lutheran Church in Pleasantville hopes to help by sponsoring a blood drive on Saturday, July 11 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the church, located at 197 Manville Rd. Whole blood and red cell units will be collected from qualifying candidates. This drive makes it convenient for Pleasantville residents to participate but blood donors are welcome from surrounding towns to help.

For questions regarding eligibility (travel, medications, last donation, etc.), call 1-800-688-0900. To schedule an appointment, call 1-800-933-2566 or visit https://drm.nybloodcenter.org/PublicScheduler/GroupLanding.aspx?GroupCode=08737.

Although it is helpful to let the organizers know in advance that you plan to donate, walk-ins are always accepted.
County Outlines Safe Swimming Tips at Westchester Pools

With Westchester County pools now open for the season, County Executive Rob Astorino and Health Commissioner Dr. Sherlita Amler shared some water safety tips for residents and their families.

“Teaching your children how to swim is one of the most valuable lessons parents can provide,” Astorino said. “Knowing how to swim can lead to a lifetime of fun and recreational fitness, and can even save your life.”

Drowning is the leading cause of unintentional death among children one to four years old and the second leading cause of unintentional death among children five to nine years old, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Sunburn and sunstroke can also cause health risks. Beach goers should always take precautions to stay hydrated and protect their skin from the effects of the summer sun.

“Be sure you and your family drink lots of water throughout the day at the pool or shore to avoid heat exhaustion,” Amler said. “Wear a hat and sunglasses, avoid the midday sun and reapply sunscreen with a sun protection factor of at least 15 every two hours, especially after you swim or sweat, to avoid sunburn.”

Amler had additional water safety advice for parents.

“It’s also critical to always stay within arm’s reach of infants and toddlers in the water and to always keep your eyes on children playing in or near the shore,” Amler said. “Pool floats, inner tubes, water wings and noodles are no substitute for close supervision. Swimming and alcohol, just like boating and alcohol, don’t mix.”

Amler also offered the following tips to stay safe around pools and beaches this summer:

- Learn how to swim and teach your child to swim and never to swim alone.
- Don’t swim in pools or lakes that are closed.
- Never leave a child unattended in or near the water and always watch your children closely around all bodies of water.
- Designate a water watcher to supervise children in the pool, spa or at the shore. This person should not be reading, texting, using a smart phone or otherwise distracted.
- Learn how to perform CPR on children and adults.
- Keep children away from pool drains, pipes and other openings to avoid entrapments.
- Ensure any pool and spa you use has drain covers that comply with federal safety standards, and, if you do not know, ask your pool service provider about safe drain covers.
- At the beach, never fight currents; swim parallel to shore and at an angle if you find yourself in a rip current.

For more health and safety tips, visit www.westchestergov.com/health and www.westchestergov.com; Like us on Facebook at wchealthdept or follow us on Twitter at wchealthdept.

Welcome to Town

Mount Kisco Mayor Michael Cindrich helps Mt. Kisco Farm owner Sejong Chung cut the ribbon at the new produce store and grocery’s grand opening last Thursday afternoon. Mt. Kisco Farm, located at 21 S. Moger Ave., replaces a grocery that went out of business at the same location nearly two years ago.

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County Shouldn’t Need Threats to Make Miller House Renovations

The Elijah Miller House saga is like a bad movie that pops up once in a while on late night TV. No matter how many times you watch it, it never gets better and the ending never changes.

Periodically it seems – perhaps once or twice a year – the Miller House issue appears on some board or committee agenda. Concerned citizens and officials raising their hands, spew blunt and angry comments and demand that something be done—now—before the house deteriorates and withers away.

Then discussion disappears until some future meeting.

Last week, at the North Castle Town Board meeting, residents and Supervisor Michael Schiliro grilled County Legislator Michael Smith on his apparent unwillingness to renovate at the current location.

The landmark, built in 1738, served as George Washington’s headquarters during the Battle of White Plains. But that doesn’t seem to concern too many people in White Plains today.

The latest battle is over whether the county should stay put...
P’ville to Hold Hearing on Energy Buying Law Despite Complications

By Janine Bowen

Disagreement persists among Pleasantville Village Board members regarding the language of a proposed law that would grant the village authority to participate in a community choice aggregation energy-buying program through Sustainable Westchester.

In May, the board approved a resolution to enable the village to participate in the program in hopes of saving residents money on their electric bills. Earlier this month, however, trustees learned that a local law must be passed to grant the village the authority to join the program.

Mayor Peter Scherer said while the resolution remains valid, the state attorney general’s office informed Sustainable Westchester, a nonprofit organization comprised of more than 40 municipalities, that a law was needed to establish the legal framework for participating towns and villages.

“We were entirely entitled to pass the first resolution and no one has suggested it needs to be rescinded,” said Scherer. “This goes further than that.”

Scherer suggested it needs to be rescinded, “suggested it needs to be rescinded,” said Scherer. “This goes further than that.”

Trustee Mindy Berard, the dissenting vote against the initial resolution, said passage of a law would be placing a policy statement on the books regarding energy consumption rather than addressing energy savings. Berard was also concerned about the power the law would give future boards, which could choose to amend it order to control how residents buy and consume energy. “I hope I’m correct in assuming that the intent of this board was to enter into this program for one reason and one reason only and that is you wanted to offer the residents a choice...in choosing their energy supplier at a lower cost,” Berard said.

Trustee Steven Lord countered that future boards could create laws regarding energy consumption by holding a public hearing and achieving a majority vote. Nevertheless, the entire board agreed that the current proposed law needs revisions before it is voted on.

Trustee Joseph Stargiotti, an attorney who helped to revise the law’s language after this month, said he believes the extensive policy statement included in the proposed legislation goes too far. For example, the preamble of the law states that it will be the village’s policy to examine the retail energy market.

“We’re making a policy statement that’s going to guide, in theory, everything we do from now on,” Stargiotti said.

Board members revised the measure to read that the village would procure energy through Sustainable Westchester as opposed to purchasing energy.

Although trustees are still working with village attorneys to craft a final version, they voted to hold a public hearing at the board’s next regular meeting on July 13. Berard was the only trustee to vote against scheduling a hearing. She said it was improper to set a hearing date and post the measure online for the public to view until all revisions are completed.

Berard accused Scherer, who has been supportive of the initiative, of trying to push through the law. However, Scherer said he has spoken with village attorneys, who have no qualms with the current process. Berard has been concerned with the unprecedented power that a law would give officials, but Trustee Colleen Griffin-Wagner said that taking on new and untried ventures is part of the reason she sought to serve.

“I’m really not interested in being on a board that won’t do anything that’s never been done in the past,” said Griffin-Wagner. “I don’t think a reason to not doing something is because we’ve never done it before and I look forward to taking on as many new projects...that would benefit our residents and that’s what I feel like this would do.”

Stargiotti said it is likely that the law’s language may change after public comments are considered from the hearing. If the local law is passed, Pleasantville will join several other local municipalities in the group-buying effort. Under the program, Sustainable Westchester will put out request for proposals (RFP) to energy service companies (ESCOs) and will enter into a contract with an ESCO if it represents significant savings over current Con Edison prices.

All residents would be automatically included in the group-buying effort, something Berard has been opposed to, but could opt out at any time.

New Castle, Somers Partner for Solarize Westchester Application

By Martin Wilbur

The Town of New Castle is teaming up with Somers to apply for enrollment in a discount program for residents interested in acquiring solar panels to cut energy costs and help the environment.

Last week the town board voted 4-0 to collaborate in Sustainable Westchester’s Solarize Westchester effort. Somers officials had hoped to join but needed to find another municipality and reached out to New Castle for the next round of community applications, said Town Administrator Jill Shapiro. The applications are due next week.

Steven Wolk, New Castle’s Sustainability Advisory Committee Chairman, said if the application is accepted, the amount that participating residents can save could vary under a tiered pricing system depending on the number of homeowners who sign up. Savings could be as high as 36 percent.

“What it is, is the ability to pool together, in this case with another town, Somers, and collectively pool the demand for solar and by doing that we can reduce prices for everybody who signs up to put solar panels on the roof,” Wolk said.

He said the expense for the outlay for the solar panels under the program could be recouped in four to seven years. While New Castle residents’ energy bills are more expensive than in most other municipalities, there is also the chance for greater savings, Wolk said.

The Solarize Westchester initiative helps local communities find competitively-priced solar panel installers through an RFP process to make solar energy more accessible and affordable.

The program is funded by the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) through NY-Sun, a public-private partnership that is looking to increase the popularity of solar power.

Residents would be able to buy or finance or lease the panels, Wolk said. He said in some instances, homeowners could reduce some or all of their energy consumption.

Thus far there have been four campaigns throughout the county: Bedford-Mt. Kisco, Cortlandt-Croton, Ossining-Briarcliff and Larchmont-Mamaroneck. Each campaign can last up to 20 weeks, according to Solarize Westchester.

A Finely Tuned Machine

Congratulations are in order for the Pleasantville Middle School fifth-grade girls on the Green Machine soccer team who won their division in the Westchester Youth Soccer League on June 21. They finished the spring season with an 8-2 record. The team’s strong defense was anchored by Nadia Berkowitz, Ariana Carrero, Georgia Peters, Katie Pondok, Lily Vidra and Meghan Hogan and goalies Claire McSpedon and Erin Weitzman. Middles Mallory Watts, Victoria Rapley and Lily O’Brien supported the offensive attack of Caitriona Curry, Lena Freberg, Ava Portmore, Megan d’Erzians, Emily Merrits and Shania Harris.
Chappaqua Cyclist to Lead 75-Mile Ride to Fight Parkinson’s

By Martin Wilbur

Bruce Wolfe has been an avid cyclist for years and can often be found getting on his bike on weekends and going for a ride.

Once a year the Chappaqua resident makes sure he goes out to ride with a greater purpose in mind.

Wolfe has once again organized the Pedal Pumping for Parkinson’s Annual Charity Ride for Saturday, July 11, a 75-mile trek that starts in the Walgreens parking lot at King Street and Route 117 in Chappaqua at about 7:30 p.m., proceeds up to Yorktown, then heads east into Connecticut before the cyclists return to the local area.

This is the third year that Wolfe has planned the event, shortly after his mother, Betty, was diagnosed with Parkinson’s disease. While his mom is managing with the degenerative disease of the central nervous system since her diagnosis, it is often a difficult road for those who are diagnosed.

Moreover, while there has been progress in treatments, there is still much to be learned through research, Wolfe said. It is estimated that about 60,000 Americans will be diagnosed with the disease this year.

“you see a lot of people who have Parkinson’s and it affects people in different ways,” Wolfe said.

Fittingly, Wolfe has called his team of cyclists who join him — last year there were about 10 to 15 participants — Team Betty. The team is part of the grassroots fundraising efforts organized through the Michael J. Fox Foundation. In the first two years Team Betty raised about $17,000; around $7,000 in 2013 and $10,000 last year. This year’s goal is to raise $12,000 and is hopeful that one day the efforts of his team and all the cyclists who hit the roads throughout the country will help researchers find a cure.

Wolfe said there aren’t elaborate contributions-per-mile sponsorships like in some fundraisers. Participants may pledge flat donations themselves and also find family, friends or other acquaintances who may donate a flat sum.

While the event is for a serious cause, the cyclists who make the journey do try and have a good time. Wolfe said one of the highlights of the first two years is the lunch stop at the acclaimed Schoolhouse at Cannondale in Wilton, Conn. The restaurant’s owner is also cycling enthusiast and is proud to great the hungry bunch at his establishment, he said.

Anyone who is up for a long bike ride on July 11 can join the team, even if it is only for a portion of the trip. Wolfe expects to return to Chappaqua at about 3 p.m. Others can make a donation to Team Betty by visiting http://bit.ly/1GVPy1v

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How I Added Pizzazz to My Home With Custom Lighting

When I was in college, I appeared in a play called "The Madwoman of Chaillot" by Jean Giraudoux with the actress Linda Lavin, who would later go on to achieve fame as "Alice" on television.

Most stunning about that production, as I recall, were the amazing effects achieved by its lighting director, on staff in the theater department, who was an incredible talent.

I remember that when the curtain rose for the second act, the stage was completely dark, and slowly a small pin spotlight illuminated only the face of the madwoman in the center of the stage. That lighting effect alone brought applause from the audience. Every scene of the play was an arresting study in shadow and light where brightness drew the viewer's attention where it needed to be while other areas of the stage receded. I was mesmerized as I observed how light created movement and mood by playing off stationery surfaces.

Many years later I was reminded of my interest in stage lighting when Barry Liebman, director of Yorktown Stage, shared with me his feeling that a production really doesn't come to life until the lighting director does his job with a show, going far to say that seeing a set dramatically lit for the first time has brought him to tears.

His saying that convinced me that someday I should have a home where its lighting would be as dramatic as a stage set, and that would require a custom designed lighting system. But, having always lived in antique homes, my lighting was primarily from traditional lamps.

When I moved recently to a new condo at Trump Park Residences, however, my dream for dramatic lighting presented itself. I arranged with management to have electrical contractors work with me to install a system to light my great room, which I had designed basically as an art gallery for my collection of portraits and landscapes. The lighting system I planned was to highlight the paintings on three walls: portraits on the "living room" side, pastorals on the "dining room" side and a large abstract on the third wall in between.

At first I was planning to hire a lighting designer, but I was lucky to find an electrician with sensitivity to my ideas and needs, P&K Electric, a father-and-son team, in Yorktown Heights. Working in tandem with an electric supply company, Mid-County Lighting & Electric in Mahopac, we all worked wonders together.

There were many technical challenges to overcome working on the fifth-floor condo with 10-foot ceilings, installing high hats in a soffit with insulation material. The casing for the high hat units I originally wanted turned out to be too large to be accommodated in the soffit, but I had the good fortune to be assigned a job manager named Jimmy who was as much an artist as he was an electrician.

Jimmy guided me every step of the way and the lighting is as much an art form as when installing the dramatic lighting system at The Home Guru’s home.

Happy 4th of July!

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Robert & Mary Sniffen, Owners
By Martin Wilbur

It makes perfect sense that Sarah Mass David would own a boutique and work alongside her mom and sister Lily.

Multiple generations in their family made their living in the fashion industry or in retail, including David's grandfather who worked in New York's garment industry for about 40 years.

Her maternal grandmother was a seamstress and her parents worked in retail. In fact, David's first job was at 12 years old, giftwrapping in a downtown Chappaqua store, her launching pad for 15 years in retail.

Less than a month ago she opened House of 29, Lifestyle Boutique by Sarah, a shop on South Greeley Avenue. David described the store as a fashion house where women can pick up clothing, accessories, fashion jewelry, starting at $16, and fine jewelry, which solidified her enjoyment of fashion and business.

It was also natural that when David returned to Chappaqua to help her mother, Arlene, a retail veteran and the real sales expert of the trio who can help make a customer of any age feel comfortable.

"We're really here for anyone of every age," Lily Mass said. "Try on, here it is, explore."

"Hopefully, we know what the people in Chappaqua want and try to bring it to them," David said. "We pay attention to what people say on Facebook and ask people what they're looking for and try to alter orders a little bit to specifically order stuff for our customers."

Chappaqua is where David had her heart set when she was searching for a store location. She scouted neighboring areas, but felt strongly that she and her family have had a long history in town, know a lot of people and are in tune with the community's culture.

While David may have a deep family connection to fashion and retail, she didn't automatically consider it for her career. The 1999 Horace Greeley High School graduate went to NYU where she majored in film and television.

However, shortly after she finished college, the family suffered through a devastating fire; the family's Chappaqua house burned to the ground in 2004. No one in the family was injured, but it altered their perspective on life, including David's.

She returned to Chappaqua to help her family rebuild their home and their lives. Instead of searching for another job at the time, David became reacquainted with retail, which solidified her enjoyment of fashion and business.

"About four years ago I thought I was going to change my career, but I said, you know what, I always wanted to open a store. Let's go for that," David recalled. "One thing led to another and it all came together."

David acknowledged that the fire changed her and her family. She credited the experience with helping her become a business owner, by teaching her persistence and perspective.

"It changed our concept just on how we bought things for ourselves," David said. "When we lost everything after the fire, we kind of realized instead of buying so much of something that's not of a good quality, we'd rather buy (more special) things. It doesn't have to mean it's more expensive."

It was also natural that when David would be in business it would be with her mom and sister. Despite the age differences — Lily is about eight years younger — they were always close, doing everything together even before starting the business.

It's been only a few weeks since House of 29 opened, but the early reaction has been strong, David said. They're looking forward to continuing to create their niche.

"People are recognizing that we have different things," she said. "You have to really search hard for these things that are different."
Ironman of Table Tennis: Shortz Completes 1,000 Straight Days of Play

By Janine Bowen

Pleasantville resident Will Shortz has been playing table tennis since childhood but today (Tuesday) he reaches a personal milestone.

June 30 marks the 1,000th consecutive day that Shortz, 62, has played table tennis. The quest began in 2012, when he made a resolution to play the sport every day that year. The streak was progressing well until Oct. 3, when Shortz was on a trip to Croatia and couldn’t find the table tennis club in which he had intended to play.

“It was kind of a relief that I missed a day but also a disappointment,” Shortz said.

Shortz resumed daily play on Oct. 4, but for 2013 he decided to film each day’s practice to document the journey. Filmmakers Henry Joost and Ariel Schulman, known for the “Paranormal Activity” movies, supplied Shortz with a camera. When the year ended and he had achieved his goal, Shortz turned over the footage and stopped filming, but continued his streak.

Since then, Shortz has continued to make time to play each day, which is often easy considering he owns and operates the Westchester Table Tennis Center in Pleasantville, the largest facility of its kind in the Northeast.

Shortz said he established ground rules for himself, including the stipulation that he had to play for at least 10 minutes a day for his streak to continue. On average he plays for about two hours daily.

Since the streak began, Shortz said his ping pong skills have improved exponentially and he has experienced improved health, not having been sick in three years. He noted that when table tennis is played properly for extended periods it provides a rigorous workout. Although illness hasn’t been an obstacle, there were several other issues that nearly thwarted the streak. As the activity exponentially and he has experienced improved health, not having been sick in three years. He noted that when table tennis is played properly for extended periods it provides a rigorous workout. Although illness hasn’t been an obstacle, there were several other issues that nearly thwarted the streak. As the activity

Table tennis lover Will Shortz is in elite company when it comes to his streak of 1,000 days of play. Here are the record holders in the four major sports for most consecutive games played.

Cal Ripken (MLB): 2,632 games
A.C. Green (NBA): 1,192 games
Doug Jarvis (NHL): 964 games
Brett Favre (NFL): 297 games

By Neal Rentz

The memories of how Pam Kolber-Zicca first learned how to swim as a child are not particularly pleasant ones.

She began swimming at seven years old at Fire Island. Then remembered swimming in pouring rain at summer camp at age nine, but not one person was concerned about how she was swimming or if she was afraid.

“I just wanted someone to be caring and hold my hand,” Kolber-Zicca said.

Today, Kolber-Zicca is providing her own methods of swim instruction through her company, Just Add Water and Swim. She started her business in 2009 after a mother of a child asked her to provide lessons. A business coach helped her devise the name of her company.

Kolber-Zicca, a 30-year swim instructor, provides private lessons for students of all ages at locations of her choosing, typically at her clients’ home swimming pools throughout Westchester, and also at Premier Athletic Club in Montrose.

What’s near and dear to my heart is working with special needs adults and children,” said Kolber-Zicca, who coached Special Olympics in 1985. Kolber-Zicca has been described by her clients as a “swim whisperer” because of her ability to work with fearful new swimmers.

“I sing songs with them if they’re children. I relate stories to adults, that I feel their fear,” she said.

Kolber-Zicca became a swim instructor in an unusual fashion in 1984. She was working as a receptionist at the White Plains YWCA. One of her supervisors told her “you have something on the ball” and suggested that she become an instructor, Kolber-Zicca recalled.

When she was teaching an adult how to swim in the 1980s, Kolber-Zicca told the student to go in the deep end of the pool and not be afraid. Shortly after that lesson, Kolber-Zicca became frightened on a ski lift and subsequently apologized to the person whom she told to be unafraid of the water.

“I want each person I work with to feel accomplished and safe,” Kolber-Zicca said. “It is very rewarding to see the progress of each fearful child and adult and seeing their self-confidence grow when seeing themselves float for the first time or jump into the deep end. It’s the inspiration that’s always kept me going.”

Kolber-Zicca said she is gratified when she helps someone to swim.

“It gives me extreme satisfaction,” she said.

For more information about Just Add Water and Swim, visit www.justaddwaterandswim.com.
Pace to Offer $25G Annual Scholarships to WCC Grads

Pace University and Westchester Community College (WCC) recently announced a first-ever scholarship program to attract local transfer applicants who have graduated with a two-year associates degree and wish to obtain a four-year bachelor's degree.

The initiative will provide transferring full-time students who have successfully graduated from WCC and meet eligibility requirements with an annual scholarship equal to $25,000 to be credited against the university’s standard full-time tuition. The program will begin with the 2015-16 academic year. WCC graduates interested in enrolling for the fall semester may apply at any time. Transfer applications will be accepted through the summer.

This unique scholarship is designed to provide students with a solid education and access to the real-world experience critically needed upon graduation at a substantial reduction in cost. Based on the 2015-16 rate, the scholarship will enable eligible students to offset more than 60 percent of the full-time cost of tuition during their first year at Pace. The scholarship is for study at Pace University's Pleasantville Campus only and is not transferable.

“We are delighted to give eligible Westchester Community College graduates the opportunity to earn a four-year bachelor’s degree through this innovative scholarship program,” said Pace University President Stephen J. Friedman.

“Our ability to enable them to imagine new futures and advance their lives is at the core of our university motto of Opportunitas.”

The new scholarship program responds to student and industry needs, offsetting the rising cost of obtaining a four-year degree and bridging the gap between academia and what employers want. Addressing the kind of change needed in higher education, the collaboration is a concrete response to the often prohibitive cost young people face to obtain a four-year degree, as well as industry concerns that college students nationally are not graduating with the skills necessary to enter the workforce.

Added benefits for Pace University-WCC scholarship recipients who otherwise might depend entirely on student loans to finance a four-year degree potentially include a smaller debt burden and a repayment term shortened by several years.

The scholarship program is another example of Pace’s commitment to leadership in providing quality and education and positioning students for success. The initiative also marks the first time Pace has collaborated with a two-year school to offer students such an opportunity that benefits both schools and surrounding communities.

To graduate from WCC, students must meet certain minimum performance requirements. By opening the scholarship program to WCC graduates with a minimum GPA of 3.2, Pace can substantially ensure continuing access to high-quality applicants equipped with the ability to excel, succeed and ultimately graduate from Pace.

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HISTORY MATTERS
By Edward Goralski

Isn’t That Great. All of the answers to the questions in this week’s quiz contain the word “great.” This is a great way to test your knowledge of different subjects. Whether you think you’re no great shakes or have Great Expectations, have a great time doing the quiz.

1. What is the title of the 1925 novel written by F. Scott Fitzgerald that focuses on the characters of the fictional Long Island town of West Egg?
2. What name is often given to the longest-ruling female leader of Russia, who came to power in a coup against her husband, Peter III?
3. Which large breed of dog was developed in Germany in the 1500’s and was first used for hunting boars against her husband, Peter III?
4. The Great Charter
5. The 700th anniversary of Magna Carta was celebrated on June 15, 2015 at Runnymede Meadows in England and around the world. What does Magna Carta mean in English?
6. The 800th anniversary of Magna Carta was celebrated on June 15, 2015 at Runnymede Meadows in England and around the world. What does Magna Carta mean in English?
7. During a May 22, 1964 speech, Lyndon Baines Johnson gave his domestic program that “rests on the Great Chain of Being.”
8. Which one of the Seven Wonders of the Natural World contains more than 400 different kinds of coral and is home to 1,500 species of tropical fish?


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Quiz Questions:

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La Panetière in Rye Plans Bastille Day Celebration Dinner

By Jerry Eimbinder

France's equivalent of America's Independence Day is its famous national holiday Bastille Day, celebrated every year on July 14. In Paris, a spectacular Bastille Day parade begins at the Arc de Triomphe, continues down the Champs-Élysées and ends at the Place de la Concorde. Late night fireworks and lights dazzle onlookers at the Eiffel Tower.

The French holiday commemorates the storming of the infamous prison on July 14, 1789, generally considered the start of the French Revolution.

On Tuesday, July 14 in Rye, Jacques Loupiac, owner of La Panetière, commemorates Bastille Day with a festive dinner, French wines and live French melodies to be provided tableside by an accordionist.

For an entrée, the choices are seared filet of beef with old-fashioned mustard butter or roasted boneless quail au jus. The prix-fixe cost is $85 per person with optional wine pairing for an additional $50.

The Bastille Day courses to be served are:
1. Vichyssoise of leeks and potatoes.
2. Mosaic of Carpaccio surf and turf.
Loupiac will be available to answer questions about the food from guests, wine from aficionados and Bastille Day from history buffs.

Seating is available from 6 to 9:30 p.m. at La Panetière, which opened in 1986 and is celebrating its 30th year.

The restaurant is located at 530 Milton Rd. in Rye. For more information, call 914-967-8140 or visit www.lapanetiere.com.

The Restaurant Examiner

Judges to Name Winners for Inaugural Julia Child Award

By Jerry Eimbinder

The winner of the first-ever Julia Child Award will be revealed on Aug. 13, by the Julia Child Foundation for Gastronomy and the Culinary Arts.

The winning candidate will be honored in a program at Julia's Kitchen in the Smithsonian Institute's National Museum of American History in Washington, D.C. A panel of judges was deliberating at press time.

The winner will receive an engraved plaque; in addition, a $50,000 grant will be given to a food-related, nonprofit organization selected by the recipient.

Eligibility for the award isn't restricted to chefs and restaurateurs. Deserving candidates who love food or who are concerned with issues related to food were sought by the judges, but unsolicited nominations from others in the food industry were also accepted.

"The Julia Child Award will be given annually to an individual who has made a profound and significant difference in the way America cooks, eats and drinks," said Tanya Steel, the foundation's director.

Steel was editor-in-chief and editorial director at Epicurious, Gourmet Live and gourmet.com. She was also an editor at Bon Appetite, Food & Wine, Mademoiselle and Diversion. She is co-author of The New York Times bestseller "The Epicurious Cookbook" and "Real Food for Healthy Kids." Currently, she is the CEO of two organizations — Tanya Wenman Steel LLC, a consultancy, and Goldstein, Russ Parsons, Nancy Silverton and Jasper White.

Dodge, the director of specialty culinary programs at Bon Appetite Management Co., is the author of the award winning "American Baker" (published in 1987) and "Baking with Jim Dodge" (released in 1991). He is a contributing editor to the revised "Joy of Cooking," a former contributing editor to Food & Wine and a consulting culinary editor to Cooks Illustrated. He received a James Beard Foundation Cookbook Award in 1987.

Path to fame

Child was born on Aug. 15, 1912, in Pasadena, Calif. She graduated from Smith College in Northampton, Mass. in 1934 and served during World War II with the Office of Strategic Services (OSS), a predecessor to the CIA (the Central Intelligence Agency, not the Culinary Institute of America). She married Paul Child in 1946.

She studied at the Cordon Bleu in Paris, receiving a diploma in 1951. Her first attempt at cookbook writing, a seven-year collaborative effort, was rejected by book publisher Houghton Mifflin in 1958; a second rejection followed after the manuscript was rewritten.

She co-authored the landmark culinary classic "Mastering the Art of French Cooking" in 1961. More than 20 cookbooks would follow.

She gained fame giving cooking lessons on national television starting in 1963 and went on to win an Emmy for "The French Chef" in 1966.

Her second cookbook, "The French Chef Cookbook," was published in 1968; "Mastering the Art of French Cooking, Volume 2" was released in 1970 and "From Julia Child's Kitchen" was published in 1975. Her emergence as a television sensation began in the late 1970s.


In 1993, Child was the first woman inducted into the Culinary Institute of America's Hall of Fame. She created the Julia Child Foundation for Gastronomy and the Culinary Arts in 1995.

Child received the Presidential Medal of Freedom, America's highest civilian honor, in 2003 from president George W. Bush.

The 2009 film "Julie and Julia," written and directed by the late Nora Ephron, starred Meryl Streep as Child and revealed her genius to a younger generation.

Judges are chairman Jim Dodge, Darra Goldstein, Russ Parsons, Nancy Silverton and Jasper White.

Dodge, the director of specialty culinary programs at Bon Appetite Management Co., is the author of the award winning "American Baker" (published in 1987) and "Baking with Jim Dodge" (released in 1991). He is a contributing editor to the revised "Joy of Cooking," a former contributing editor to Food & Wine and a consulting culinary editor to Cooks Illustrated. He received a James Beard Foundation Cookbook Award in 1987.

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She gained fame giving cooking lessons on national television starting in 1963 and went on to win an Emmy for "The French Chef" in 1966.

Her second cookbook, "The French Chef Cookbook," was published in 1968; "Mastering the Art of French Cooking, Volume 2" was released in 1970 and "From Julia Child's Kitchen" was published in 1975. Her emergence as a television sensation began in the late 1970s.


In 1993, Child was the first woman inducted into the Culinary Institute of America's Hall of Fame. She created the Julia Child Foundation for Gastronomy and the Culinary Arts in 1995.

Child received the Presidential Medal of Freedom, America's highest civilian honor, in 2003 from president George W. Bush.

The 2009 film "Julie and Julia," written and directed by the late Nora Ephron, starred Meryl Streep as Child and revealed her genius to a younger generation.

The Julia Child Award will be presented in a ceremony to be held at the Smithsonian on Oct. 22.

Bon appetit.

The Julia Child Foundation for Gastronomy and the Culinary Arts is located at 1187 Coast Village Rd., Santa Barbara, Calif. 93108.
Tuesday, June 30

“Human Resources 101.” Whether you’re hiring your first employee or your 15th, learn what every early stage company should know about human resources. This program will touch on all of the details, from legal issues to communicating with your employees. Company culture is a make-or-break for keeping millennials on staff - and it all starts with HR! Open to entrepreneurs passionate about the resources in all industries. Presented by Accelerate Westchester, an entrepreneur’s meet-up. Meridian Risk Management, 1 Wolves Lane, Pelham. Registration and networking at 5:30 p.m. Panel presentation at 6 p.m.

Sparkle for a Cause Fundraiser. The Chappaqua Children’s Book Festival will hold this event to raise funds to offer Chappaqua Children’s Book Festival gift cards to less fortunate children. Come for small bites, sparkling wine and martini menu. Sponsored by the Amy Marie Crabtree Foundation. Amy’s Garden at Crabtree’s Kittle House, 11 Kittle Rd., Chappaqua. 6 p.m. Free. R.S.V.P. required. R.S.V.P.: e-mail chapbook@yahoo.com. Info: 914-666-8044.

Wednesday, July 1

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

Zumba Fitness. Achieve long-term benefits while having a blast in one exciting hour of calorie-burning, body-energizing, awe-inspiring movements meant to engage and captivate for life. For all fitness levels. Dance Emotions, 75 S. Greeley Ave., Chappaqua. 10 a.m. $20 per 75-minute class. Every Tuesday and Thursday. Info: 914-238-8974 or e-mail claudiayogadance@gmail.com or visit www.Addie-tude.com.

Friday, July 3


Saturday, July 4

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 good time every Saturday. This week, DuoEssence, featuring flautist Rebecca Kuehl and classical guitarist Chris Funke, will entertain visitors. Kuehl and Funke have played classical, Brazilian, world music and American folk from Taos to Spain to Carnegie Hall to Pleasantville. They train the next generation of musicians at the Mozaritna Arts Conservatory in Tarrytown as well. Also, Athlete’s Warehouse presents this week’s activity for kids. Memorial Plaza, Pleasantville. 3 p.m. Free. Info: Visit pleasantvillefarmersmarket.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. Every Saturday. Info: Visit www.chappaquafarmersmarket.org.

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

Sunday, July 5

Teaching Trails: A Community Path for Environmental Education. Join guided trail experience through the woodland forest. Discover who left 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 July 4) Info: 914-723-3470 or visit www.greenburghnaturecenter.org.

Float Like a Butterfly. Join a naturalist on a 2-3 hour tour to see the life cycle of a butterfly and the epic migration of monarch butterflies embark upon each year. Also, make your own colorful butterfly to take home. Greenburgh Nature Center, 99 Dromore Rd., Scarsdale. 2 p.m. Members: $5 per person. Non-members: $8 per person. Info: 914-723-3470 or visit www.greenburghnaturecenter.org.

Argentine Tango Dances. Great music and dancing on a 3,500-square-foot dance floor. Enjoy a pleasant time with friends. Refreshments served. Broadway 26 Dance, 26 Broadway, Hawthorne. 3 to 6 p.m. Info: 914-725-3023 or 914-484-5101 or e-mail sampelayo@optonline.net.

Monday, July 6

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-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 12 years old with a parent or caregiver. Greenburgh Nature Center, 99 Dromore Rd., Scarsdale. 1 to 2 p.m. Members: $9 per child. Non-member: $12 per child. Every Monday. Info: 914-723-3470 or visit www.greenburghnaturecenter.org.

Look Good...Feel Better. A two-hour workshop that teaches beauty techniques to women undergoing cancer treatment. Includes a hair consultation with a professional stylist and a makeup consultation with a cosmetologist. Attendees can take home a complimentary wig and makeup kit donated by cosmetic companies. Phelps Memorial Hospital Center, Room 545, 755 N. Broadway, Sleepy Hollow. 6 to 8 p.m. Free. Registration required. Info and registration: 914-366-3315 or 914-366-3421.

Zumba Class. Open to all. Drop-ins welcome; no membership needed. FXH, 100 Castleton St., Pleasantville. 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. $10 a class. Every Monday. Info: Contact Amy Olin at olin.amyja@gmail.com.

Wednesday, July 8

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 fears, share 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.

Musical Films With a Shakespeare Theme: “Kiss Me Kate.” Chappaqua Public Library, 195 S. Greeley Ave., Chappaqua. 7 p.m. Free. Info: 914-238-4779 or www.chappaquapubliclibrary.org.

New Castle Summer Concert Series: Don Dupont Big Band. Music that recalls the Big Band era. The first of four Wednesday night concerts. New Castle Recreation Field, South Greeley Avenue, Chappaqua. 7 p.m. Info: Visit the Recreation and Parks page at www.mynewcastlerecreation.com.
Local Company’s Book Drive Helps Build Neighbors Link Library

Gamechanger, a free referral service that connects Westchester families to highly qualified tutors, teachers and coaches, collected more than 1,200 books for Neighbors Link in Mount Kisco during its month-long book drive in May.

The mission of Neighbors Link Northern Westchester is to strengthen the whole community by actively enhancing the healthy integration of immigrants. Neighbors Link’s strategy is to educate, empower and employ immigrant families and individuals whose lives have been economically impoverished and educationally deprived.

“With their support, we were able to build a permanent library of books in our center, which will be used by families, children, students and adult ESL learners as they master the English language,” said Susan Aarhus, volunteer manager of Neighbors Link.

The books were collected and divided between Neighbors Link’s center and its after school program, Learning Links, at Mount Kisco Elementary School, Aarhus said. Especially helpful were popular series books, such as “Magic Treehouse” and “Diary of a Wimpy Kid,” she said.

Community support made all of the difference this year for gamechanger’s second annual book drive.

“Everyone’s individual efforts -- sifting through books, dropping them at local businesses -- resulted in an entire community making a significant impact,” said gamechanger co-founder Marilyn Rifkin.

In addition, several businesses graciously hosted drop boxes. With the help of TWIST (Briarcliff Manor), the office of Dr. Kathy Hirsch (Mount Kisco), Walgreens (Chappaqua), Mount Kisco Seafood (Mount Kisco), Douglas Elliman (Armonk and Katonah) and Rockin’ Jump (Mount Kisco), it was significantly easier for community members to donate books.

“Our goal is to motivate children to read, to open up their worlds and to better their lives,” said Deborah Notis, the company’s co-founder. “We wanted to help make books readily available to children who do not have easy access to them.”

Last year gamechanger collected more than 800 books for the Ossining Children’s Center.

Next May, gamechanger plans to host a third book drive and hopes to collect an even larger number of children’s books for a nonprofit organization in Westchester that does not have ready access to children’s books.

For questions regarding the book drive or gamechanger’s multiple resources for children, check out www.gamechangernow.com, send an e-mail to connect@gamechangernow.com or call 914-449-6772.
LEGAL NOTICE
NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING
The Board of Trustees of the Village of Pleasantville will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, July 13, 2015, 8:00pm, prevailing time, 80 Wheeler Avenue, Pleasantville, NY to hear comments as it pertains to a Local Law to establish a “Community Choice Aggregation” (Energy) Program as follows:

Section 1. The Code is hereby amended by adding a new Chapter, entitled “COMMUNITY CHOICE AGGREGATION” (ENERGY) PROGRAM as follows:

ARTICLE I
§1. Legislative Findings; Intent and Purpose; Authority.
A. It is the purpose of this Local Law to seek to reduce the cost of natural gas and electricity to its residents.
B. The purpose of this CCA Program, as described to the Village of Pleasantville by Sustainable Westchester, is to allow participating local governments including the Village of Pleasantville to procure energy supply service for their residential and Small Commercial customers, who will have the opportunity to opt out of the procurement, while maintaining transmission and distribution service from the existing Distribution Utility. This Chapter establishes a program that will allow the Village of Pleasantville, or its designated agent for that purpose, to put out for bid the total amount of natural gas and/or electricity being purchased by local residential and Small Commercial customers. Bundled Customers will have the opportunity to have more negotiating strength and consequential potential to lower their overall energy costs, and to improve customer choice and value, by providing an additional alternative source for electricity and natural gas; thereby, fulfilling the purposes of this Chapter and fulfilling an important public purpose.
C. The Village of Pleasantville is hereby authorized to participate in a COMMUNITY CHOICE AGGREGATION (ENERGY) PROGRAM pursuant to Section 101(1)(i)(a)(12) of the New York Municipal Home Rule Law; and State of New York Public Service Commission Case No. 14-M-0564, Petition of Sustainable Westchester for Expedited Approval for the Implementation of a Pilot Community Choice Aggregation Program within the County of Westchester, Order Granting Petition in Part (issued February 26, 2015) as may be amended, including subsequent orders of the Public Service Commission issued in connection with or related to Case No. 14-M-0564 (collectively, the “Order”). Order shall also mean orders of the Public Service Commission related to State of New York Public Service Commission Case No. 14-M-0224, Proceedings on Motion of the Commission to Enable Community Choice Aggregation Programs (issued December 15, 2104) to the extent that orders related to Case No. 14-M-0224 enable actions by the Village of Pleasantville not otherwise permitted pursuant to orders related to Case 14-M-0564; provided, however, that in the event of any conflict between orders from Case No. 14-M-0564 and orders from Case No 14-M-0224, orders from Case No 14-M-0564 shall govern the CCA Program.
D. This Chapter shall be known and may be cited as the “COMMUNITY CHOICE AGGREGATION (ENERGY) PROGRAM Law” of the Village of Pleasantville.
§2. Definitions.
For purposes of this Chapter, and unless otherwise expressly stated or unless the context otherwise requires, the terms in this Chapter shall have the meanings employed in the State of New York Public Service Commission’s Uniform Business Practices or, if not so defined there, as indicated below:

Bundled Customers – Residential and Small Commercial customers of electricity or natural gas (“fuels”) who are purchasing the fuels from the Distribution Utility. Small Commercial - Non-residential customers as permitted by the Order. Community Choice Aggregation Program or CCA Program– A municipal energy procurement program, which replaces the incumbent utility as the default Supplier for all Bundled Customers within the Village of Pleasantville. Distribution Utility – Owner or controller of the means of distribution of the natural gas or electricity that is regulated by the Public Service Commission. Public Service Commission – New York State Public Service Commission. Suppliers – Energy service companies (ESCOs) that procure electric power and natural gas for Bundled Customers in connection with this Chapter or, alternatively, generators of electricity and natural gas or other entities who procure and resell electricity or natural gas. Sustainable Westchester – A not-for-profit organization comprised of member municipalities in Westchester County, New York. Establishment of a COMMUNITY CHOICE AGGREGATION (ENERGY) Program.
A. A COMMUNITY CHOICE AGGREGATION (ENERGY) PROGRAM is hereby established by the Village of Pleasantville, whereby the Village of Pleasantville shall cooperate with Sustainable Westchester by participating in the CCA Program to the full extent permitted by the Order, as set forth more fully herein. The Village of Pleasantville’s role under the CCA Program involves the aggregating of the electric and/or natural gas supply for its residents and the entering into a contract for the procurement of electricity and natural gas for its residents, which the residents may accept or opt out of, with one or more Suppliers for supply and services. Under the CCA Program, the operation and ownership of the utility service shall remain with the Distribution Utility.
B. The Village of Pleasantville’s procurement of energy supply through a CCA Program constitutes neither the purchase of a public utility system, nor the furnishing of utility service. The Village of Pleasantville will not take over any part of the electric or gas transmission or distribution system and will not furnish any type of utility service, but will instead negotiate with Suppliers through Sustainable Westchester on behalf of participating residential and Small Commercial customers.
C. In order to implement the CCA Program, the Village of Pleasantville may adopt one or more resolutions that outline the process of and conditions for participation in the CCA Program, including but not limited to signing a contract for a compliant bid with one or more Suppliers, all as consistent with the Local Law and the Order.
D. The Public Service Commission supervises retail markets and participants in these markets through legislative and regulatory authority and the Uniform Business Practices, which includes rules relating to the eligibility of participating ESCOs, the operation by which ESCOs provide energy services, and the terms on which customers may be enrolled with ESCOs.
§4. Procedures for Eligibility; Customer Data Sharing.
A. As permitted by the Order, the Village of Pleasantville may request from the Distribution Utilities aggregated customer information by fuel type and service classification on a rolling basis.
B. Sustainable Westchester, on behalf of the Village of Pleasantville, shall issue one or more requests for proposals to Suppliers to provide energy to participants and may then award a contract in accordance with the CCA Program.
C. Sustainable Westchester or the Village of Pleasantville may seek to reduce the cost of natural gas and electricity to its residents.
D. Bundled Customers in connection with this Chapter or, alternatively, generators of electricity and natural gas or other entities who procure and resell electricity or natural gas.
E. The Village of Pleasantville will hold a Public Hearing on

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A Guided Tour of the Evolving Restaurant Beverage List

By Nick Antonaccio

June 30 - July 6, 2015

Remember the wine lists of the 20th century? It was as if an invisible hand crafted the lists of every Italian neighborhood restaurant, every French bistro and every steakhouse. This monotonous uniformity fit the moment in Americans’ wine education. Offer them what they were comfortable with; don’t undermine their selections with wines contrary to their preconceptions and fixed mindset.

I am pleased to report this is no longer the landscape for many restaurant lists. The focus of the lists has changed dramatically. More and more frequently, restaurant patrons are presented with a “beverage” list that is far ranging. I am seeing lists expanded to include wines from far-flung lands and wines with stratospheric prices, including escalating markups. More revolutionary is the expansion into other alcoholic beverages. Today’s beverage list may include cocktails, craft beers and global whiskies.

It is increasingly difficult for many patrons to navigate these new lists; understanding the nuances of these choices presents an additional dilemma. In this new era, restaurants are employing a new strategy. They are hiring knowledgeable sommeliers.

This new generation of “sommis” is infusing new life into restaurants. They maintain the age-worthy standards, of course, but then fan out to unfamiliar territories. By personally crafting and curating beverage lists, this new breed offers diners the opportunity to experiment and seek out their next favorite wine.

Baby Boomers, Gen Xers, Gen Yers and Millennials are increasingly wine savvy, resulting in more sophisticated wine and food palates. They are willing to spend more for the right wine to accompany a gourmet meal, and they are not hesitant to seek guidance. Why fumble through a list of unrecognizable and unpronounceable – names when your friendly somm can be your personal guide through the maze of today’s restaurant fare?

The expanded beverage list is creating quite a buzz for many restaurant-goers. No longer focused primarily on wines, these lists embrace pre-dinner cocktails, both traditional and those concocted by the new wave of mixologists. Combining exotic ingredients (herbs, bitters, spices), they can set-up one’s palate for the dinner course or be enjoyed as an after-dinner digestif. If you’ve brushed past this section of a beverage list, take a moment to pause and peruse the offerings.

In the past, beer selections were generally non-existent on lists. Today, with the proliferation of artisanal beers, somms are increasingly pairing them with food menus. My personal experiences have validated the compatibility of a number of dishes with finely crafted beers. (My current favorite: St. Martin’s Belgian Ale with a robust fowl dish.)

Whiskies are gaining a foothold on restaurants’ beverage lists. Scotch offerings are increasing, while small-batch American bourbons are growing in popularity for pre-dinner imbibing. In a surprise move toward throwback spirits, small-batch Tennessee whiskies are gaining traction on lists. (I recently enjoyed George Dickel Barrel Select – with one ice cube).

Along with expanded and upgraded lists come higher-priced wines. Curated lists may focus on European fine wines not available in wine shops, with prices in the three- and four-digit stratosphere. For those seeking a higher level of dining, wine prices may not be a constraining factor. However, there are far more consumers who can’t (won’t) open their wallets for more than two or three (soon to be replaced) Alexander Hamiltons. This is becoming a dilemma for certain diners. Relief is not on the way.

Over the years, I’ve learned to budget my disposable income for restaurant dining toward higher priced wines without sacrificing my family’s nutritional needs or wardrobe expansion. However, I do object to the high markups on many of the wines I see on today’s wine lists. This egregious practice shows no signs of abating, although a handful of restaurant owners and sommeliers are defying their competitors with lesser markups.

The goal of every restaurant should be to find the perfect fit for your palate and your wallet. After all, a contented customer is a returning customer. And a satisfied customer is a goodwill ambassador for a successful restaurant.

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.
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