New Assisted Living Plan Readied for P’ville Church Site

By Martin Wilbur

An investment group is set to submit an application for an assisted living project on the United Methodist Church property in Pleasantville one year after another proposal was narrowly defeated by the village board.

The group, which calls itself Bedford Road Partners, is expected to formally deliver its submission to village officials for the nearly four-acre parcel by early fall. It would be similar to the 87-unit facility proposed by Benchmark Senior Living, said Sy Gruza, an attorney representing the investors.

The identity of the developer was not revealed since agreements have yet to be completed, he said. The precise size and scope of the project is also not known since the developer that is selected will have input into the plans, but Gruza said it should be close to what the Benchmark proposal entailed.

Last June Benchmark’s request to rezone the property from residential to a special floating zone was defeated when only three board members supported the application. A valid petition carried by neighbors of the church property required a supermajority (four votes) approval.

Gruza said unlike the previous proposal, his clients, a group that is comprised entirely of Westchester residents, although none live in Pleasantville, intend to widely distribute factual information to the community at large that shows strong support for senior assisted living at the church’s location and in the village.

The partners commissioned a survey polling 300 village and Pleasantville School District residents that was conducted from June 29 to July 1. Results showed that 58 percent of the respondents showed strong support for senior assisted living at the church’s location and in the village.

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New Castle GOP Announce Greenstein, Board Candidates for November Election

By Martin Wilbur

The New Castle Republican Committee officially announced last Wednesday its slate for the November election, led by Supervisor Robert Greenstein seeking re-election to a second term.

Greenstein, a registered Democrat who is receiving the GOP endorsement for the second consecutive election, will be joined by running mates Lisa Katz and Seth Chodosh, both registered Republicans.

Committee member and spokesman Jim McCauley said the trio, which the party is calling Team New Castle 2.0, gives the ticket highly capable residents who have contributed to the community in various capacities and represent people of different political affiliations.

“I think we have a good ticket and people with diverse backgrounds as candidates running for this board,” McCauley said.

Greenstein, 48, will oppose Democrat Victoria Alzapedi while Gallagher and Chodosh will face Hala Makowska and Jeremy Saland for the council seats. The Democrats announced their candidates in late May.

The Republicans are hoping to win back-to-back elections. In 2013, the party comfortably swept to victory, capturing all three seats led by Greenstein. He was joined by running mates Lisa Katz and Adam Brodsky.

Chodosh’s candidacy is a recent addition to the ticket. During the time that petitions were carried, the party included the name of former councilman Erik Nicolaysen as

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Mt. Kisco Police Merger Critic Retires From Lieutenant’s Post

By Neal Rentz

A 30-year Mount Kisco police veteran who was a vocal critic of the village’s move to consolidate its police services with the Westchester County Department of Public Safety retired from his position last Thursday.

Lt. Louis Terlizzi submitted his retirement letter to Interim Village Manager Jerry Faiella and the village board on July 8. His final day in uniform was July 16. He was one of 24 former Mount Kisco police officers absorbed into the county force on June 1 with their current rank after village and county officials approved the merger.

In his letter to village officials, Terlizzi said he made his decision “with deep sorrow and under extreme duress…due to consolidated services with the Westchester County Department of Public Safety.

Longtime Police Lt. Louis Terlizzi resigned from the county force effective July 16. Terlizzi, shown above at a May Mount Kisco Village Board meeting, was a vocal critic of the village’s police merger with the Westchester County Department of Public Safety.
support senior assisted living at the Methodist church site and 65 percent backed having it built somewhere in the village.

“The results of that poll show that a majority of residents want that type of project to proceed and the poll also showed that a majority of the residents want this project there,” Gruza said of the site at 70 Bedford Rd.

Jeannette Boccini, a public relations spokeswoman for the group, said with the general population aging and more families hoping to remain near their parents and grandparents, demand for senior housing, including assisted living facilities, is greater than supply. She said the group is confident that once the benefits of the proposal, such as projected annual tax revenue of close to $500,000, is more effectively publicized the outcome may be different than the Benchmark proposal.

“The more information that the community has to see the more likely the board in Pleasantville may be willing to support the project,” Boccini said.

The Methodist church has been trying to sell a portion of its property for years. Before the Benchmark plan, the village briefly explored acquiring the site for municipal offices and its recreation center. Previously, proposals for private houses went nowhere.

Gruza said the investors will enter into a contract to buy the property that is contingent on acquiring all approvals. Despite the renewed efforts, the new team will have to find a way to pick up at least one vote assuming the neighbors file another petition asking for a supermajority. Mayor Peter Scherer said he is willing to listen to the investors, but the proposal would have to be materially different for him to support it.

He reiterated previous comments that he made at the time of the Benchmark vote, saying that the plan was a good project in the wrong location. “My personal opinion is that if the project is very similar to the one I voted against last year, I couldn't find myself supporting it now,” Scherer said.

Trustee Steven Lord said it would be premature for him to comment, adding that he didn’t want to speculate on a proposal that he hadn’t seen.

Last year, trustees Mindy Berard, Colleen Griffin-Wagner and Jonathan Cunningham voted for the Benchmark plan. Cunningham was replaced on the board by Joseph Stargiotti earlier this year. None of the other current trustees could be reached for comment on Monday.

Two neighbors who were among the most outspoken against the Benchmark plan said they were surprised that a new proposal would return so quickly after the last one was defeated. Eileen West, a resident at Foxwood Condominiums across the street from the church, said she questions what the investors group hopes to accomplish.

“I’m totally shocked because there was so much input on the Benchmark proposal,” West said. “That was debated, vetted and defeated.” She also said it was hard to believe the would-be applicants would be so confident to trust their survey, which she called “a joke.” She said many of the questions were leading and that it likely provided the group answers they wanted to hear.

Maple Hill resident Bill Stoller was equally harsh in his critique of the survey. He said he was surprised that the group would “rely on the results of a push poll that was so blatantly amateurish.”

Michael Dawidziak, president of Strategic Planning Systems, the Sayville, L.I.-based company that conducted the survey, said anyone who would call the 29-question survey a push poll “doesn’t know what they’re talking about.” Dawidziak said he is a 40-year polling veteran who has worked on four presidential campaigns, including the 1988 and 1992 campaigns for former President George H.W. Bush. He has also had many other types of clients.

A pollster’s job is to help is client gauge public sentiment on issues by devising a list of questions. The goal is to get a statistically significant and random sample, he said. In this instance, Dawidziak said 300 respondents in a village of about 7,000 residents is very significant. He said the poll has a margin of error of 5.7 percent.

“I can’t tell you whether this is a good project or not. I don’t know anything about the project, but I’m here to defend the accuracy of the poll,” Dawidziak said.

New Assisted Living Plan Readied for P’ville Church Site

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WHEN BACK PAIN STRIKES...
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Marshall D. Peris, MD, FAAOS
Co-Director, Spine Surgery
Orthopedic & Spine Institute
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Q: My back is killing me — what can I do?
A: You’ll be happy to hear that most people recover from back pain within a few days just by taking it easy, continuing gentle activity, and using over-the-counter pain medicine such as naproxen or ibuprofen to ease their pain. If the pain doesn’t resolve itself within a week or so, your doctor may suggest physical therapy where you can learn stretches and ways of moving that will ease the strain on your back.

Q: What if that doesn’t work?
A: Next steps may include prescription pain medications and possibly steroid injections to reduce swelling in your back. You may also be referred for imaging to determine whether abnormalities in your spine are causing your pain. If your back pain doesn’t get better using these more conservative methods, your doctor may refer you to an orthopedic surgeon to determine if surgery can help. Sometimes abnormalities in the vertebrae or the soft discs that cushion your spine can press on spinal nerves and cause pain or numbness in your legs and make it difficult to walk or stand. In such cases, surgery can help immensely.
No. Castle Millings Pile an Environmental Threat: Developer

By Martin Wilbur

A prominent local developer has charged that North Castle officials are wrongfully storing several thousand cubic yards of asphalt millings at two town highway yards that could be harmful to the environment.

Developer and town resident Michael Fareri contends that the town has failed to embark on the state Environmental Quality Review (SEQR) process after placing the millings, which is recycled asphalt paving (RAP) from ongoing roadwork, at the yards behind town hall in Armonk and on Middle Patent Road.

He estimated that there could be 4,000 cubic yards of material that is sitting uncovered outside, which can cause “a significant, potential environmental problem” in addition to being an eyesore. Rainfall can cause the material, which contains various chemicals, to seep into the soil and possibly imperil the town’s water supply, he said.

Fareri, who recently considered forcing a primary against Supervisor Michael Schiliro on the Republican line before deciding against a run, compared this issue to the aborted Westwood Organic Recycling project about five years ago.

The town had entered into a contract with Westwood to allow the company to store the material on municipal property.

Fareri questioned the level of savings to the town, which he learned is $142,000, because of the millings supply. Although Fareri did not say what he might do, in his July 2 letter to the board he threatened the possibility of legal action against the town.

“If they are not removed immediately I will take whatever legal action necessary to see that it is done while holding this Town Board, the Highway Department and the Town Administrator responsible and accountable,” he wrote.

Fareri sent a July 2 letter to the town board voicing his concerns and has been peppering officials during the past three weeks with questions. He said late last week that he had yet to receive satisfactory answers to his inquiries.

He has urged the town to remove the stockpiled material from both locations and bring them to a plant for recycling.

Supervisor Michael Schiliro responded that the town is properly handling the millings, the same as it has done for years.

Unlike leaves, no permit is needed to store the material on municipal property.

Schiliro said the town is saving more than $125,000 by using the millings it takes up from roads to help cut the cost for road repair elsewhere in town. The savings is allowing the town to repair School Street, Tripp Lane and portions of Creemer Road and Green Valley Road this summer.

He said Fareri has thrown out a bunch of accusations but few facts to back up his claims. Using the material to help accelerate road repairs and cut costs seems like a sensible solution, Schiliro added.

“This is how we’ve done it in the past,” Schiliro said. “We know roads are the number one priority for this board and we’re trying to put as much money as we can into it.”

The pile of millings that is being stored at the North Castle Highway Department yard in Armonk.

Proceeds will help villagers rebuild after the devastation caused by the recent earthquakes.

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Mt. Kisco Police Merger Critic Retires from Lieutenant’s Post

to the unprecedented actions taken by both the current Mount Kisco Village Board and various Westchester County Government Officials.”

Terlizzi told The Examiner he needed to make his decision about whether to retire by July 16, because former village officers had 30 days from the signing of the consolidation agreement to decide whether they would stay or retire and maintain their retirement benefits that they had accrued. The signing officially took place on June 16.

Terlizzi said that under terms of the merger, if the former village cops failed to work for the county for five years they would lose their health insurance in retirement.

Terlizzi continued to criticize consolidation, charging that “the officers had enough” after the village failed to negotiate a new contract for the past five years. Terlizzi said “it appeared to be the case” that the failure to approve a contract may have been intentional in order to encourage the merger.

The consolidation has already led to a loss of services, Terlizzi claimed, because police headquarters on Green Street is no longer open around the clock to the public.

“You don’t have that personal attention we used to provide,” Terlizzi said.

Mayor Michael Cindrich did not respond to Terlizzi’s comments directly but wished him well in his future endeavors.

“I was instrumental in promoting Lou from sergeant to lieutenant,” Cindrich said. “He made a personal choice on retiring and I wish him and his family well.”

In the weeks preceding the June 1 merger, Terlizzi and his wife, Kim, strongly opposed the move publicly. The couple said there should have been a public hearing and a referendum, rather than effectively eliminating the village force.

Village officials countered that a hearing and referendum were not required because Mount Kisco was merging, not dissolving, its department.

New Castle GOP Announce Greenstein, Board Candidates for November Election

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a placeholder until it could decide who would fill out the ticket. McCauley said party leadership wanted to make sure it found the right candidate and didn’t want to be rushed into making a premature decision.

McCauley said that strategy is allowed for in state election law and is routinely used by the political parties for various offices, particularly at the county and state levels. Rather than rushing to meet a deadline, the party decided to take the extra time to find a suitable additional candidate, he said.

Gallagher, 50, a 12-year Chappaqua resident, is a graduate of Fordham University’s Gabelli School of Business and worked as an auditor for the accounting firm Ernst & Young. She later earned her master’s in elementary education from St. John’s and taught computer science and math.

Approached by the Republicans earlier this year, Gallagher said that party leaders were searching for candidates and her volunteer efforts caught the interest of the committee.

During her time in town, Gallagher has been active in the community, having served in various capacities, including Westorchard Elementary School PTA chair. Most recently, she chaired the town’s coyote management task force.

“We are on the right track,” Gallagher said of Greenstein’s administration and the current board. “I think we’re hopeful and optimistic that voters will agree and hold our view of a better sense of community.”

She and Greenstein said they are hopeful to maintain a positive campaign. Greenstein and Alzapiedi have verbally squared off in public meetings over the contentious coyote policy issue.

Chodos, who holds a joint MBA in International Business from the Lubin School of Business at Pace University and the Instituto Tecnologico Autonomo de Mexico, is the owner of Running Paws, a Manhattan-based dog care and fitness service.

Chodos, 43, a 1990 Horace Greeley High School graduate, said he returned to town last year and noticed some positive changes had taken place but in other areas it seemed as though time stood still. After meeting Greenstein, he said that he thought he could help move the town forward, particularly the business community and downtown.

“I think our best qualities are being logical, open-minded, fiscally responsible and determined to keep our priority for what’s in the best interest of our town (and) residents,” Chodos said of the ticket.

“Rob, Eileen and Seth will bring a diversity of perspective and talent to our town government that goes beyond party labels,” GOP Chairman Steven Schoenfeld said in a statement. “The slate will give our neighbors in town a real democratic choice on the vision for the future of our town and our children who grow up here. The election will be a healthy debate for our town.”

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Mt. Kisco Police Merger Critic Retires from Lieutenant’s Post

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Chapin, Greenstein Square Off Over New Castle Welcome Guide

By Martin Wilbur

New Castle Councilman Jason Chapin accused Supervisor Robert Greenstein last week of using the upcoming publication of a town welcome guide as campaign literature.

Chapin's charge came during the town board's July 14 work session after Greenstein asked town board members to provide feedback of a draft copy of the publication. Chapin asked for more time to review the material, although the town is planning on going to print with it at the end of the month.

In the spring, the town board approved spending $10,000 for Inside Chappaqua and Inside Armonk publisher Grace Bennett to write and provide content for the welcome guide. It will include information on the schools, service organizations, town amenities and many other aspects of town life in hopes of promoting New Castle and attracting potential new homebuyers.

There will be 12,000 copies printed, with each of the town's 6,700 households receiving one in the mail while another 4,000 will be split among local real estate offices, Greenstein said. Most of the remaining copies will be available for pickup at town hall.

The barb from Chapin came after he questioned the inclusion of some of the content, such as highlighting six school districts, as well as the timing of the publication just a few months before the next town election. If a key reason for the guide was to entice people to move to town, it doesn't make sense to mail it to existing residents, he argued.

"It has the feel of campaign literature," Chapin said.

Reached the following day, the councilman said he thought a middle to late summer release was inappropriate when most families who move into a new community, typically for the schools, look to buy homes in spring so they can relocate over the summer.

"It can be a great resource, but I'm uncomfortable with it," he said. "It's a campaign year and certainly Rob is running and is being challenged."

Chapin also clashed with Greenstein on when the idea for the guide was first raised. He said he had no inkling of it before February, but Greenstein countered that he had the idea and brought it to the attention of other board members last November.

Greenstein, who has battled Chapin on numerous issues during the past year-and-a-half, brushed aside the comments, saying that the councilman is already criticizing the publication before it is printed.

He said the six school districts that serve New Castle are included in the guide because that's how many school systems serve the town, although Chappaqua will receive most of the space set aside for that portion of the guide because it easily serves the most families.

Greenstein said the criticisms are predictable, but that anything he does between now and Election Day may be construed as political by his adversaries.

"I know that it's an election year, but what am I supposed to do, not work for the town for the next three months?" Greenstein said.

He contended that Chapin, who is leaving office at the end of the year, is more concerned about the future of the town's Democratic Committee than the town.

"He cares more about what's in the best interests of the New Castle Democratic Committee than the Town of New Castle," said Greenstein, a registered Democrat who is being endorsed by the Republicans for the second straight election.

Plans call for there to be a 25-75 ad-to-content ratio to help pick up some of the remaining costs, he said.

The town board is scheduled to discuss the issue again at the work session tonight (Tuesday) that is scheduled to start at 7:35 p.m.
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Tax Question Postpones Pleasantville Energy Program Vote

By Janine Bowen

A vote on Pleasantville’s possible participation in a community choice aggregation energy program was postponed last week after it was learned that village taxes could be adversely affected.

Initially, trustees were scheduled to vote July 13 on the adoption of a local law that would permit participation in the program, which is run through the non-profit organization, Sustainable Westchester.

Mayor Peter Scherer said there has been some dispute at the state level as to whether the ESCOs would be responsible for paying the gross receipts tax placed on utility bills. It has been argued that ESCOs are not required to pay the tax because they don’t have brick and mortar establishments in the communities. Although Scherer indicated that many believe the issue will be resolved, he said if ESCOs do not take responsibility for the tax, which would be automatically included in the village does not even have a newsletter. 

Passage of a local law would allow Pleasantville to participate in a group-buying effort through which Sustainable Westchester, which is comprised of more than 40 Westchester municipalities, is hoping to get a fixed rate to lock in lower prices with the ESCO for at least a year. The organization also expressed intentions to post consumer savings rates on a more frequent basis.

Scherer noted that Sustainable Westchester, which would put out a buying effort through which Sustainable Pleasantville to participate in a group-participation. annually, it would be a deal breaker for generate about $100,000 for the village responsibility for the tax, which would be resolved, he said if ESCOs do not take

JoAnn Campanella said she believes most residents in the village are unaware that they could be enrolled in the program because the village has not adequately communicated that information. She said she believes residents should have received a mailing to let them know that the law and its ramifications is being considered.

“It’s unprecedented. We don’t have any laws like this on our books, so it’s really important to communicate,” agreed Trustee Mindy Berard, adding that the village does not even have a newsletter.

Under the proposed law, all residents who are currently Con Edison customers would be automatically included in the group-buying effort and could opt out by making a phone call if they choose not to participate.

Campanella said the fact that the government is making this decision for residents without properly informing them reminds her of “Big Brother” and she feared that it could set a precedent that could allow other choices be made for residents in the future.

“This is something where you’re making a decision for me that I’m perfectly capable of making myself,” said Campanella. “I’m hoping that it’s successful, I’m hoping that people save a lot of money, it’s just how they’re going about it. I think it should be (done) voluntarily and (as an) opt-in. People should be informed and make a decision.”

Campanella, along with resident Chuck Dewey and Trustee Steven Lord, said they have used ESCOs previously and have had issues with rising rates. Although Sustainable Westchester will not enter into a contract with an ESCO unless savings can be demonstrated over compared to Con Edison rates over a 12-month period, Dewey said he is concerned the program could become a bait and switch and residents could wind up paying more.

“The checks and balances don’t appear to be there,” said Dewey. “They’re selling, we’re buying. We should say we’d like to see [savings posted] once a month as opposed to once a year. That’s reasonable.”

Dewey noted that his past experience with an ESCO ended in a class action lawsuit because his bills eventually rose 150 percent over the originally offered price. Similarly, Lord’s experience with an ESCO found him paying 16 percent more than he had paid with his previous energy provider.

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Mary Papanicolaou

Mary Papanicolaou died at her home in Pleasantville on July 16.
She was 90.
Papanicolaou was born May 29, 1925, in Yonkers to John and Anastasia Hanges. She was an amazingly tender and kind woman whose door was always open to everyone and anyone and was always ready and anxious to fill your belly. She had the best shoulder to rest your head on when the world got hard and was one of the best listeners. A part of what has been called “The Greatest Generation,” Papanicolaou encompassed all that was great in a person. A woman of old world traditions but modern day wits.

Survived by her three children, seven grandchildren and four great-grandchildren, she truly lived a full life. Solitaire, JuJu Bees and jelly doughnuts! Give a big kiss to Papou, Sagapame, Yiayioula, klene h kardies mas! Kalo taxidi.
Visitation was on July 19 at Beecher Fooks Funeral Home, Inc. in Pleasantville. The funeral service was held July 20 at the Greek Orthodox Church of Our Savior in Rye followed by burial at Mount Hope Cemetery in Hastings-on-Hudson.

County Police/Mount Kisco

July 12: A 19-year-old Old Greenwich, Conn. man was arrested at 3:33 a.m. and charged with DWI, a misdemeanor, following a traffic stop on Parkview Place at Drake Avenue. The officer stopped the suspect’s vehicle after observing it pass through a stop sign without stopping as it exited the Saw Mill River Parkway. He is due in Mount Kisco Justice Court on July 23.

July 13: A 28-year-old White Plains man was arrested at 12:10 a.m. and charged with third-degree assault and seventh-degree criminal possession of a controlled substance, both misdemeanors, after he was found to have a small amount of cocaine on Main Street following a fight he had with another Mundo Latino restaurant patron. The suspect was released on his own recognizance pending a July 23 appearance in village court.

July 15: A Bedford Hills resident arrived at the police precinct on Green Street at 7:12 p.m. to report that he had been involved in a road rage incident on Route 133. The motorist reported that the driver of an SUV cut him off and attempted to force him to a stop. The complaint reported that when he would not come to a stop, the other driver took a picture of his license plate with a cell phone.

July 15: Police responded to Marsh Sanctuary at 9:05 p.m. on a complaint that a car was parked in the driveway after closing. An officer located a Chappaqua resident who said he had been walking in the woods. The man was advised that visitors are not permitted after dusk.

July 15: A Highland Avenue resident reported at 10:09 p.m. that one of her neighbors drove at a high rate of speed on the street. The driver denied driving too fast and said she and the complainant have had an ongoing dispute. Both women were advised to try to avoid contact with each other.

July 16: Report of a 26-year-old woman having difficulty breathing at an office on North Bedford Road at 1:16 p.m. Police and the Mount Kisco Volunteer Ambulance Corps responded and the woman was transported to Northern Westchester Hospital.

July 17: A 22-year-old Mount Kisco woman reported at 11:46 a.m. that she believes an unidentified man may be stalking her. She said that the man appeared to be following her earlier in the day around the A&P supermarket and that she also has seen him near her residence. She provided a physical description but does not know who he is.

Pleasantville Police Department

July 12: Report of a larceny on Memorial Plaza at 10:30 a.m. Mailboxes were stolen. There were no suspects and the case was closed.

July 12: Report of a stolen bicycle on Nanahagan Road at 2 p.m. The matter is under investigation.

July 14: A Highview Terrace resident reported at 10:54 a.m. that she was assaulted by her boyfriend. The woman stated that the incident occurred in Yonkers. She was advised to contact that city’s police department to make a report.

July 15: Report of a car keyed on Memorial Plaza at 6:01 p.m. There are no suspects but the matter is an open case.

July 17: A 20-year-old Elmsford man was arrested at 2:33 a.m. and charged with urinating in public on Marble Avenue.

North Castle Police Department

July 10: A caller reported at 10:06 a.m. that as she was walking her dog on Woodcrest Drive a neighbor’s dog got loose and bit her dog. The complainant stated that her dog was uninjured and that both dogs are inside their respective homes.

July 11: A High Street resident reported at 2:07 p.m. that she just noticed that $100 in cash and two $1,000 savings bonds are missing from a drawer in her home. The woman stated that the items were in the drawer yesterday and that the drawer is usually locked. The resident called back on July 13 at 8:30 a.m. to report that she located the savings bonds.

July 14: Report of reckless endangerment on North Greenwich Road at 4:34 p.m. A tenant at the listed location stated that a female party who lives at the address ran up the driveway screaming for help and stating that her brother attacked her. A Hot Line was put out for a BOLO (Be on the Lookout) on the vehicle listed.
**Task Force to Address Concussion Issues in High School Sports**

By Sarah Bonanno

County Executive Rob Astorino announced the formation Monday of the Westchester County Concussion Task Force to help high schools address the public health concern of sports-related concussions.

Headed by Dr. Mark Herceg, the county's commissioner of Community Mental Health, the task force will develop a voluntary management protocol for high schools. The group will be comprised of 20 experts, including school district athletic directors, trainers, neurologists and psychologists.

The initiative, dubbed Safer Sports, is part of Astorino's broader Safer Communities campaign, which educates community members on countywide public health and safety issues, such as heroin use, sexual assault on college campuses and youth mental health.

According to the Center for Disease Control, 45 million children across the country participate in sports. Between 1.6 million and 1.8 million of those participants will suffer a sports-related concussion, and 85 percent of those children will recover completely.

“In examining this climate, the dialogue centers on prevention and education, and I thought we had to form a task force…to look at management: how do we manage the concussion from beginning to end,” Herceg said.

“Part of it is to get away from some of the misinformation about it, to break down the realities versus the myths,” Astorino said. “We also want to improve the coordination of the many available resources to benefit athletes, schools and facilities.”

Herceg said one of the task force's main goals is to evaluate how districts manage and address concussions to ensure that students, parents and teachers receive the proper information.

“The first educational conference will take place on Aug. 20 at the County Center in White Plains. Experts from across the country will speak. “We want to increase education, understanding and preparedness so we can mitigate any lasting effects that might happen if a concussion does occur,” Astorino said. “I call this the Goldilocks problem – too hot, too cold, just right,” said task force member Dr. Ronald Jacobson, chief of pediatric neurology at Maria Fareri Children's Hospital in Valhalla.

“Concussion is often overdiagnosed and is simultaneously underdiagnosed. Not in the same patient, obviously, but I think that getting it right is really what the answer has to be.”

Astorino said he wants the task force to not only raise awareness about proper concussion management, but also to help encourage children to safely participate in sports.

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**St. John Vianney Basilica to Host Sand Castle Contest**

The second annual Sand Castle Competition will be held on Saturday, Aug. 1 at Glen Island Park in New Rochelle.

Participants may create castles or any type of sand sculpture or figure. Judges will look for creativity, height, technical difficulty and use of space. Participants must bring their own shovels, pails and building tools.

Registration will run from 10 to 10:30 a.m. The contest is from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Judging will take place between 3:30 and 4 p.m. Prizes will be awarded. Registration is $10 per entry, payable on the day of the event.

For rules and registration, visit www.parks.westchestergov.com or 914-995-5245.
The accolades keep on coming for the Village of Mount Kisco. A month after being named one of the most livable small towns in America, Mount Kisco has earned another feather in its cap.

The NerdWallet website named the village the ninth Best Place to Start a Business in New York on July 13.

The village was recently named the 20th best small town to live in the United States by the website Livability.com.

Finance writer and data analyst Jonathan Todd, who developed the list and wrote the piece for NerdWallet, said that the village has multiple advantages for those looking to start a business. Although Mount Kisco has the smallest population (10,936) of the Top 10, there are more than 17 businesses per 100 people, a very high ratio and a major factor in its high ranking. Mount Kisco’s 1,911 businesses also bring in an average of $972,664 in revenue per business each year, he explained.

Another reason Mount Kisco placed so high is its geography, most notably its accessibility to New York City. “Westchester County is a great location,” Todd said.

Businesses in the area are also promoted on the website Mtkisco.com, which highlights various restaurants, things to do and special events in the area, and reap the benefit of local and regional business organizations.

While the village’s median $46,000 annual income is lower than many other municipalities in Westchester, the average monthly housing cost of $1,500 makes Mount Kisco more affordable than other parts of the county, Todd said.

The list was dominated by communities on Long Island and the lower Hudson Valley. The Top 10 starting from first place was Suffern, Garden City, Mineola, Harrison, White Plains, Ithaca, Rockville Center, Mount Kisco and Watertown.

This was the first ranking of the best places to open a business in New York for the San Francisco-based website. Todd said NerdWallet analyzed 83 locations in New York State with populations of at least 10,000.

Todd said the site, which was created about six years ago, looks to provide its audience with the best values when applying for credit cards, mortgages and other financial products.

Mayor Michael Cindrich said last week he agreed NerdWallet’s conclusion that the village is a welcoming place for new businesses. “Mount Kisco is a great place to live and a great place to work,” he said. “The residents of the greater Mount Kisco area are committed to our downtown area. Whether shopping, dining, strolling or socializing, our business districts offer a warm and friendly experience.”

Mount Kisco Chamber of Commerce President Dan Taplitz said he was proud of NerdWallet’s designation for the village, which he said is also a great place to grow up and live in addition to operating a business. “It’s an honor for Mount Kisco,” he said. “It’s a great community to grow a business.”
Modell’s Pitches Proposal in Mt. Kisco; Second Tenant Planned

By Neal Rentz

A plan to bring a Modell’s Sporting Goods to the space that formerly housed Borders in downtown Mount Kisco was formally introduced to the village’s planning Board last Tuesday.

The property at 154-162 E. Main St. is co-owned by Modell’s and the New Jersey-based Lerner Properties. It was recently sold to the new owners by Kisco Realty, LLC, which bought the property in an auction for $6.5 million last summer.

Mt. Kisco Planners Blast Hearth Developers Property Damage

By Neal Rentz

Mount Kisco Planning Board members were outraged last week after discovering that workers employed by the developer of the proposed The Hearth at Mount Kisco senior housing complex caused damage to the nearby woods.

During the July 14 meeting, board member Doug Hertz said he was angered when he recently toured the upper portion of the 17.7-acre Hearth property at 270 Kisco Ave. and saw fallen trees and three-foot deep holes in the earth, among other damage. Hertz showed other board members several photos he took at the site. He demanded that the project’s developer, The Fortus Group, restore the property to its former condition that would be determined by an outside consultant and paid for by the developer.

“I’m livid,” said Hertz, who did not see how many trees were knocked over.

Boad Vice Chairman Anthony Sturniolo called it “an unconscionable act.”

Mark Miller, an attorney representing The Fortus Group, which is proposing the 129-unit project, said the land was damaged during soil and water testing required by the New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). His client obtained a permit from the village to do the testing. The work included digging holes as deep as 30 feet, including drilling through rock, he said.

Miller said his client was aware that some damage would occur to the wooded area during the testing, but would do the restoration work that an environmental consultant would prescribe.

Despite assurances that the environmental damage would be mitigated, Hertz said it could take 20 years to grow trees comparable in size to the ones taken down.

“This is a travesty,” Sturniolo said. “They ruined a forest.”

Mayor Michael Cindrich, who attended the meeting, said the matter will be investigated by the village but declined to elaborate.

The Fortus Group, which has been appearing before the planning board for several years, is seeking site plan approval and special use, steep slopes and wetlands permits from the planning board.

A public hearing on the application is scheduled for Aug. 25.

Following his presentation to the planning board, Aarons said the company looks forward to moving into the village.

“Mount Kisco is a great town with a great downtown,” he said.

The 22,600-square-foot space has been vacant since September 2011 when Borders went out of business after the corporation filed for bankruptcy. Kisco Retail, LLC, purchased the property for $6.5 million in an auction last summer.

The presence of Modell’s is likely to have an impact on Mount Kisco Sports, a downtown mainstay, although the privately owned business is a “much different store,” said owner Rob Bernstein.

Bernstein acknowledged that while Modell’s would be a competitor, his store offers “high-end” items not available at Modell’s.

Bernstein said he had been unaware Modell’s was looking to the village’s most recognizable vacancy when he decided to move from 7 S. Moger Ave. to 11-13 E. Main St. He is scheduled to relocate in the near future.

Mount Kisco Chamber of Commerce President Dan Taplitz declined to comment on Modell’s move into the village.

“It’s not a final deal yet,” he said.
County Concussion Task Force a Good Move to Help Athletes, Schools

Given the increasing amount of new medical information and the highly publicized concern regarding concussions in professional sports, it’s a little surprising that there hadn’t been formal across-the-board protocols developed for Westchester high school sports.

Individual schools and their staffs certainly care for their student-athletes the best they can with the personnel and resources at their disposable. But considering how much high school football, lacrosse and ice hockey is played in the area, it would have been thought this might have been done already.

Even sports such as baseball or field hockey, although less likely to see their heads injured from errant balls or collisions.

That is why last week’s announcement by Westchester County Executive Rob Astorino that a Westchester Concussion Task Force had been formed is a seemingly simple but excellent idea that can do nothing but help.

It may not be the end-all and be-all, but at the very least the voluntary program would provide all participating schools with the same information on prevention, education and management of concussions and to help schools and their sports teams exchange ideas on how best to handle their student-athletes.

An Aug. 20 conference will be held at the County Center featuring concussion experts from around the country. It would be a worthwhile event for parents, coaches and teachers to attend. For those interested, an RSVP is necessary at dys1@westchestegov.com or 914-995-5245.

Silly Season Kicks Into High Gear Over New Castle Welcome Guide

Once summer arrives in odd-numbered years, towns that have contested elections can have some awfully petty and unbelievable arguments develop.

Last week, New Castle Councilman Jason Chapin and Supervisor Robert Greenstein doubled down on their recent verbal sniping by sparring over a town welcome guide that will soon be published. Earlier this year, the board agreed to have the town pay $10,000 for the guide that is designed to help promote the town and attract new residents to New Castle.

Chapin, the dissenting vote who is leaving the board at the end of the year, charged that Greenstein was using the guide as campaign literature. Never one to shy away from a fight, Greenstein, of course, didn’t brush off the accusation and move on but tried his best to put Chapin in his place.

For the vast majority of us who have never run for public office, we will never really know what it is to put ourselves on the line for what amounts to a stipend. Elected officials at the local level generally deserve a debt of gratitude for their service.

But when public officials look like third-graders in a shouting match at recess, the general public lumps them together as though they’re typical politicians.

Officials should remember that the next time they waste everyone’s time and their energy.

Letters to the Editor

Loss of Miller House Would Be an Insult to All Military Members

At the June 24 North Castle Town Board meeting, I, as a private citizen and descendant of three men who fought at the Battle of White Plains, sought to convince our town’s representative to the Westchester County Board of Legislators, Michael Smith, that Westchester County must repair, restore and maintain a national historic landmark located in North Castle that the county owns, the Miller House.

It was George Washington’s headquarters during the battle; and after it had been visited by many, including school groups, but because the county has failed in its responsibility and obligations to maintain the building, it has been closed for more than 10 years.

Unfortunately, some of my comments have been deliberately misconstrued and taken out of context. The Miller House is a testament to our national history and to my personal history. Locked and shuttered, it no longer serves as a welcome reminder of and living inspiration to our servicemen and women, past, present and future in their valiant dedication and sacrifice to preserve American freedoms. The price paid by those who fell that day in October 1776 is far greater than any costs saved with the destruction of a cultural and historical monument.

I have three direct ancestors who fought at the Battle of White Plains. One was James Woodyard At the age of 53, together with his 60-year-old brother Henry Woodyard and 31-year-old nephew Jesse Woodyard, they walked some 300 miles from Charles County, Md., as part of the 26th Maryland flying camp, under the command of his next-door neighbor General William Smallwood, after whom a street on Miller Hill in North White Plains is named. James Woodyard survived the battle and later crossed the Delaware with Washington in his famous Christmas Day surprise attack on Trenton.

My second ancestor at White Plains was Washington’s aide-de-camp Benjamin Lemasters, a 20-year-old from Morgantown, Va., who, as Washington’s confidential assistant, was undoubtedly with him inside the Miller House. He, too, survived the battle and crossed the Delaware with Washington; promoted to sergeant, he also served Washington during the brutal winter of 1777-78 at Valley Forge.

My third ancestor at the Battle of White Plains was a 22-year-old Minuteman from Amherst, Mass. Named Oliver Smith who did not survive the battle. His death was recorded that day – and he quite possibly could have died on the grounds of the Miller House since it served as a field hospital during the battle.

The Miller House was where the wounded and dying were tended to during and after the Battle of White Plains. The earth surrounding this national historic landmark is anointed with the blood of American patriots. It is hallowed ground.

The saving of this hallowed ground and Miller House itself shows respect for the sacrifices of our servicemen and women, present and past. I do not understand how anyone can allow the Miller House, a site of our sacred honor, to be destroyed. We deserve better; Washington’s Headquarters must be preserved.

Ed Woodyard

Armonk
Guest Column

Chappaqua Schools to Consider Dumping Trump Over Comments

By Amanda Cronin

Prom. The word represents a bittersweet celebration of the end of our formative teenage years and the beginning of a hopeful future.

For the past five years, Horace Greeley High School seniors and underclassmen have primped and preened for the big night, and then boarded limousines, buses and cars, with GPS devices pointing to the prom party destination: Trump National Golf Club in Briarcliff Manor.

However, for the coming year, some Chappaqua residents are questioning the choice of venue.

Three days prior to Greeley Prom 2015, Donald Trump announced his presidential candidacy for the 2016 race. “I will be the greatest jobs president that God ever created,” he said. And, in an attempt to garner support, or, as some speculate, intentionally insult fellow candidate Jeb Bush’s emphasis on welcoming the Latino population, Trump delivered this line: “When Mexico sends their people, they’re not sending their best. They’re sending people that have lots of problems. They’re bringing drugs. They’re bringing crime. They’re rapists. And some, I assume, are good people.”

Ay! Caramba!

These ethnic slights have led to multiple terminated partnerships over the course of the month. Spanish television network Univision was the first to act, announcing that they will not be broadcasting the Miss America and Miss Universe pageants, both co-owned by Trump. Trump is now suing the network for $500 million on the grounds that “[Univision]’s decision was, in reality, a politically motivated attempt to suppress Mr. Trump’s freedom of speech under the First Amendment.”

Thousands of impassioned tweeters grabbed their phones and started the hashtag #DumpTrump to keep the movement going.

NBC Universal was next to end their relationship with Trump. The network of Trump’s hit show “The Apprentice,” in which he is famous for mercilessly firing contestants, turned the tables by firing him in a statement released on June 29, “Due to the recent derogatory statements by Donald Trump regarding immigrants, NBC Universal is ending its business relationship with Mr. Trump.” As a result, “The Apprentice,” the Miss America and Miss Universe pageants will no longer air on NBC.

Macy’s was next to dump Trump by ending sales of his 90-plus-piece menswear line.

On July 7, the Professional Golfers Association of America (PGA) followed, stating “the parties mutually agreed that it is in the best interest of all not to conduct the 2015 PGA Grand Slam of Golf at Trump National — Los Angeles,” in a statement.

The list of companies that are in the process of ending their relationship with Trump continues to lengthen; as of July 10 it includes over 15 major companies.

Now the question has come. Will Horace Greeley High School be the next domino to fall? Will the two organizations responsible for organizing the Greeley prom and annual Chappaqua schools fundraiser and selecting its venue – Chappaqua Central School District (CCSD) and the Chappaqua School Foundation (CSF) – join the #DumpTrump movement?

Chappaqua mother Haley Ferraro started the conversation. On the same evening of Univision’s announcement, Ferraro posted on a New Castle Facebook group that CCSD and the CF should consider severing ties given that both the annual Chappaqua school fundraiser and prom are held at Trump National Golf Club.

Immediately thereafter, Chappaqua father Raj Datta started a Change.org petition.

“There are literally hundreds of banquet halls in Westchester County, many of which are swankier and a better value than Trump National. Why would I associate my organization with a brand that has been deserted nationwide by the likes of Macy’s, NBC, and Univision due to Donald Trump’s aggressively racist attitude?” Datta said.

The petition received 25 signatures in less than 24 hours and was declared victorious when Ferraro received an e-mail from Horace Greeley Principal Robert Rhodes. I spoke that the student committee and parents and teacher advisors are discussing what they want to do. “There have been arguments for choosing a different venue so as to not support Trump financially. Other arguments have been made that while they do not agree with the statements made [by Trump], it is a free speech issue.” Rhodes concluded by saying that “the school administration does not have a role in choosing the venue and we will respect the decision the group makes.”

CSF President David Gefsky struck a more neutral tone. Gefsky would not confirm whether or not the foundation would reconsider the choice of venue. “CSF is a charitable organization. We are not-for-profit, non-partisan and non-political. We are in the planning stages for the 2016 benefit.”

I asked Ms. Ferraro whether politics has a place in school administration. “No, I do not think politics has any place in our administration, but this is not political,” she said. “I did not ask them to change venues based on Mr. Trump’s political view of immigration policy or his views on same-sex marriage. This is about racism, bigotry and hate, none of which has any place in our schools.”

Now it is your turn to weigh in. Considering Trump’s remarks, should the location of prom and the annual fundraiser be changed? To view the petition and voice your opinion, visit change.org.

Amanda Cronin is entering her junior year at Horace Greeley High School.

Friends of Miller House Treasurer is No Friend of Miller House

By John Cronin

I read with amusement John Diaconis’ rambling and distorted letter in the July 14 edition of The Examiner (“County Legislator Smith Has Failed the Town on Miller House.”) He decries the county’s stewardship of the property and directs the blame toward his ostensible opponent (surprise!) in the upcoming District 3 election.

The truth is, the current sad state of disrepair of Miller House is a direct result of Diaconis’ inept “leadership” as treasurer of the Friends of Miller House; he has utterly failed in doing anything to improve the status of the building.

The county’s position has been to not have a role in choosing the venue and we will respect the decision the group makes.”

No. The proposal was never reviewed. Surely they must have reviewed the proposal of theirs were to be addressed. And yet not a single member of the Friends of Miller House can honestly say they had of Westchester County taxpayers – laughable. To refer to him as a “friend” of Westchester County taxpayers – after his distorted interpretation of what transpired and his advocacy of an absurdly wasteful restoration – is even more of a joke.

John Cronin served as North Castle councilman from 2010 to 2013.
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As told to me, it was a LMAO kind of story that may get lost in translation when cleaned up, but I’m assured first hand it’s true.

A woman who owned a condo was in bed for the very first time with a new boyfriend when suddenly the ceiling fan light disengaged from its mooring and plunged down, hitting the poor fellow squarely in the behind at the most critical moment imaginable. He screamed out, but the woman was uncertain whether the scream was in ecstasy or in pain.

It seemed not to matter as the relationship continued to marriage. But that’s not the end of the story.

After the ceiling fan light had been removed from the bedroom, not to be replaced, the couple was having dinner one evening when suddenly the tiffany-style light fixture above the table in the eat-in kitchen plummeted down, again hitting the guy, this time in the hand.

When the couple decided it was time for the couple to buy another dwelling, this time a single-family home, the one they selected didn’t offer a single chandelier as an amenity.

My wife Margaret and I have had our own experience with falling missiles from the ceiling when her mother had her 50th wedding anniversary, and it affected us for the rest of our lives. We were in the ballroom where the event took place and Margaret was seated on a raised dais with the family. Without warning, a large, recessed high hat fixture almost directly above her head plunged down and landed on the table between her and her uncle with a horrible, ear-splitting crash. It certainly did put a damper on the evening.

Ever since that time, wherever we go together, we look above and see if we are seated under any kind of fixture and, if we are, we either move if we can or make a mental notation just in case we have to make a dash for it. It’s neurotic, I know, or is it?

For the less threatening creative things that we can hang from our ceilings at home (just think you don’t have to dust under such things), make sure that you’re securing them properly.

To hang things securely, always check for a secure anchor in place, once inside, the arms will spring open and protrude slightly to hang your desired object. Plastic anchors are effective because they expand once inside the wall and hold everything in place with pressure.

A toggle/snap bolt is used to hang objects from plaster/drywall safely using pressure. The bolt works by having two spring-loaded arms that go onto the screw. After drilling a hole where you want the bolt to go, you slide it in, and once inside, the arms will spring open and allow you to pull on the screw. You then take a screwdriver or drill gun and tighten the bolt until it locks in place.

Once you have a secure anchor in place, the sky’s the limit in how creatively you can approach hanging either utilitarian fixtures or art. Typically we go for lighting fixtures or plants, tapestries, mobiles, stabiles or mirrors attached directly to the ceiling. I remember once visiting a home where the owner was a stained glass artist and there were pieces of her work hung in front of most of her windows. Or, how about statuary, perhaps supported by more than one wire?

Having had my home and office feng shui recently, it was suggested that I hang crystals from certain corners in both. Margaret would have none of it at home, but I did sneak one, now hanging from the ceiling of my home office, concealed by an apron facing into my great room. I suppose I’m busted here by the revelation, but good sport that she is, Margaret has always let me get away with little things she might not agree with. I make up for it where I can, like bringing home and arranging that weekly bouquet of fresh flowers, romantic devil that I am.

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.
Jeffrey Davis is keenly aware of the challenges and pitfalls facing small business owners.

He grew up in a small business family in northern New Jersey, his father owning his own construction company while his mother ran a graphic design business from the basement of the family house.

When Davis graduated from Seton Hall Law School, he gravitated to where he was most familiar and most comfortable — providing small groups of investors or entrepreneurs who have launched startups, emerging businesses or family-owned businesses with the time and legal expertise needed for success.

“It’s a crucial service, Davis said, because the small business owner is often at a disadvantage, whether it’s because of a lack of financial wherewithal or a lack of awareness or access to the other professionals that are often needed to launch a thriving enterprise.

“Part of what I wanted to do, part of the reason why I went to law school is my dad, because working in construction, everything ends up in litigation or some kind of dispute and I felt that the playing fields are so uneven,” said Davis, who initially went into the family construction business for several years after graduating Vassar College. “I woke up one day and made a choice of how can I do more.”

That expertise is not just legal advice but helping the new business owner locate a commercial lender or a CPA. Sometimes it may be working to resolve payroll issues while other times hooking up his client with a consultant to help devise a business plan might be in order.

His personal and family background in small construction firms gives him a natural leg up on clients in that area but he also advises entrepreneurs entering the food and hospitality industry. He chose the latter, in part, because of the creativity of the field and the wide assortments of opportunities it presents.

Davis, 37, an avid martial artist, also has clients in other types of endeavors. For instance, he represents one client who has launched a bouncy castle business.

Part of what makes Davis’ practice so intriguing is that he not only counsels small business owners, but he is one himself. Most young attorneys initially gain experience at an established firm. However, Davis eschewed that route, except for his first year out of law school.

“My personality is never set up for that,” said Davis, whose wife is a psychologist. “I worked in a corporate environment for a little over a year, a big firm, an accounting firm, and while I complained about it being one of the worst experiences of my life because I felt like I was a caged animal that had a lot of other potential to do things, it’s funny because I actually got a lot out of that experience and I’m glad I had that experience.”

He said he wasn’t interested in stringing along clients in increasing billable hours for the firm or being one member of a large stable of attorneys. He wanted to work directly with people like his mom and dad, who have good ideas and need proper direction.

“They’re looking to do what others won’t, so they may in the future can do what others can’t,” Davis said. “That’s part of being an entrepreneur.”

Previously, he had an office in Nyack, but with many of his clients either from Westchester or New York City, he decided to move close to home. He is currently in an office sharing arrangement with other professionals in a building on Saw Mill River Road in Hawthorne.

In addition to his legal work, Davis gives back to college students who are considering a career in law. He periodically participates in speaking engagements at Baruch College, and is also instituting a mentorship program for local undergraduate college students during the school year who may want to go to law school.

Davis will work with students individually to teach them about the legal process in construction, litigation, liquor licensing and general business law. This year Davis has two students from Pace who are participating.

He said when he graduated college, it took him seven years until he discovered the direction that he wanted to go.

“Ultimately, I’m extremely happy because I like fighting for small businesses and I like helping them, and I do it my way, which is why I’m by myself,” Davis said.
Tuesday, July 21

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. Also July 28. Info: 914-273-3887.

“Call Me William, The Life and Loves of Willa Cather.” A play written and performed by Prudence Wright Holmes, this one-woman show takes the audience on a journey through Cather’s life, from a cross-dressing teenager in 1890s Nebraska, through her college years and professional life as drama critic in Pittsburgh, editor of McClure’s and Pulitzer Prize-winning author and her lifelong struggle to hide her sexual identity. For adult audiences. Mount Pleasant Public Library, 350 Bedford Rd., Pleasantville. 7:30 p.m. Free. Info: 914-769-0548.

Wednesday, July 22

Master Networker Meeting. Join this high-energy interactive membership network of learning-based, service-oriented entrepreneurs and business leaders. Come be our 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 Genovese at 303-929-7203 or e-mail julie@eurobella.net or just drop in.

Zumba Fitness. Achieve long-term benefits while having a blast in one 45-minute, four-calorie burning, highly-energizing, awe-inspiring movements and poses. Using lightly weighted drumsticks called Ripstix™ and combining constant simulated drumming resulting in working the entire body. Dance Emotions, 75 S. Greeley Ave., Chappaqua. Every Monday and Wednesday at 9 a.m. and Saturdays at 10 a.m. Drop in or weekly discount rates available. Info: Contact Peggy at 914 960-4097.


Thursday, July 23

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


Bereavement Support Group. For adults struggling with the loss of a loved one. Led by bereavement coordinator Bess Steiger. Phelps Memorial Hospital Center, Suite 225 (755 Building), 701 N. Broadway, Sleepy Hollow. 6:30 to 8 p.m. Suggested donation: $10. Info: 914-366-3325 or e-mail bsteiger@pmsc.us.


Zumba Fitness Class. Addie-Tude Performing Arts Center, 42 Memorial Plaza (lower level), Pleasantville. 7 to 8 p.m. $32 for four classes. $5 each for eight classes. Meets every Thursday. Also Saturdays from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. Info: 917-215-1720, e-mail AddietudeDance@gmail.com or visit www.Addie-tude.com.

Friday, July 24

Friday Night Films: “The Snapper.” When Sharon announces she’s pregnant but won’t name the father, she throws her whole family into turmoil. Everyone has a guess as to who the dad may be, but the mom-to-be is keeping mum. Part of a Ready Doyle’s Barrytown trilogy, this tender comedy is the partner film to “The Commitments” and “The Van.” Adult Language. Post-screening discussion led by Professor Valerie Franco. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whippoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 7 p.m. Free. Info: 914-273-3887.

Saturday, July 25

Pleasantville Farmers Market. Come experience the largest farmers market in Westchester, the one voted Best of Westchester 2014 by the readers of Westchester Magazine. With over 55 vendors, seven nearby parking lots and creative weekly programming, it’s a delicious good time every Saturday. This week, join sitar and tabla duo, The Biryan Boys, and Westchester Engineering with exciting hands-on activities for the kids. Event Memorial Plaza, Pleasantville. 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Rain or shine. Info: Visit www.pleasantvillefarmersmarket.org.

Pound Fitness Program. A 45-minute full-body cardio and stress relief jam session, fusing Pilates, cardio, plyometrics, isometric movements and poses. Using lightly weighted drumsticks called Ripstix and combining constant simulated drumming resulting in working the entire body. TADA Theatre and Dance Arts, 131 Bedford Rd., Katonah. 11:45 a.m. $20. Every Saturday; also Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. Info: Contact Peggy at 914 960-4097.

It’s a Wet ‘N Wild World. Water covers most of the planet and everybody needs it to survive. Come find out how the nature center’s animals get along with – or without – water. Greenburgh Nature Center, 99 Dromore Rd., Scarsdale. 2 p.m. Member: $5 for member, non-members: $8 per person. Info: 914-723-3470 or visit www.greenburgnaturecenter.org.
By Jerry Eimbinder

Ashok Salian and his wife, Priya Kapoor-Salian, are the new owners of the Indian restaurant RaaSa in Elmsford. They are joined by their executive chef Peter Beck. RaaSa held a soft opening in March and a grand opening in late May. The husband-and-wife team met Beck when all three worked at Tamarind Tribeca, a renowned Indian restaurant in Manhattan. During Beck’s long reign as executive chef at the establishment, a New York Times reviewer called it “one of the best things to happen to Indian food.”

The East Main Street space that the Sians now operate their restaurant from was previously occupied by Malabar Hill, which went out of business in early 2013 after having served traditional Indian food for more than 20 years. The property underwent extensive renovation and last July attracted a new Indian restaurant with the name Raasa, but with many of Malabar Hill’s dishes on the menu.

Months later, Salian and his wife bought Raasa and decided to keep the same name for the restaurant except for one slight change: Raasa became RaaSa. (The word translates to an essence.)

A new menu was adapted with tandoori and seafood dishes including selections from the southern and northern regions of India, plus modern contemporary dishes. A tasting menu will be introduced shortly.

Three-course, prix-fixe meals are offered at lunchtime and an unlimited salad bar is accompanied by soup and non-vegetarian and vegetarian appetizers (including kebabs that change daily), plus an entrée and sides. The cost ranges from $12 to $20 depending on the entrée chosen. RaaSa does not offer a buffet lunch.

Ashok Salian comes from a family with a long history in the restaurant business. He graduated from the Kohinoor College of Hotel & Tourism Management Studies in Mumbai and worked for 18 months at that city’s JW Marriott Hotel after earning his diploma. He met his future wife when both were employed by the JW Marriott Phoenix Desert Ridge Resort & Spa in Arizona. Later, both were members of the team that opened the Tamarind Tribeca restaurant in Manhattan.

“I always dreamed of opening a restaurant in Westchester County, said Priya, a hotel and restaurant management culinary school graduate who grew up in Chappaqua. She is in charge of the front of the house and the catering operations.

Beck was born in New Delhi. He began his cooking career at Bombay’s Centaur Hotel where he advanced to sous chef. Subsequently, he cooked and occasionally trained local cooks at restaurants in Thailand, the Philippines, Hong Kong, Singapore and England.

He came to America in 1994 and was recognized for his interpretation of the late Raji Jallepalli-Reiss’s fare. While cooking at Tamarind Tribeca, he received a Chef of 2002 Award from the James Beard Foundation. He also worked at Benares, an Indian restaurant in Manhattan.

Among Beck’s more unique and creative dishes are Amniya Tikki (seasoned roasted beets stuffed with mango relish); Makki Dhingri (corn, mushrooms, paneer and sun-dried tomatoes wrapped in a pastry); and Chennai Jhinga (shrimp in coconut sauce over rice lentil pancake). Seafood lovers should try Tawa Machli (Branzini), Cochin Kekda (jumbo lump crabmeat) or Chilean sea bass.

RaaSa is open for lunch seven days a week from 12 to 3 p.m. Monday through Saturday dinner is served from 5 to 10 p.m. and on Sunday from 5 to 9:30 p.m.

The restaurant is located at 145 E. Main Street in Elmsford. A parking lot and on-street parking (with no meters) is available. For more information, call 914-347-7890 or visit www.raasany.com.

Nepal Earthquake Fundraiser Set for July 30 in Y orktown

On Thursday, July 30, Yorktown’s Temple Beth Am will be holding a fundraiser for Nepal. Have a fantastic meal, socialize with your Westchester community, learn about a beautiful country, but most importantly help rebuild what has been broken.

This is a unique opportunity to make a difference, Geljen Nuru Sherpa, owner of Jewel of Himalaya restaurant, and Temple Beth Am have joined together to help those in the remote villages of Nepal. By working with nonprofit organizations who are dealing with the villages directly, we can bring relief to those who need it the most.

Nuru is also going to Nepal where he will be working with the many villages personally.

The dinner, which will also feature music and a presentation, will be at held Temple Beth Am, located at 208 Church Place in Yorktown Heights at 6 p.m. It is $40 per person and $15 for each middle school or high school student. Guests may also bring a dessert.

To register by July 24, visit www.templebetham-ny.org and click on the Nepal flyer. For more information, contact Meryle Kreuter at 914-584-3287 or mkreuter@optonline.net or Karen Stachowicz at 914-319-7578 or golfskibum22@verizon.net.

by Jerry Eimbinder

Veal osso buco is a traditional Italian dish – tender shanks of veal with vegetables. Osso buco is Italian for “bone with a hole.”

It is served in its natural juices at Leo Cattarini’s Rini’s Restaurant & Wine Bar in Elmsford and is a great choice for dinner at $26.95 when Butch Barbella and The Streets of a Bronx Band, performs on Friday, July 31 at 8 p.m.

“We normally serve veal osso buco over rice,” Cattarini said, “but we can substitute pasta.”

The menu also includes sweet potato gnocchi papalina with prosciutto, peas, onions and cream sauce ($17.95); single rack of veal chop Campagnola sautéed with onions, peppers, potatoes, garlic and white wine ($27.95); a pair of Maine lobsters, one to 1.25 pounds each ($39.95); and two lobsters stuffed with crabmeat ($45.95).

Barbella, The Streets of a Bronx Band leader and double keyboard player, and drummer Bobby Rusticare are Yonkers residents while Jerry Brown, lead singer and percussionist, lives in New Rochelle.

Barbella started out as a music director and composer and wrote the original music for Robert De Niro’s 1993 film “A Bronx Tale.” He was the music director for The Duprees, the Earls and Dion. He also wrote the original music for “The Dukes,” a 2008 movie about a once-famous band struggling to cope with changing times.

Barbella has been called Butch since birth. On his first day in school, his teacher called Butch’s mother and asked for his real name. “That’s the only name he’s ever been called,” the teacher was told.

August events at Rini’s will include vocalists Bobby James and Mike D’Amore at 8 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 1; the Tony T. Jazz Masters Quartet with singer Louis Vanaria at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 7; and Jeannie Claire with Larry Passiatore on keyboard and vocalist Bobby “Baby” Walker at 8 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 14. There is no cover charge for entertainment with dinner.

Rini’s Restaurant & Wine Bar is open for lunch and dinner seven days a week. It is located at 12 Main St. in Elmsford and has a parking lot. For more information, call 914-592-6799 or visit www.rinisrestaurant.com.
Putting an End to a Painful Condition for Women

If you're a woman who suffers through lengthy, painful periods, you may be experiencing one of the classic symptoms of endometriosis, a disease of the female reproductive system.

This disease affects about one in 10 women around the globe, but it may come as a surprise to some that this condition is treatable. Patients should talk to their OB/GYN about their symptoms. We have so many effective treatments, there's no reason to endure that kind of discomfort.

Endometriosis gets its name from the endometrium, the tissue that lines a woman's uterus. Endometrial cells detach from the uterus and latch on to the ovaries, bowel or elsewhere in the pelvis. Once the endometrial tissue begins to grow, it behaves as it always does in the uterus – it thickens, breaks down and bleeds with each menstrual cycle. This can irritate the surrounding tissue, leading to scarring and pain. Other symptoms can include pain during intercourse, bloating, fatigue, diarrhea and painful bowel movements or urination. Endometriosis can also cause infertility; it's often first diagnosed when women are seeking infertility treatment.

About five million women in the U.S. suffer from endometriosis, and it's most common for those between 35 and 45 years old. The risk seems to run in families. Women who have a mother or sister with the condition are six times more likely to develop it. Other risk factors include a history of pelvic infection or uterine abnormalities or never having given birth.

Diagnosing the disease begins with a discussion of symptoms. A gynecologist will follow up with a pelvic exam to see if there are any ovarian cysts or pelvic scarring from endometriosis. However, laparoscopy, a minimally invasive outpatient procedure that allows thorough examination of the abdomen and pelvis and possible treatment of endometriosis, is the only way to obtain a definitive diagnosis.

Treatment can be as simple as over-the-counter pain medications such as ibuprofen (Advil, Motrin) or naproxen (Aleve). If that doesn't ease the pain, many women benefit from hormone treatment, such as birth control pills or other hormone-blocking drugs that can help shrink the endometrial growths. Should these steps fail to alleviate the pain and symptoms, a doctor may recommend surgery. A hysterectomy can give relief for women who are not planning to have children; for women hoping to preserve fertility, a more conservative surgical procedure called resection can target and remove endometrial growths.

Surgery for endometriosis can be done with minimally invasive techniques that involve small incisions, a quicker recovery and less risk of complications. Women who've had robotic surgery using the da Vinci Surgical System have shared their positive experiences with this minimally invasive procedure. In testimonials, they report being able to get up and get around within two hours of a hysterectomy, for example, and healing much more quickly than they expected. Patients also express relief at suddenly being free of symptoms such as excessive bleeding, pain during intercourse and persistent fatigue, unbearable symptoms many of them have suffered for most of their lives.

The advantages of robotic surgery, in which the surgeon guides incredibly precise arms, surgical instruments and 3D color cameras to perform the operation, are minimal incisions and cutting. This reduces bleeding and scarring, allowing patients to recover far more quickly than they would after standard surgery.

Of course, very few women actually need surgery to resolve their symptoms. Just don't assume that agonizing, lengthy periods are normal. Get yearly exams and be sure to discuss any symptoms that you find bothersome.

Dr. F. Michael Shaw is the director of the Institute for Robotic and Minimally Invasive Surgery, Gynecology Section, at Northern Westchester Hospital. He performs advanced gynecologic surgery using robotic laparoscopy for benign and malignant disease. Watch Dr. Shaw discuss da Vinci surgery for benign gynecologic conditions at www.nwhroboticsurgery.org/DrShaw.

Happenings

continued from page 18

Comedy Night. A Hilarious night of adult standup with six of the coolest comedians around. Westchester Broadway Theatre, 1 Broadway Plaza, Elmsford. Dinner at 6:45 p.m.; Show at 8:30 p.m. $90 per person (plus tax). Info and tickets: 914-592-2222 or visit www.BroadwayTheatre.com.

Sunday, July 26

Downtown Thunder: The Mount Kisco Lions Club 4th Annual Charity Motorcycle Ride. To benefit Guiding Eyes for the Blind, includes a 75-mile police escorted ride through the scenic Hudson Valley and an all-you-can-eat barbecue afterwards with music, raffles and vendors. Ride begins at Mount Kisco Village Hall, 104 E. Main St., Mount Kisco. Registration starts at 8 a.m. Ride begins at 10 a.m. $25 donation per rider. $40 donation for rider and passenger. Barbecue at the Boys & Girls Club of Northern Westchester, 351 E. Main St., Mount Kisco. Info and pre-registration: Contact Bob Scop at 914-271-8014 or visit www.mountkiscolionsclub.org.

Meet the Animals. An informative program that allows you to get up close and hands-on with some of the center’s live animals. 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.

Italian Heritage Festival. Featuring live music and entertainment, dance, arts and crafts, food and more. Kensico Dam Plaza, Valhalla. 12 to 7 p.m. Free admission and parking. Info: 914-864-PARK or visit www.westchestergov.com.

Steve Schwartz and Friends. The three-time Grammy Award-winning composer will offer a concert of his music in a benefit for the Hudson Stage Company. The performance will include songs from Broadway’s “Wicked,” “Pippin” and “The Addams Family.” Steve has worked with the likes of Michael McCorry Rose. The performance will be joined by Broadway regulars Liz Callaway and Michael McCorry Rose. Followed by cocktails and hors d’oeuvres at nearby Amore Restaurant. Whippoorwill Hall, 19 Whippoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 4 p.m. $125. Info and tickets: Contact Hudson Stage Company at 914-271-2811 or 800-838-3006 or visit www.hudsonstage.com.

Monday, July 27

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-member: $12 per child. Every Monday. Info: 914-723-3470 or visit www.greenburghnaturecenter.org.

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.amyj@gmail.com.

Tuesday, July 28

Author Visit. Kevin Woyce, author, photographer and lecturer, will present “Manhattan Bridges,” a lecture and slideshow. Beginning with the wooden King’s Bridge that opened in 1693, today 20 bridges connect Manhattan Island with the rest of the world. Come hear the stories of Manhattan’s famous crossings, including the Brooklyn, Williamsburg, Queensboro, Triborough and George Washington bridges and how they helped to shape the history of Manhattan. Mount Pleasant Public Library, 350 Bedford Rd., Pleasantville. 7 p.m. Free. Info: 914-769-0548.

Wednesday, July 29

Art Discussion Series: Summer Exhibits at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Part 2. A closer look at this summer’s blockbuster exhibits at the Met. We will look at the rooftop installation piece, Indian art and the works of John Singer Sargent. Led by Professor Valerie Franco. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whippoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 6:30 p.m. Free. Info: 914-273-3887 or www.northcastlilibrary.org.

Hadasah Film Festival: “How to Re-Establish a Vodka Empire.” 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: The Ronal Reagans Big 80s Band. The last Wednesday night concert features New York City’s biggest 1980s tribute band. It’s also Kids Night as well. New Castle Recreation Field, South Greeley Avenue, Chappaqua. 7 p.m. Free. Info: Visit the Recreation and Parks page at www.mynewcastle.org.
By Neal Rentz

The struggle to keep vital information away from hackers has become one of the key challenges of the digital age. Data breaches have become alarmingly commonplace, whether it be at major corporations or the theft of millions of federal employees’ personal information.

At a recently concluded two-week program at Pace University in Pleasantville, 22 high school teachers from around the country were provided tools to design a cybersecurity curriculum for their students.

From July 6-17, Pace hosted GenCyber 2015, offering instruction to the second-level educators who can then introduce that course of study at their schools.

“We are trying to establish a sense of community among teachers who will continue to implement the lesson plans that they designed during the workshop and to share their experience in introducing cybersecurity concepts to high school students,” said Dr. Li-Chiou Chen, professor and chair of the Department of Information Technology at Pace’s Seidenberg School of Computer Science and Information Systems.

Dr. Darren Hayes, assistant professor and director of cybersecurity at Pace University and one of the GenCyber 2015 instructors, talked about digital forensics, which is the investigation of criminal activity. Hayes, who manages a computer forensics lab at the university’s Manhattan location, said cybersecurity is a burgeoning field with increasing numbers of job opportunities in the public and private sectors. He said students should be exposed to it as a possible career choice before entering college.

In addition to teaching cybersecurity, Hayes pairs Pace students with companies for internships and jobs in addition to his teaching duties.

The topics covered during the recent program included basic concepts and principles in cybersecurity, encryption, biometrics (such as using fingerprints, iris scans and passwords) and digital forensics, Chen said.

“At the end of the workshop, every teacher had designed two to three lesson plans that they will implement in their respective schools in the coming school year,” Chen said.

Amy Fox, a computer science teacher at Valhalla High School who participated in the program, said she has wanted to learn more about introducing cybersecurity to her students.

“It’s something that I’ve been very interested in and haven’t really had the time or the money to explore,” she said. “A lot of the same things that I’m learning here I’ll be able to use in my classroom.”

Fox also teaches at Westchester Community College and will use what she learned during the program for her college students.

“It’s definitely a field where students would have great opportunities to do wonderful things,” Fox said. “It’s one that I’ve never been able to explore with them before, so now I’ll have a body of knowledge that I can at least introduce them to the field.”

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MORTGAGES
Your Homeownership Partner. The
The Economics of Producing and Selling One Bottle of Wine

By Nick Antonaccio

As I wandered down the aisles of one of my favorite wine shops last week, I found myself lingering in California’s Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon section. These wines have been off my radar screen lately. Comparatively speaking, they are generally higher-priced than wines from a number of other wine regions. A quality representation may be priced in the mid-$30 range – or higher, substantially higher.

I picked up two past favorites, one priced at $30 and the other at $75. I mulled in my mind the distinction between the wines and the disparity in price. It brought to mind an analysis I conducted a few years ago on the costs and profit margins inherent in these particular wines. The hypothesis: what are the components of the retail price of Napa Valley wine? Why do wines command the same 10 to 20 percent markup may range from 10 to 20 percent profit for the winery – $1.50 to $2.30 – and the selling price to a wholesaler is $13 to $14. 4. From the loading dock to the retail shelf. To gain the widest distribution, many producers solicit wholesalers to market their wines, who then sell them onward to retail shops and restaurants. A markup may range from 100 percent to more than 400 percent. In our example, the $13 bottle ultimately wends its way to the retail shelf for $26. The bottom line? The $30 bottle has a cost basis of $11.50, yielding a rather tidy profit in the supply chain – except at the winery level. There, 90 percent of the effort results in 10 percent of the profit.

The price elasticity of supply and demand does not always follow a logical path. My $75 bottle of wine may have a higher cost basis (premium land, more expensive winemaking steps), but the incremental retail pricing tends to be geometric, not arithmetic. The winery commands the same 10 to 20 percent profit; the remainder goes to the wholesaler and/or retailer.

There are notable exceptions to the standard markup guidelines. Fine wines such as Napa Valley’s Screaming Eagle have been dubbed “cult wines,” prestige in-demand wines of distinguished pedigree. Cost to produce? About $18. Price to consumers? $750. That’s almost priceless. Ah, but that’s not the final point of elasticity. An aftermarket of collectors’ demand has been spawned. The high-end auction price? A whopping $1,500.

Winemaking is a more a passion than a business, but external forces influence the ultimate value of a wine in a free market. And that is the final definition that has catapulted Napa Valley winemakers to lofty levels. And their distributors and retailers are firmly attached to their coattails.

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.

The price elasticity of supply and demand does not always follow a logical path. My $75 bottle of wine may have a higher cost basis (premium land, more expensive winemaking steps), but the incremental retail pricing tends to be geometric, not arithmetic. The winery commands the same 10 to 20 percent profit; the remainder goes to the wholesaler and/or retailer.

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Winemaking is more a passion than a business, but external forces influence the ultimate value of a wine in a free market. And that is the final definition that has catapulted Napa Valley winemakers to lofty levels. And their distributors and retailers are firmly attached to their coattails.

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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Owen Peterson tries to dodge his way to the cage in a home game vs. Rye Neck.

Robert Sodequist is about to cross the finish line in the 100.

Above: Brianna Mancuso blasts a long drive to center field in the annual Westlake softball tournament.

Right: Kaitlyn Sementa stays ready as she plays third base in a game vs. Fox Lane.

Left: Wildcats outfielder Matt Rubin loses his cap as he charges toward a short fly ball.

Steve Brunetto clears a hurdle for the Wildcat track and field team.

Lauren Holzer looks for a scoring opportunity during a Wildcats’ home game.

A determined Kristen Aviles competes in the hurdles at the state qualifying meet.

Eighth-grader Emily Sardo gets ready to fire a shot at the goal vs. visiting Valhalla.

Brendan Duane delivers a pitch in the Wildcats’ home win vs. Keio.

The Wildcats’ James Gorman heads toward the goal during a midseason home game.
Ricky Thomas turns the corner in the 400 at the county meet.

The Vikings’ Melissa Giglio competes in the 400 hurdles at the Westchester County Championships.

Jade Brown tries to clear the bar in the high jump during a home track meet.

Olivia Vlad tries to find room for a shot on goal during a home game vs. Dobbs Ferry.

Elliot Pennella starts to rise in the air as he competes in the pole vault.

Standout shortstop Brandi Coon tries to make a backhanded stop in the sectional championship game.

The Vikings’ Olivia Bespolka prepares for her landing in the long jump.

Olivia Vlad tries to find room for a shot on goal during a home game vs. Dobbs Ferry.

Rapheala DaSilva is closely guarded as she moves the ball up the field.

Standout shortstop Sergio Osorio steps on second base and throws to first in a win over Westlake.

Alyssa Dolan runs the bases in the Class B championship game vs. Rye Neck.

Above: Golf standout Matt Minerva drives the ball during the sectional championship at Fenway Golf Club.

Left: The Vikings’ Luke Sasso smacks a line drive up the middle.
Little League Spotlight

Pleasantville's Jack Dillane is poised to make a play at third base in an 8-and-under Westchester Baseball Association game.

Daniel Picart pitches in last Thursday's 8-and-under game vs. Lewisboro.

Right: Panther lefty Aidan Picart takes a big swing in Thursday's home game vs. Lewisboro.

Left: Shortstop HB Wolf and second baseman Justin Owens get ready to field a throw to second in last week's game vs. the Lewisboro Lightning.

Above: The Panthers' Nicholas Vecchiarrello runs toward second base during Thursday's game at Soldiers and Sailors Field.

Justin Owens of Pleasantville swings the bat in an 8-and-under game vs. the Lightning of Lewisboro.

Briarcliff

Below left: Briarcliff shortstop Anthony Mingola tries to make a tag at second, but the ball rolls away in a victory over Mt. Kisco.

Below: Joe Murray awaits a pitch in the 14-1 Briarcliff win last week in a 12+ Westchester Putnam Baseball Association game.

Above: Kyle Andrews starts to swing the bat during Briarcliff's home win last Thursday in WPBA action.

Briarcliff's Ryan Windrum pitches in a 14-1 win over Mt. Kisco last Thursday evening.

Above: Kyle Andrews gets set to run the bases in Briarcliff’s win vs. Mt. Kisco at Law Park last Thursday.

Below: Briarcliff first baseman Jackson Mauro catches the ball for a putout in the lopsided win over Mt. Kisco in a 12+ WPBA game.

Jackson Heitzler of Briarcliff takes a lead off third base last week at Law Park.

Pleasantville
Frankie Vesuvio was named the state’s Class A Player of the Year after a spectacular junior season in which he helped lead Byram Hills to its first-ever sectional title. His game-saving, backhanded catch in center field capped off the Bobcats’ run to the state championship.

Astorino Announces County Swimming And Diving Championships

County Executive Robert P. Astorino invites swimmers and divers from all over the county to compete for top honors during the 90th annual Westchester County Swimming and Diving Championships, which will take place in July and August.

While the display of these athletes serves as a testament to the natural talent of Westchester’s youths, Astorino is most proud of the skill that each of them developed through hours of practice. “This is a wonderful opportunity for young people to demonstrate the value of practice, hard work, and dedication,” Astorino said. “I wish you all the best of luck.”

The events are sponsored by Westchester County Parks and the Westchester County Swimming Association.

The diving competition is slated for Monday and Tuesday, July 27 and 28, beginning at 2 p.m. each day, at Lake Isle in Eastchester. Divers ages 10 to 13 will compete on Monday, while divers 14 to 17 will compete on Tuesday. Rain date is July 29.

Playland Pool in Rye will host the swimming competition, which begins on Monday, August 3, and runs through Thursday, August 6, beginning at 4 p.m. each day. Rain date is August 7.

Go to wcsa.usswim.net or parks.westchestergov.com for more information.
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YOU AND YOUR FAMILY DESERVE THE VERY BEST!

MORE FUN, MORE FITNESS & MORE ACTIVITIES THAN ANY OTHER CLUB IN WESTCHESTER!

The heat is on! So why not join in, get involved and enjoy all the unique benefits of membership at Westchester’s largest complex for family fun, fitness and activities. That’s because when you join Saw Mill Club you’ll get the very best, including Saw Mill Club East. Experience our award winning Tennis and Squash Center, a year-round Aquatics Center, outdoor pool, multiple state-of-the-art Fitness Centers with Technogym Artis equipment, plus Yoga, Spinning, Zumba, and a wide array of group exercise classes. Who’ll mind the kids? Camp Saw Mill provides fun & enrichment all summer long. There’s no better time to join and there’s no better value to enjoy than two Saw Mill Clubs for the price of one. Live better! Start by joining today.

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