New Castle Comprehensive Plan on Target for Fall Approval

By Martin Wilbur

The three-year process to update New Castle’s Comprehensive Plan is expected to conclude this fall as the town board may vote as soon as November to approve the plan’s first substantive revisions since 1989.

Kevin Dworka, a land use consultant and a senior fellow at the Pace Land Use Law Center who has been working with the town on the project, said last week there will be at least one public workshop in early October to unveil the changes that the town board will consider.

Officials were eyeing Wednesday, Oct. 7 as a tentative date for the workshop, which will likely be conducted in a free-wheeling “farmers market approach,” where the public can visit various kiosks set up to address different aspects of the plan, Dworka said. There would likely be about eight stations, six to address Comprehensive Plan topics and two others for the town’s pair of area studies that have been worked on simultaneously.

Depending on the volume of feedback from the community, the town could schedule a second workshop. A venue for the forum was not discussed at last Wednesday’s town board work session.

“We’re now coming to you to tell you what the plan is,” Dworka told the board. “These are the actual components of a long-term, 10-year horizon of what we would like to see happen in this community, so it’s important for (residents) to come out.”

A survey will also be conducted this fall to help gauge public reaction to specific information that is included in the proposed updated plan, Dworka added. There will be about 300 survey respondents.

Fair Campaign Practices Committee Plays Key Role in Election Season

By Martin Wilbur

Many people have been said to be turned off by campaign season mudslinging that invariably engulfs a certain percentage of political races.

For nearly 25 years, a dedicated group of Westchester citizen volunteers has worked tirelessly in hopes of providing the public greater clarity between honest, forthright campaigning that is based on the issues and grounded in facts and candidates who have engaged in distortions and defamatory attacks.

Each year the Westchester County Fair Campaign Practices Committee is asked to weigh whether statements, ads or literature from candidates running for a variety of elected offices at different levels of government have acted appropriately.

“This is a group of thoughtful citizens who in their mind are trying to figure out whether a statement is going to mislead the average voter, and that’s our criteria,” said Victor Goldberg, chairman of the 17-member committee.

A candidate who concludes that he or she has been wronged by inaccurate or defamatory statements may file a complaint with the committee against their opponent, listing one or more instances of alleged unfair campaign practices.

The three-member executive committee must agree that the matter should be heard, said committee member Susan Schwarz. If a hearing is deemed warranted, a date is scheduled where a minimum of five committee members

Organic Burger Chain Eyes Move to Mount Kisco; Friendly’s Site Possible

By Neal Rentz

An organic burger restaurant chain is looking to open a new location in Mount Kisco, possibly to the free-standing building on East Main Street that once housed Friendly’s.

Bareburger has plans to arrive in the village this winter, according to the company’s website. The chain currently operates more than 25 restaurants throughout New York, mainly in Queens, Manhattan and Long Island, and also in New Jersey, Connecticut, Philadelphia, Ohio and Toronto. The one existing Westchester location is on Central Avenue in Hartsdale.

The company has plans to open restaurants overseas in cities such as Tokyo and Frankfurt.

While Bareburger cites no specific location within Mount Kisco on its website, it is believed that they are eyeing the former Friendly’s space. However, there has been no formal application that has been submitted to the village.

“I heard the rumors,” said Jan Johannessen, the village’s consulting engineer. “They haven’t filed anything.”

Filling the void left by Friendly’s would be a boost to the downtown, said Mayor Michael Cindrich said.

“Filling the space with a business such as Bareburger would be a plus for the village,” he said. “The use would be similar to the previous use with a menu advocating healthy dining.”

Aside from burgers and chicken from grass-fed animals, Bareburger also serves
Meanwhile, the town’s two area studies, the Chappaqua Revitalization Strategy and the Millwood Revitalization Strategy, have been completed this summer, Dworka said. The contents of the Chappaqua study has already been posted to the town’s website and the Millwood study is likely to follow this week.

Sabrina Charney Hull, the town’s director of planning, said officials are on target to finish the update, possibly in the next two months.

“We will provide the town board with the Comprehensive Plan and two area

Organic Burger Chain Eyes Move to Mount Kisco

continued from page 1

organic salads, sandwiches and shakes.

Although the former Friendly’s property has been vacant since last September when it was closed as part of the chain’s bankruptcy proceedings, Cindrich said the village continues to collect taxes on the property.

Messages left at Bareburger’s corporate headquarters in Astoria, Queens last week were not returned.

Buchwald Announces District Office Internship Program

Assemblyman David Buchwald (D-White Plains) is kicking off his Fall 2015/Spring 2016 internship program and is currently seeking high school and college students to serve as interns in his district office located in Mount Kisco.

Students with an interest in government or public policy are strongly encouraged to apply. Interns are expected to work about 20 hours per week for at least eight weeks. Although the internship is unpaid, high school or college credits may be available through an applicant’s school. Students also have an opportunity to present policy proposals driven by their own interests to the assemblyman at the end of their internship.

Students wishing to apply should send a resume, cover letter, a high school or college transcript and a short writing sample to Assemblyman Buchwald’s deputy chief of staff, Alex Roithmayr, at roithma@assembly.state.ny.us. Anyone with questions may call the district office at 914-244-4450.

HEAD AND NECK INJURIES

What you need to know about whiplash...

Ask the Doctor

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

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

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

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

*Spine Research Institute of San Diego

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

NORTHERN WESTCHESTER HOSPITAL
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Democratic Surrogate Court Judge Battle Down to the Wire

By Martin Wilbur

Once Frank Streng had made up his mind to run for Westchester County surrogate court judge earlier this year, he wasn’t going to be swayed to drop out of the contest.

Even after Gov. Andrew Cuomo decided in the spring to appoint Brandon Sall as the court’s interim judge and Westchester Democratic leaders unanimously had selected Sall as their nominee at the June convention, the 58-year-old Cortlandt resident steadfastly remained committed to the race.

Streng, who has spent his entire career at McCarthy Fingar LLP in White Plains as a trusts and estates attorney, said he has the backing of legal colleagues and his share of local Democratic leaders around the county who want to see him run against the handpicked choice of Cuomo and Westchester Democratic Committee Chairman Reginald Lafayette.

On Thursday, he faces off against Sall in the Democratic primary. The winner figures to be the strong favorite to win the 10-year term against Republican nominee Guy Parisi in the critically important court that decides issues surrounding wills and inheritances.

“It’s not a choice to be made by chairs of parties,” Streng said of the nomination. “I hope to be the people’s choice and I hope that if I’ve done nothing else I give them that choice.”

Sall, who also has been a highly respected trusts and estates lawyer, said he didn’t expect Streng to lodge a primary challenge after he withdrew his name at the convention.

“(I was) quite surprised because he pledged probably numerous times that he would not primary and he would accept his fate at the convention,” said Sall, 55, who lives in Harrison.

The scenario for a contentious primary started to take shape following the resignation last January of Anthony Scarpino, who left the surrogate court bench to go into private law practice.

The vacancy was advertised and Sall and Streng were two of the four applicants that were considered for the post. Following interviews conducted by a bipartisan judicial committee in April, who found Sall and Streng both highly qualified, Cuomo selected Sall. The appointment was confirmed by the state Senate in May and Sall took the bench the following month.

But John McBride, the chairman of the Democratic Committee in Cortlandt where Streng lives, said it was unusual for the governor to make the appointment when it was known that four Democrats were interested in vying for the seat. By Cuomo making the appointment when he did, it gave the power and advantage of incumbency to Sall and likely influenced other party leaders to throw their support behind him, he said.

“It’s definitely out of the ordinary,” said McBride, whose committee has endorsed Streng. “The governor never has made this kind of judicial appointment before and he does it at the eleventh hour.”

As for Streng withdrawing his name during the convention, McBride mentioned that when it becomes apparent that a candidate won’t get the nomination, it is standard practice to do that.

However, Sall said Streng didn’t raise any objections with the process until he didn’t like the final outcome. He also noted that Streng challenged his petitions on the Working Families and Independence lines this summer, challenges that were thrown out.

“We were all part of the process,” Sall said. “For my opponent to be surprised that the governor made the appointment is disingenuous.”

Streng said he has been treated well by other Democratic leaders throughout the county.

“I was not persona non grata except for the chairman of the party, Reggie Lafayette, who is also the Democratic commissioner at the Board of Elections,” Streng said. “I think you’ll find that if you interview different Democratic leaders, continued on page 8
Fair Campaign Practices Committee Plays Key Role in Election Season

must be in attendance to listen to arguments from both candidates and/or their representatives, she said.

Schwarz said the hearing, which is scheduled as quickly as possible, allows each side to make a presentation of up to 10 minutes. Afterwards, the attending committee members have up to a half-hour to ask questions of both camps.

The committee then deliberates and reaches a consensus before issuing a written response that is carefully composed to make sure that the wording accurately represents the group’s sentiment and tone. That typically is done within 24 hours. The committee can find a campaign to be fair or unfair or issue no finding.

Goldberg said the committee has no power other than to post their findings on its website and to distribute it to the two campaigns and the media. During one election season it has considered as few as a half-dozen complaints and other years in excess of 20.

“Our goal is to have a system to help ensure fairness in the campaigns,” Goldberg said. “I think our decisions have done that, but I’m not sure how successful we’ve been ensuring fairness in the campaigns because we have no power except what the media gives us by publishing findings about whether a candidate involved in the process has been unfair. That’s all we got.”

The Fair Campaign Practices Committee was formed in 1991 after the late Gannett newspaper columnist Milton Hoffman continually called for an independent body to hold candidates and campaigns accountable for their statements and actions.

Established by the League of Women Voters, it was initially funded by a grant from the Westchester Community Foundation, a nonprofit endowment. The League of Women Voters has no role in the committee’s findings but is in charge of its funding.

Committee member Joy Rosenzweig said the group is looking to more effectively publicize its work and the role it serves during campaigns. She said greater communication and use of social media can help lead to a more informed electorate in Westchester.

“One we get the word out more, more and more people will learn about the findings, more people will look on our site before Election Day, and some people will be able to say, ‘Okay, I’ve heard that guy’s name five times about something unfair, let me look more,’ ” Rosenzweig said. “Maybe it’ll make a difference if they’re on the fence. That’s one of our goals, I think, to really be able to extend our influence.”

Committee members must be county residents and are recommended by another member. No sitting elected official is allowed to serve, although former officeholders and candidates are permitted. For example, former New Castle supervisor Polly Kuhn currently sits on the committee. Typically, members have been involved in civic affairs.

Goldberg was a League of Women Voters member and served on the Scarsdale Planning Board.

A new member, Pleasantville resident Paul Atkinson, was recommended by Robert Kirkwood, currently the New Castle Planning Board chairman. Atkinson, who spent years working in communications and media, said he’s found the group to be highly objective.

Members may recuse themselves if they feel they have a conflict of interest.

“It kind of appealed to me because you have to be objective in the business world and realize scoundrels are scoundrels, distortion is distortion, and it really can come from either side of the (political) spectrum,” Atkinson said.

One Republican campaign consultant who has had clients appear before the committee but asked not to be identified, said the Fair Campaign Practices Committee has dedicated residents who serve an important function. It often has the desired effect because few campaigns will want to risk the bad publicity that could accompany an unfavorable finding.

“I don’t think it has changed the election process, but you do think twice before putting something out there in the campaign,” the consultant said.

On certain occasions, the committee will issue a finding without a complaint, Goldberg said. For example, if a campaign is going to publicize the committee’s finding, it must release it in its entirety. Failure to do so can result in an unfair finding.

Another issue has been the increase in the state political parties and political action committees funding local campaigns and sending out literature without a candidate’s knowledge, Schwarz said.

“The one thing we say is candidates are responsible for the stuff put out there in their name,” she said.

Despite what could be a contentious relationship, Goldberg said in his 10 years on the committee he has gained enormous respect for candidates and the political party leaders no matter how heated a race may become.

“The party reps say I’m not crazy about (a finding) but I understand where you’re coming from,” Goldberg said. “I have great ambition for the party reps for their integrity and for their intelligence and I think the League of Women Voters was correct when it opted right from the start for a transparent system.”
By Arthur Cusano

Students entering Pleasantville Middle School this fall have brighter days ahead of them – literally.

The school underwent major renovations over the summer, most notably getting a new roof and ceilings that have made the school’s hallways better lit.

The middle school was built in 1954, and has had three additions since then. Superintendent Mary Fox-Alter said recent tough winters with plenty of snow have taken a toll on the building’s flat roofs.

“The original 1954 section of the roof, which is the majority of this, needed to be replaced,” Fox-Alter said. “So we have a beautiful new roof that reflects some of the heat, new fascia board. We had leaks in the middle school in a variety of different places, so we were able to address all that.”

The 1950s-era asbestos and concrete ceiling and older light fixtures were replaced with bright white ceilings and brighter, more energy-efficient lights.

Guidance counselor Susan Leyden said students immediately noticed the improvement when school reopened last week.

“It’s so funny to watch the older students’ impressions as they come up and they say, ‘Whoa, what’s different?’” Leyden said. “It’s much better, more welcoming.”

In 2010 the district completed a major renovation and addition to the high school; technology and infrastructure were updated.

As part of a $3.5 million bond approved by voters in May 2014, $1 million will go toward Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP), infrastructure and building-wide wireless Internet access at the middle school and Bedford Road School. The service has already been installed at the high school.

The VoIP system acts as a public address system and as a phone and minicomputer that allows classroom-to-classroom communication. It contains a generator backup.

“In an emergency situation, like a lockdown situation, those systems become vital methods of communication,” Fox-Alter said.

Plans to install those upgrades have been submitted to the state Department of Education (SED) for approval. Once approved, the upgrades can begin during this school year when classes are not in session, Fox-Alter said.

The district just completed athletic field renovations at the high school-middle school complex. A new artificial surface made from coconut shells and cork and a complete resurfacing of the rubberized all-weather track has been finished. Students said the improvements were noticeable.

“It’s a lot better than the ones that were there before,” said sophomore Sonya McGaffey, a member of the girls’ cross country team. “We were walking across it to get to the track, which we also like a lot. It feels nice when we run on it.”

Senior Sean Cotter, another Pleasantville runner, agreed the new facilities are an upgrade.

“It doesn’t stick to your clothing like the old track did,” Cotter said. “There are no sinkholes, so that’s good. There's nothing to fall into.”

“Students at Pleasantville Middle School returned last week to find new ceilings and lights, which were installed over the summer.”

ARThUR CUSANO PHOTO

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Drug Fighting Coalition, PBA to Host Movie Night in P’ville

By Martin Wilbur

Sending a strong message to prevent teenagers from falling victim to drug and alcohol use is of dire importance. This Saturday night, a Pleasantville organization and the village’s police department will make sure that serious message is filled with smiles and fun as well.

Pleasantville STRONG, a coalition comprised of a cross-section of community members, and the Pleasantville Police Benevolent Association (PBA) have teamed up to present a Family Fun and Movie Night on Sept. 12 at Parkway Field on Marble Avenue. The gates will open at 5:30 p.m. with a DJ and activities for children, such as an inflatable obstacle course and face painting, games and food.

At about sundown, the original “Star Wars” will be shown on a oversized screen that the village is borrowing from Richard Glotzer, president of Drug Mart in Millwood. Glotzer also owns a projector that he will provide to Pleasantville STRONG to use for the evening.

Police Det. Morgan Cole-Hatchard said at one of the Pleasantville STRONG meetings, stakeholders brainstormed about how they could bring together the community. The coalition will have a booth to provide the public with more information about what the work that it does.

Perhaps most important, it will show residents that the village, police and the community will continue to work together to keep Pleasantville a safe and desirable place to raise a family, Cole-Hatchard said.

Family Fun and Movie Night is free and the entire community is invited. Children 12 and under must be accompanied by an adult.

Rigo Music Entertainment, Inc. will be getting the party started early with music and a DJ. Families are encouraged to bring blankets, chairs and a picnic dinner to enjoy on the field. There will be no alcohol permitted on the premises.

There will be plenty to eat for those who want to buy their food. A la Mode Ice Cream, Inc. in Katonah will be selling various food items, including their ice cream. At about 6:30 p.m., Walter’s Hot Dogs Truck is scheduled to arrive and sell hot dogs, specialty fries, homemade Italian ice and ice cream, floats and beverages. The PBA will also be selling candy and water.

In addition, a variety of local businesses will be handing out door prizes. In the event of inclement weather, the event would be postponed until the following Saturday, Sept. 19.

Briarcliff Manor Garden Club Fall Fundraiser Set for Oct. 21

The Briarcliff Manor Garden Club will be holding its annual Fall Fundraiser on Wednesday, Oct. 21 at Sleepy Hollow Country Club from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. There will be more than 20 boutique vendors to kick-start your holiday shopping and there will be a raffle to give away.

Pleasantville STRONG offers and give the information about what the work that it does. Perhaps most important, it will show that was fun but in a safe environment.

“A night like the PBA Family and Fun Night is the epitome of the goals of the coalition, the village and the PBA combined,” Cole-Hatchard said.

In addition tons of fun, Family Fun and Movie Night will also raise awareness about all of the events and programs Pleasantville STRONG offers and give the PBA a chance to interact and give back to the community. The coalition will have a booth to provide the public with more information about what the work that it does.

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Greeley Teacher Under Police Investigation Resigns From District

By Martin Wilbur

The Horace Greeley High School speech teacher and drama coach who was placed on paid leave in June after being investigated by police for alleged misconduct with students resigned his position Friday afternoon.

Christopher Schraufnagel, a teacher for 12 years at the school, officially left his job following a brief Chappaqua Board of Education meeting. When trustees returned from executive session at about 1 p.m., they unanimously voted to accept Schraufnagel's resignation.

Lucien Chalfen, a spokesman for the Westchester County district attorney's office, said Friday that an investigation continues. He did not give a timetable for when the inquiry might be completed.

While the specifics of the allegations have not been revealed, the investigation was launched after a former student contacted New Castle police last spring regarding misconduct. The district attorney's office had also been investigating whether there were additional students or former students.

In June, the last performance of the Horace Greeley Theater Company was abruptly canceled without explanation. About a week later at the next board meeting, trustees voted to have Schraufnagel placed on paid leave. At that same meeting Superintendent Dr. Lyn McKay addressed the public, assuring the safety of the students and the continuation of the district's theater program.

Democratic Surrogate Court Judge Battle Down to the Wire

continued from page 3

you'll find that I have not been treated properly." Lafayette said he supports Sall in Thursday's primary because he was the party's choice at the convention. If someone else had gained the nomination at the convention, the committee would have backed that candidate.

Asked if he would support Streng should he win the primary, Lafayette responded, "Of course."

"If (he) doesn't get the nomination and then decides to run a primary that is his right, but don't act like it's unfair," Lafayette said.

Obscured in the controversy has been the qualifications of both candidates who have had long and distinguished careers in trusts and estates as well as advocating for Democratic causes. Streng has been the Westchester/Lower Hudson Valley co-chair of the New York Democratic Lawyers Council, a grassroots group that was formed following the contested 2000 presidential election to ensure voting rights.

He said the court has had numerous issues, including budgetary problems over the years, and he has the acumen to fix that.

"I feel that I will be able to roll up my sleeves and find practical solutions to make the court run more efficiently," Streng said. "The taxpayers would do well with me in surrogate's court and get high-quality services from the court."

Meanwhile, Sall served as a Democratic district leader when he lived in North Castle in the 1990s and also had served as treasurer of that town's Democratic Committee. He said he would like to modernize the court with respect to technology and help educate the public about what the court does.

"I always liked to help people and I love serving in surrogate's court because it makes a difference with families at their most vulnerable times," Sall said.
County, Municipalities to Remember 9/11 With Friday Ceremonies

Westchester County as well as municipalities in the area will be hosting special ceremonies this Friday to remember those who perished in the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks 14 years ago. Below is a list of some of the local events taking place, mainly in the late afternoon and early evening.

Mount Kisco
The Mount Kisco Volunteer Fire Department invites the public to this year’s Sept. 11 memorial service at the 9/11 Memorial Monument, starting at 6:15 p.m., at 100 Main St., adjacent to the Mount Kisco Public Library. Following a brief ceremony, everyone is invited back to the Mutual Firehouse across the street for light refreshments.

New Castle
The Town of New Castle’s memorial ceremony to remember the victims of 9/11, including three town residents who died, will be held at Gedney Park, located on Route 133 in Millwood, at 6:30 p.m.

North Castle
The Town of North Castle’s memorial service will be held at in front of town hall, at 15 Bedford Rd. in Armonk, at 6:30 p.m. 9/11, including three town residents who died on Sept. 11, 2001, and a wreath dedication by the Green Acres Garden Club. A reception will follow immediately afterward at the American Legion Post 1097, next door to town hall.

Westchester County
Westchester’s 9/11 memorial ceremony to honor those whose lives were lost or forever changed by the tragic events of Sept. 11, 2001, will take place at a twilight ceremony at “The Rising” at the Kensico Dam in Valhalla at 7 p.m.

The candlelight ceremony will follow immediately after this ceremony.

The Mount Kisco Volunteer Fire Department will host its annual service at the 9/11 Memorial Monument next to the Mount Kisco Public Library this Friday at 6:15 p.m., one of several ceremonies that have been scheduled in the area.

County Center in White Plains. Organized in partnership with Volunteer New York! and Robison, special focus will be given this year to the everyday heroes who save lives by donating blood, bone marrow and stem cells, and others who volunteer as first responders in their communities.

Dozens of volunteer projects will be taking place Sept. 11-13. Learn more and register by calling 914-948-4452 or visit www.volunteernewyork.org/service. To sign up for the blood drive, contact Janet Lokay at 914-995-2127 or e-mail jel1@westchestergov.com.
County Police/Mount Kisco

Sept. 1: A 32-year-old Port Chester man wanted on a warrant issued by the Mount Kisco Justice Court was detained by the Ossining Police Department and turned over to Westchester County police at 4:07 p.m. The suspect was charged after failing to appear in court to answer a DWI charge.

Sept. 1: A 26-year-old Bedford man was arrested at his home at 8:30 p.m. and charged with second-degree criminal contempt, a misdemeanor. He is accused of going to the Mount Kisco workplace of a person he is barred from having contact with under a court-issued order of protection.

Sept. 1: A West Street resident reported at 8:41 p.m. that an unwanted person was at her home and she wanted him to leave. Officers responded and the man agreed to leave the property.

Sept. 2: A Orchard Road resident reported at 12:02 a.m. that a bat was flying around inside his home and he was unable to remove it. Officers responded and provided the homeowner with contact information for a private contractor who could handle the problem.

Sept. 2: A caller reported seeing five dogs in a parked vehicle with the windows rolled up on Maple Avenue at 2:03 p.m. The vehicle was described as a silver Honda CRV with New York plates. The responding officer checked the area; the vehicle was apparently gone on arrival.

Sept. 2: Report of a two-vehicle accident on North Broadway at 3:40 p.m. The Mount Pleasant Police Department confirmed that a Mount Pleasant paramedic had arrived on the scene and was assessing the injured parties. The drivers of both vehicles were transported to White Plains Hospital.

Sept. 2: Report of criminal mischief in the parking lot of La Quinta Inn on Business Park Drive at 11:43 p.m. The complainant stated that unknown subjects slashed three tires on his vehicle. A report was taken.

Sept. 3: A caller reported at 4:12 p.m. that a tree has fallen on Mianus Drive near the intersection of Brookwood Road and has snapped some cables.

North Castle Police Department

Aug. 29: An anonymous caller reported at 11:03 p.m. that there is a loud party at a Thorne Road residence. Officers were dispatched and the matter was adjusted.

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21st Annual Support-A-Walk for Breast & Ovarian Cancer
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2015
FDR State Park - Yorktown Heights, NY

WALK WITH US ~ DONATE TODAY
Be part of a community that cares!
www.supportconnection.org
914-962-6402 ~ walk@supportconnection.org
Proceeds fund Support Connection’s Free Breast & Ovarian Cancer Support Services
Bring help & hope to people fighting breast & ovarian cancer!

Support Connection is a 501 (c) (3) not-for-profit organization.
We do not receive funds from Relay for Life, the Avon Walk, Making Strides, Susan G. Komen, or any other national cancer organization.

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Fee includes a jersey, trainer, soccer ball, AYSO Membership, PLAYSOCCER Magazine, and supplemental accident insurance.

Cost- Ages 9 – 18:
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www.mkayso.org please contact us at mtkiscoayso@yahoo.com
Chappaqua Rabbi Walks in Commemoration of Civil Rights March

By Martin Wilbur

Not many people would volunteer to walk 20 miles in a day in the searing late summer heat.

But when Jonathan Jaffe headed to South Carolina late last month to take on that challenge, he did it for a greater cause than just to see if he could physically complete the journey.

On Aug. 27, the senior rabbi at Temple Beth El of Northern Westchester in Chappaqua took part in the NAACP-sponsored “America’s Journey for Justice,” a 40-day, 860-mile excursion on foot from Selma, Ala. to Washington, D.C. to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the three civil rights marches to Montgomery.

Through the Religious Action Center for Reform Judaism, Jaffe was one of about 200 rabbis from across the United States who signed up to join the NAACP for one day of the march.

Temple Beth El has had a long history of supporting social justice issues, Jaffe said of part of his motivation to march. Also, the American Jewish community in general has had a strong alliance throughout the generations with African-Americans and their civil rights struggles.

“For me personally, my generation missed on the civil rights movement, and here we are in 2015, where the exact same issues are prevalent in society and we’re all the more powerless to do anything about it,” Jaffe said. “If there’s one thing I can do, the least thing I can do, previously, and NAACP members. He also got to have conversations with the organization’s president and clergy from black congregations.

Jaffe said the effort was more than symbolic; it represented opportunities to open lines of communication, particularly helping to deal with difficult issues such as prison reform and the Black Lives Matter movement. Having dialogue is a good start.

“We have the ability to bring together groups of people toward a positive goal,” Jaffe said of him and his fellow clergy. “To the greatest extent possible, if we can create opportunities for engagement, even if it’s just to get to know one another and talk about your stories and histories, we’re telling each other who we are, I think you’re taking that first big step and action can take place soon after that. We can be an anti-polarizing factor in society.”

While the experience was overwhelmingly positive, there were a couple of tense moments. In one town, as the marchers passed a gas station, a Confederate flag was unfurled, Jaffe said. In another instance, a motorcycle driver made sure to roar his bike close to the marchers, then circled back and did it again.

But there were also uplifting acts of kindness. The owner of a hot dog stand in Bethune, S.C. heard the marchers were approaching and invited the group into the establishment for lunch.

Jaffe had hoped to meet up with the marchers again when it reaches Washington on Sept. 15, but for him and his fellow rabbis that will prove difficult since it coincides with Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year.

Although Jaffe realizes that the one day on the road wasn’t anything close to what the civil rights marchers faced in Alabama in 1965, it had a positive impact on his own outlook.

“It left me inspired to want to do more when I got home,” Jaffe said.
By David Propper

A steadfast advocate of the controversial Common Core standards, New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo acknowledged last week that the current educational program “is not working and must be fixed.” In a 300-word press release issued last Thursday, Cuomo, a Democrat, announced he would assemble a commission to review and recommend changes for the implementation of Common Core curriculum, guidance and tests that would address concerns locally.

“We must have standards for New York’s students, but those standards will only work if people – especially parents – have faith in them and in their ability to educate our children,” Cuomo said. “The current Common Core program does not do that.”

State legislators have heard an earful about education the past couple of years, as the Common Core issue has become a lightning rod for debate and disagreement.

Assemblywoman Sandy Galef (D-Ossining) said the implementation went too rapidly and shouldn’t have been started at all grade levels at once. She said she was surprised by Cuomo’s latest statement, considering his desire to see Common Core succeed in New York, but noted she was glad he’s modifying his position.

She stressed the commission should be independent.

“People are dissatisfied,” Galef said. “Everyone wants goals and they want better challenges for our kids so we can really meet the international challenges with all of the other countries in the world, so we know we have a way to go.

We have to have higher aspiration for our kids. The question is, how do we go about doing that?”

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Assemblyman Steve Katz (R-Yorktown) called Cuomo’s decision to authorize a comprehensive review “long overdue.”

“For the past two years, members of the Assembly Minority Conference and I have called for a halt to implementation while the curriculum can be reviewed,” Katz said. “I encourage Gov. Cuomo to follow our lead and implement an end to Common Core until the review is finished.”

While Cuomo’s statement sent shockwaves and gave a sense of vindication to Common Core critics, the governor did criticize the rollout of the new standards in the past. He also reiterated his position that he still agrees with the goals of Common Core. He noted that new Education Commissioner MaryEllen Elia inherited the problems facing the program, but has been meeting with parents, teachers and administrators and heard similar concerns.

The commission will include Elia, education experts, teachers, parents and legislative representatives, who will in turn provide recommendations in time for Cuomo’s State of the State address in January.

“I am taking this action not because I don’t believe in standards, but because I do,” Cuomo stated.
Letters to the Editor

Streng Right Choice for Democrats’ Surrogate Court Nomination

On Thursday, Sept. 10, Westchester Democratic voters have an opportunity to exercise their right to choose the Democratic candidate for surrogate judge of our county. The surrogate judge presides over the administration of the estates and trusts of deceased persons and often appoints lawyers to positions which provide significant compensation.

The surrogate judge is elected for a 10-year term. This year a vacancy in the position was created when the sitting surrogate judge, Anthony Scarpino, a well-respected jurist, resigned to go into private legal practice. That created an open seat, and a number of candidates lined up to run for it. One of those candidates was Frank Streng who has practiced his whole career in the area of trusts and estates and is one of the most respected trusts and estates lawyers in New York State. In our opinion, Frank is the most qualified candidate to be our next surrogate judge.

However, the interim appointment of a politically connected candidate to be interim surrogate who is serving until the election and installation of a new surrogate judge has tilted the playing field. He gets to campaign as a sitting judge rather than a candidate vying for an open seat. He has been sitting as a judge for a few months and hardly has a record, but he still gets to put on robes and call himself “judge.” That gives him an advantage over other candidates.

Frank decided to buck the political establishment and mount a primary campaign for surrogate judge. I am writing to urge fellow Democrats to vote for Frank Streng on primary day, Thursday Sept. 10. Primary elections often have very low turnouts, but this year should be different. Because this year if you are a registered Democrat you can reject the choice of the political establishment and vote for the most qualified candidate, Frank Streng, who is not afraid to challenge the political establishment.

We do not have to “keep” the judge that others want to give us. We get to vote.

John M. Nonna, Pleasantville
Clinton B. Smith, Chappaqua

Efforts Off Base to Discredit County Legislator Candidate’s Actions

Recent letters to the editor attempt to denigrate John Diaconis, claiming that his actions are dictated by politics. I strongly disagree. The John Diaconis I have come to know over the past few years listens to people, thinks through the issues and supports decisions that he believes are good for the people who live here.

I want to address briefly John’s work for the people of North Castle. He has served as treasurer of the Friends of Miller House, expressed his opposition to the move of the Elijah Miller House away from its historic location, a move which had not been vetted by the community and which would be a significant cost to the taxpayers of the county and particularly those in North Castle. As on other occasions, John stood up for the obligation of government to listen to us, the people. Good for him!

At our town board meetings, John has addressed a number of other issues relating to the subject of good government. For example, he supported creating a town administrator, addressed the issue of whether the town clerk should be elected or appointed and reminded us of the need for civility and professionalism at town board meetings, something that has finally come to pass.

He has explained to the board insurance issues with which he is familiar from his legal work. John has worked hard on a number of projects in our town, one of which is the development of a new ethics code.

My best understanding of John Diaconis comes from my work with him and several other citizens on the Ethics Task Force, on which he has served as co-chair. Charged with redrafting the ethics code, our members decided that the code should be rewritten entirely. Obviously, we wanted advice – particularly advice in the form of other codes. John was a significant contributor in obtaining such materials for us. As we discussed each of the codes and also some of our own novel ideas, John showed his commitment to figuring out what was best for the community.

The claim that John just acts politically is particularly belied by one aspect of the code we drafted and that the task force will propose for adoption by the town board. The code proposed by the task force, including John, has provisions designed to eliminate political influence or pressure upon our various town boards, committees and town employees.

I am proud to have served on a committee, all of whose members sought to recommend a code designed to insure good government and eliminate politics from town work. What was important to us and what I have seen is important to John Diaconis is a government which considers only the best interests of the town and is responsive to the people.

We can all disagree on policy, but to condemn thoughtful disagreement as merely politics, as some have attempted to do, ill serves us all.

Susan Shimer
Armonk

North Castle Attorney’s Long Pond Dam Comparison is All Wet

From last week’s article (“No. Castle Resident Charges Long Pond,” the Examiner, Sept. 8) Town Attorney Roland Baroni compares the illegal use of taxpayer dollars to subsidize the Long Pond Dam repairs to the planned improvements being discussed for the North White Plains Community Center.

This is an appalling comparison on several levels. The most obvious being the fact that the community center is a publicly-owned property wholly owned by the Town of North Castle, and a facility open to the entire public, whereas Long Pond is 99 percent privately owned with no provisions of accessibility for public use. Why would he make such a statement? Mr. Baroni is an intelligent man, and must understand how inappropriate his comparison is.

The only explanation is his desperation to grasp for some justification for the town’s illegal action despite his statement’s obvious inaccuracy.

And for the record, the improvement to make the community center an emergency shelter has not happened, and has been “discussed” for three years with no set plan and no finish date in sight. Unlike the old Armonk firehouse that was expeditiously turned into the Hergenhan Recreation Center, and is currently Armonk’s functioning emergency shelter. At least Hergenhan is entirely owned by the town unlike the privately owned Ehrman Pool in Armonk that the town board bailed out with taxpayer dollars much like what they’re doing for the residents of Long Pond.

It’s no wonder North White Plains residents voted 2 to 1 for a ward system that would have given a councilman’s seat to a North White Plains resident, and break up the current board with every seat occupied by an Armonk resident.

Anthony Futia
North White Plains
By Martin Wilbur

In Ron Davidson’s apartment there is an array of beautiful and intricate wood carvings, three-dimensional figures sitting atop furniture or in various stages of completion in a back room workspace.

What makes Davidson’s work all the more remarkable is that the 60-year-old Mount Kisco resident is blind. Watching him use his assortment of knives and tools to shape and sculpt a piece of wood, it seems improbable that his craft appears so effortless despite having completely lost his sight about 15 years ago after suffering through progressive vision loss since he was a teenager.

“It’s kind of a constant work in progress,” Davidson said of his craft. “I never felt that I can’t do something. To me, the challenge is can I do it and how long will it take.”

About 60 of Davidson’s pieces will be featured in a one-artist exhibit, “Blind Ambition: Carving Out a Niche,” which opens this Saturday at the Gallery at Ward Ambition: Carving Out a Niche, which featured in a one-artist exhibit, “Blind Ambition: Carving Out a Niche,” which opened this Saturday at the Gallery at Ward

Davidson will attempt to carve pretty much anything. Some of his work has included Labrador Retrievers, using his own guide dog, Clarissa, as a model. At home, he displays a carved Santa Claus. Davidson is ready to undertake his next big project – sculpting a turkey.

To carve many of his figures, Davidson often buys a model that he can hold in his hands and continually feels for all the details. He knows which tool to use by the feel of its handle.

“I feel the shape, the neck, the feathers, the body, the contour and stuff and I transfer that totally to that piece of wood,” explained Davidson, who has a small gallery in Martinsburg, W. Va. “It’s very time-consuming, but it’s very enjoyable. That’s the same thing I did with the Labrador. I took a block of wood and I know how she was when she sat and I tried to make a wood model out of that.”

In addition to the three-dimensional figures, Davidson depicts scenes with raised carvings on blocks of wood. One piece that will be in the exhibit will be a wolf and a bear fighting on a cliff, which took him about two years to finish.

He credits his skill and love of woodworking to his father, a former military man and police officer who transferred that passion to him. Woodworking has also provided a chance to make a living in addition to making hundreds of pieces of art.

“I spent most of my adult life building cabinets and furniture,” Davidson said. “I love designing stuff, taking an old piece of furniture and restoring it.”

Born in California, Davidson’s family moved to the Wichita area when he was about three years old. At 14, he was diagnosed with Uveitis and later Iritis, which he described as “arthritis of the eye.” In the ensuing years he had to endure painful steroid injections in hopes of preserving his sight.

When he was 19 and still able to see, Davidson was changing tires on a truck where he worked when a tire blew up in his face. The accident caused him to lose his right eye and about 70 percent of his vision in his left eye.

Davidson later built furniture and cabinets for a school district near his home until about 16 years ago, being forced into early retirement when his field of vision shrank to what he described as looking through a straw. Although he was able to keep his health insurance and he remains vested in the state of Kansas retirement program it was a blow to his psyche.

“I never lost any job before in my life,” Davidson said proudly. “Just the stress of that and I had another bad episode.”

In 2000, the retina ruptured in his left eye, robbing him of what little sight he had. David came to Westchester in 2004, training with the first of four guide dogs at Guiding Eyes for the Blind. There, he became acquainted with his future wife, Becky, who works at the Yorktown Heights school and also has a guide dog to help her. He moved to Mount Kisco in 2012, figuring it would be less expensive than talking so much on the phone with Becky. They married a year later.

Davidson credits his four brothers with helping him when he was younger to help him his orientation and mobility. He also became proficient at counting steps.

“I could either sit around and feel sorry for myself or find something to do,” he said.

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

Discover more about Indian Point at SafeSecureVital.com
Pleasantville Hosts North American Table Tennis Championship

By Arthur Cusano

Hidden on a back street in the Village of Pleasantville, the large cement building at 175 Tompkins Ave. could be mistaken for a factory or warehouse.

If not for a modest sign at the entrance of the Westchester Table Tennis Center, no one would ever guess that the top-ranked table tennis players in the U.S. and Canada were competing inside over the Labor Day weekend for cash prizes and a chance to represent their country in the world championships.

The International Table Tennis Federation's North America Table Tennis Championships saw eight men and eight women from each participating country compete, including some former Olympians.

The Westchester Table Tennis Center is one of roughly 300 facilities of its kind in North America and the largest in the Northeast. It is owned by Pleasantville resident Will Shortz, crossword puzzle editor for The New York Times. Shortz, a longtime player, said the center fills a need in the region.

"There used to be a table tennis club in Westchester that played in (the) Hastings, Tarrytown and Ardsley community centers," Shortz recalled. "But we had limited nights and only a few tables. We could be bumped at any time."

Westchester Table Tennis opened in 2011 and has roughly 170 members. It hosts the largest monthly tournaments in the United States, Shortz said.

The sport has grown in the United States in the past decade, both in the number of players and the participants' skill level, which Shortz attributed to the growing number of facilities. "There are about a dozen dedicated facilities in the New York area," Shortz said. "But we're the only one in Westchester."

Shortz said table tennis and crosswords are both brain games that require constant concentration, but they also serve as a distraction from life's stress.

"For most people, puzzles are a pastime," Shortz said. "No matter what your job is, you turn to a crossword and get focused on it and it relaxes you. Table tennis is the same thing. When you are in a tough match, you forget everything else in the world."

Afterschool training programs are offered Monday and Wednesday afternoons and on Saturday mornings. Advanced training is available Saturday afternoon and one-on-one training is also available. Thursday night is League Night, where members compete for bragging rights.

Top international players often train around six hours a day, Shortz said.

The facility is managed by co-founder Robert Roberts, a three-time table tennis champion in the Caribbean and a competitor at four World Championships when he lived in Barbados.

Table tennis, known to many as pingpong, is the second-most-popular participatory sport in the world after soccer. It has been an Olympic sport since 1988 and is widely popular in China and other Asian nations.

continued on next page
Pleasantville Hosts North American Table Tennis Championship

continued from previous page

Head Coach Rawle Alleyne, a former national table tennis coach in Barbados and a one-time world championship competitor, said hosting the championship was important for building the sport in Westchester.

“Our goal is to develop the sport in the region, and for us to do that and for our kids to develop, we have to have these kind of events so they can see the highest level,” Alleyne said.

In Saturday’s opening matches, male and female players competed on four tables, often simultaneously, while judges and coaches watched.

Adar Alguetti, 15, and his 14-year-old twin brothers Sharon and Gal Alguetti travel regularly from their home in Tenafly, N.J., to train in Pleasantville. They began playing with their father while growing up in Israel before moving to the United States five years ago. The brothers have competed in Belgium, Poland, El Salvador, Canada, China and South Korea, Adar Alguetti said.

“There are a lot better players than here in the U.S.,” he said.

Sharon Alguetti won the previous North American championship in Canada in May. He and his brothers train every day while juggling school work.

“We do our homework in the car on the way here and play for three hours, and then we go back home,” he said.

Women’s competitor Prachi Jha, 18, just graduated high school in California and said she was taking a year off before college to try to qualify for the 2016 Olympic team.

Jha said she started playing with her parents at a table tennis club when she was nine years old and said her hand-eye coordination drew the attention of coaches. She eventually made the national team, which flies members around the globe to compete.

“I’ve been to Morocco, Serbia, I just went to Bulgaria … countries I probably wouldn’t be able to find on a map if I didn’t play table tennis,” Jha said.

The Westchester Table Tennis Center is open seven days a week. A day pass is $5 for children and $10 for adults. A yearly membership is $250 for children and $400 for adults.

For more information, call 914-741-0738 or visit www.westchestertabletennis.com.
The Chandelier’s History: Basic Function to Decorative Beauty

One big question mark remains in the decoration of the great room of our new home and it doesn’t seem likely to be answered anytime soon. That is the choice of chandelier to be hung in our dining area.

For the first time in our long marriage of agreeing over most things that surround us, my wife Margaret and I are not in accord about what device of illumination should hang above our heads as we entertain guests at a good meal. Right now, there is just a small ceiling fixture that came with the condo that provides light from the nine-foot high ceiling above, but just empty space from there to the table top, with nothing decorative to fill the space in between.

Margaret wants something airy and simple, but is not sure what. I know exactly what I’ve wanted for a long time and it’s not simple. It’s a knock-off of the “constellation” type chandeliers created in 1966 by Hans Harald Rath for the Metropolitan Opera House at Lincoln Center.

They feature central round metal orbs that look like ‘spuniks’ from which metal rods radiate with sparkly moons and satellites spraying out in all directions, laden with Swarovski crystals. The effect is really dazzling. From the time I first saw them in the lobby and auditorium, I was transfixed. I remember reading that they were designed to symbolize the opera company’s transitioning from the Gilded Age to the Space Age in its new home.

Just recently I discovered online that there is a facsimile available, but it seems that Margaret wants something a little more down to earth rather than a starburst from outer space orbiting over her head. In the past, when we lived in historic homes, choosing chandeliers was always a simple matter, with our having gone toward the 18th century designs found in Colonial Williamsburg.

The idea of a device shedding light from the ceiling goes back as far as the Middle Ages, first as a matter of practicality, but it wasn’t long before chandeliers came to represent prestige and power.

Early in the 14th century, the first chandeliers were made of wood and iron in a wooden ring, designed like a crown, and intended to be moved from room to room. These simplistic devices could have one or many wooden arms with small iron plates upon which a candle would rest. The device would be connected to a chain, which could be hung from the ceiling of a great hall or, more often in churches, when they were connected to a chain, which could be hung from the ceiling of a great hall or, more often in churches, when they

The “constellation” chandelier at the Metropolitan Opera House.

would have been adorned with religious iconography.

By the 15th century, chandeliers were utilized by the wealthy to demonstrate their power and status, and that is when different designs were created to show the individuality of the various palaces and houses of nobility, clergy and merchants.

The arms of chandeliers adopted curves and many more candles into the design by the 18th century and they were beginning to be placed in the homes of the working class as well as the upper class. At the same time, Greek and Roman influences became popular, along with production from cast metals.

Also in the early 18th century, the crystal chandelier was introduced by Bohemian and Venetian glassmakers. By the time crystal chandeliers were hung in the Hall of Mirrors in the Palace at Versailles, they had become a magnificent art form that continues to impress to this day.

The mid-19th century saw a revolution in chandelier production with the introduction of gas lighting, replacing candles. By the 1890s, with the introduction of electric light, chandeliers became truly free for artistic expression from the most reasonably priced that you might find at Home Depot to the most expensive at decorators’ showrooms.

It’s interesting to note how much lighting fixtures that hang from the ceiling can influence the perceived value of a home. The owners of the last home I listed, now in contract, retained a home stager who suggested that all the chandeliers be updated with moderately priced, more contemporary looking designs. That one recommendation made a significant difference in updating the entire look of the home’s interior.

As for the choice of chandelier in my dining room, let’s just say it’s a work in progress.

By Neal Rentz

For this year’s Contemporary Arab Cinema series at the Jacob Burns Film Center, don’t expect movies with subjects ripped from the headlines about political events taking place in the Middle East or the Arab world.

The dozen features and one short in this year’s program, selected by guest curator Lina Matta, are about personal journeys, real and metaphorical, with politics playing merely a background role.

Matta, a former Katonah resident, is a Lebanese-American who now lives in Dubai and is the senior channel manager of the Middle East Broadcast Company. She will introduce each film and conduct the post-screening question-and-answer sessions.

“It was post 9/11, and the world was asking a lot of questions about Arabs and why they hate us, said Matta, the founder and curator of ANA Contemporary Arab Cinema who has curated the series since its 2012 inception. "In Dubai, through my work, I got re-exposed to regional cinema. Arab filmmakers were finally breaking through on the international film scene. It was refreshing to see our stories told from our perspective."

On a visit to New York in 2011, she approached the Burns about programming a contemporary Arab film series, and it was welcomed.

For this year’s series, Matta eschewed overtly political films.

“When curating a series, I like to give audiences a good mix of hard-to-watch films and ones that are lighter in nature. Especially, when I hope to keep them coming back for the whole week,” Matta said. “Themes do not have to be about politics to be political.”

For example, “From A to B” (Sept. 12) is a road movie taken by a group of friends from different Arab countries who were all born and raised in the United Arab Emirates. The film, using expats rather than natives, sheds light on the issue of citizenship in the U.A.E., Matta said. Unlike the United States, which guarantees citizenship to anyone born here, the young men, who all consider the U.A.E. their home, will have to leave the country if they cannot find jobs once they finish school, she said.

The opening night feature, “Single, Married, Divorced,” a film directed by Elie Khalifé about the Lebanese dating scene, makes its U.S. debut.

Particular criteria is used when selecting the series’ films. First, all of the films’ directors must be Arabs or of Arab descent. Then, they have to spin an interesting tale. The key is to have audiences meet Arabs of all backgrounds – modern, secular, religious, educated people and women fighting for their rights and against injustices, Matta said.

She wants to show an Arab world that is diverse and complex.

“I want the (Jacob Burns) audiences, who are 85 percent American, to be exposed to an unexpected Middle East,” Matta said.

Born and raised in Lebanon, she arrived in the U.S. to pursue a master’s degree in film at Boston University. After she graduated, Matta built a career in television production and obtained her U.S. citizenship. In 2004, she left for Dubai to relaunch their English-language TV channel.

Matta said the annual series is more than a group of films.

“…It’s about the conversations that take place with the filmmakers after the film and the informal get-togethers we have, post-screenings in cafes and restaurants around Pleasantville, where we get to talk passionately about film, politics, social issues, and in the process, make new friends,” she said.

The Jacob Burns Film Center is located at 364 Manville Rd. in Pleasantville. For more information, call 914-747-5555 or visit www.burnsfilmcenter.org, including ticket prices and the full schedule.
Howard Meyer Acting School Fall Classes Scheduled in P’ville

On Monday, Sept. 14, Howard Meyer’s Acting Program in Pleasantville, a division of Axial Theatre, will launch its 2015-16 acting and playwriting program.

Beginner adult (age 18 and up) classes run for six weeks from Wednesday, Sept. 16 through Oct. 21. The cost is $245, or $395 for students previously enrolled in the program.

Intermediate, advanced and master classes are offered by invitation for students previously enrolled in the program.

Teen classes (ages 13-17) start Wednesday, Sept. 14 and run for 12 weeks, ending Dec. 2. The cost is $395. Classes for children (ages 10-12) start Wednesday, Sept. 14, and run through Dec. 2. Cost is $385.

Playwriting classes for all levels — beginner through advanced -- start Tuesday, Sept. 29, and run through Tuesday, Nov. 3. Cost is $265.

All classes continue throughout the year, with students having the option to register for subsequent sessions after completing the initial session.

Howard Meyer’s Acting Program also offers individual coaching for auditions for school or stage, plus workshops in voice, movement and acting for TV. Information and registration online is at www.hmacting.org, and by phone at 914-286-7680.

Meyer is a playwright, director and founding artistic director of Axial Theatre and Howard Meyer’s Acting Program. "We place emphasis on learning, exploring and becoming comfortable with the process of creative and personal exploration,” Meyer said. “This is accomplished through individual and group exercise work, and applications of these exercises to monologues and scenes.”

PMT Productions, a Westchester-based nonprofit community theater organization, will hold auditions for its wildly popular Westchester Teen Idol competition. Teen vocalists between 13 and 19 years old are invited to join one of the county’s most exciting competitions of the last decade.

Auditions are scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 19 and Sunday, Sept. 20 from 1 to 6 p.m. at the Irvington Town Hall Theatre, located at 85 Main St. in Irvington.

All Westchester teens are invited to participate; however, those wishing to compete are required to R.S.V.P for an audition appointment by calling 914-402-4250 and registering online at www.pmtproductions.org. As audition space is limited, those interested are encouraged to call and reserve as soon as possible. Each participant will also be required to pay a $40 audition fee and be available to perform for the 2015 competition finale concert, which will take place at the Irvington Town Hall Theatre on the evening of Saturday, Nov. 14.

The two emcees for the evening will be well-known radio personality Kacey Morabito of WHUD-FM and Peter Kramer, entertainment editor of The Journal News. Celebrity judges include Broadway star John Treacy Egan (“The Producers”) and other leading music industry professionals will be announced.

The singing competition concept has taken America by storm, with a plethora of new singing shows coming out on television each year. While the competition is a fundraiser for PMT Productions, a nonprofit organization, it is also designed to showcase young talent and provide young performers with the skills they will need as they embark on their careers.

The finale concert will be judged by a panel of three celebrity judges, who have experience in the entertainment industry. As part of the evening’s program, these industry insiders share their experiences with the young people and offer advice. Past judges for the Westchester Teen Idol have included pop star Jesse McCartney, Carol Demas (“The Magic Garden”), Jimmy Tate (“Jelly’s Last Jam”) Egan and many others.

Whether or not they ultimately win the competition, all entrants will experience a unique event they can include on their resumes. Additional information can be obtained by visiting www.pmtproductions.org.

Westchester Teen Idol Auditions Return Sept. 19-20

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The Composition of the Essence in a Glass of Wine

Last week's column focused on that most fragile of earthly elements: water. It is the essence of life, yet it is in increasingly short supply as human population explodes and agricultural production accelerates to meet its needs.

A quick refresher: 71 percent of Earth is covered in water; in volume, only 3.5 percent of earth's water supply is fresh water; only 1 percent of all water is readily consumable.

This dominance and dependence extends to human physiology. Water comprises 60 percent of our body. To sustain this critical level, we are advised to consume four to eight glasses of water each day. Included in this dietary guideline is wine. Wine is composed of about 85 percent water.

If wine is predominantly water, what makes so many wines distinctive from each other? Why is one wine preferable to the next? What influences the taste and aroma in each wine? Why is one wine preferable to another? What makes so many wines distinctive from each other? Why is one wine preferable to the other? What makes so many wines distinctive from each other?

15 percent of matter in wine influences its personality

The 15 percent of matter in wine influences its personality. You Heard It Through the Grapevine

By Nick Antonaccio

The 15 percent of matter in wine influences its personality.

Many of the components in the other 85 percent of a glass of wine entice us and sustain us. These components are influenced by many factors, from the composition of vineyard soil that is carried by the water that is absorbed by plants to the characteristics embedded in evolving grapes. Each element influences the harvested grape juice and ultimately the end product.

Let’s look into each element.

The 85 percent of water in a bottle of wine has a significant influence on its taste and aroma. As a grapevine matures and subsists over a growing season, it absorbs the minerals and nutrients in soil as its roots penetrate the strata and substrata of soil created over millennia of Earth’s heaving and seismic activity.

One example: in parts of France, especially the Chablis region, the wines have the distinct taste of the minerality of seashells, yet the vineyards are landlocked. In prehistoric times, the Chablis area was a seabed; today seashells and marine skeletons abound in the soil. The essence of this detritus is evident in each glass of the wine. As water is absorbed into the developing grapes, it imbues each grape with the characteristics of the soil it passes through.

The 15 percent of matter in a bottle of wine influences the personality of a particular wine in a manner similar to human physiology; it just takes a few strands of DNA to make each wine distinct and unique. Each strand of DNA carries its historical genetic DNA strands differ in differing levels of tannins, acid and flavor.

The deeply embedded genetic DNA strands carry its historical elements: the traits of the predecessor vines; the land on which the grapevines have been skillfully managed; the generations of winemakers and vineyard managers that have toiled to produce wines that are consistent from year to year, generation to generation.

In the last 50 years, vineyard managers and winemakers have advanced the quality of wine as never before. Enhanced scientific research and experimentation have yielded new grape hybrids that produce disease resistant grapevines (increasing yield and quality) and more finessed wines (through advanced winemaking techniques). Just as technology has influenced every aspect of humankind, so has it with wine. From the robust yeast strains developed in laboratories, to sophisticated measuring instrumentation utilized during fermentation, winemakers are able to produce superior wines on a consistent basis, overcoming the uncertainties of nature each year.

There is much to appreciate and be in awe of in modern wines. They provide for the continuing health of our water-based ecosystems; they enhance our ethereal appreciation of the finer qualities that are embedded in its essential juice.

Nick Antonaccio is a 40-year Pleasantville resident. For over 20 years he has conducted wine tastings and lectures. He also offers personalized wine tastings and wine travel services. Nick's credo: continuous experimenting results in instinctive behavior. You can reach him at nantonaccio@theexaminernews.com or on Twitter @sharingwine.
Tuesday, Sept. 8

German Language Potluck Dinner. The Bavarian Edelweiss Club Westchester will be hosting this evening’s event, with a chance to speak and converse in German. All skills welcome. Bring a potluck dish; does not need to be a native dish. American Legion Hall, 52 Garrigan Ave, Thornwood. 6 to 8 p.m. Free. Info: 914-739-8996.

Italian Language and Culture. Mara De Matteo was born and raised in Italy and is passionate about her native language. She combines lively conversation with grammatical instruction, 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. Sept. 15 and 22. Info: 914-273-3887.

Wednesday, Sept. 9

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

Zumba Fitness. Achieve long-term benefits while having a blast in one exciting hour of calorie-burning, body-energizing, awe-inspiring movements meant to engage and captivate for life. For all fitness levels. 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.

Baby Time. A fun interactive lap-sit story time that includes songs, rhymes and a few very short stories. The experience gives babies an opportunity to socialize and parents a time to share. Recommended for newborns through 12 months old. Mount Pleasant Public Library, 350 Bedford Rd., Pleasantville. 10 to 10:30 a.m. Free. Every Monday and Wednesday. Info: 914-769-0548 or www.mountpleasantslibrary.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. Dance Emotions, 75 S. Greeley Ave., Chappaqua. 10:15 a.m. $20. Every Wednesday. Info: Contact Peggy at 914 960-4097.


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

Preschool Storytime. This interactive story time uses picture books, songs, finger plays, action rhymes and other activities to encourage the enjoyment of books and language. Recommended for children two-and-a-half to five years old. Mount Pleasant Public Library, 350 Bedford Rd., Pleasantville. 11 to 11:30 a.m. Free. Every Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Info: 914-769-0548 or www.mountpleasantslibrary.org.

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

Storytime Playgroup. Come hear a story and music and join in on playtime with toys and books. Children, parents and caregivers will make new friends and share time together. For children one to four years old, with a caregiver. Mount Pleasant Public Library, 350 Bedford Rd., Pleasantville. 2 to 2:45 p.m. Free. Every Thursday. Info: 914-769-0548 or www.mountpleasantslibrary.org.

The Explorers Club. A new literacy/activity program this fall. Join Miss Debbie to explore a new theme each week (science, art and more) through literacy and hands-on activities. Come read, discover and create. For children five to seven years old. Mount Pleasant Public Library, 350 Bedford Rd., Pleasantville. 3:30 to 4:15 p.m. Free. Meets Wednesdays. Registration required. Info and registration: www.mountpleasantslibrary.org.

Knitting at the Library. Knitters and crocheters of all skill levels. For ages 10 and up. Mount Kisco Public Library, 100 E. Main St., Mount Kisco. 4 p.m. Free. Every Wednesday. Info: 914-864-8041 or www.mountkiscolibrary.org.

Lego Club. We provide the Legos, you bring your imagination. A fun-building club for students in grades 2-6. Mount Kisco Public Library, 100 E. Main St., Mount Kisco. 3 to 4 p.m. Free. Meets the second Wednesday of each month. Registration required. Info and registration: 914-864-8041.

Project SNOWstorm. Recent years have seen incredible numbers of Snowy Owls interrupting southern regions like our own. Join Project SNOWstorm’s Don Crocket to learn about how technology is being harnessed to learn more about this majestic raptor, including tracking their movements on wintering grounds, range sizes and nocturnal hunting activities. Katonah Village Library, 26 Bedford Rd., Katonah. Refreshments at 7 p.m. (Please bring a reusable mug.) Lecture at 7:30 p.m. Free. Info: 914-232-1999 or visit www.bedfordaudubon.org.

Current Drug Trends in Northern Westchester: Coordinating the Fight Against Drug Crimes. Mount Kisco Partners in Prevention presents this program featuring William J. Hayes, executive director of the district attorney’s Support Connection office, 40 Triangle Court, Katonah. 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Free. Also. District Attorney’s Support Connection Open House. Meet Support Connection staff and volunteers, enjoy light refreshments and receive hands-on help getting ready for the 21st annual Support-A-Walk for Breast and Ovarian Cancer to be held on Oct. 4 at FDR State Park in Yorktown Heights. Support Connection office, 40 Triangle Court, Suite 100, Yorktown Heights. 4 to 7 p.m. Free. Info: 914-862-6402, visit www.supportconnection.org or e-mail walk@supportconnection.org.

Author Talk. Dr. Madelon Finkel, professor of healthcare policy and research and director of the Office of Global Health Education at the Weill Cornell Medical College, will talk about the human and environmental impact of fracking. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whippoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 6:30 p.m. Free. Info: 914-773-3887.

Zumba Fitness Class. Addie-Tude Performing Arts Center, 42 Memorial Plaza (lower level), Pleasantville. 7 to 8 p.m. $15 a class. $29 for four classes. $55 for eight classes. 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, Sept. 11

"The Only Home We Have" Opening Reception. A group exhibition that confronts the issue of climate change. Reflecting on the fragility and beauty of the world we know, eight artists expand on the continued on page 24
The Restaurant Examiner

Martha Stewart, Chef Jacques Pépin to Appear at Newport Festival

By Jerry Eimbinder

About 400 international and domestic wines from more than 60 wineries will be poured at the 10th annual Newport Mansions Wine & Food Festival from Sept. 25-27. Most of the activities will take place at three historic Newport, R.I. mansions – The Elms, Rosecliff and Marble House.

The festival offers samplings of wine, spirits, beer and food along with cooking demonstrations, seminars, a silent auction and signings by cookbook authors.

Participating restaurants and caterers are mostly from New England but include The Smokehouse of NY in Mamaroneck.

Cooking demonstrations will include executive chef Ben Pollinger of Oceana in midtown Manhattan; chef de cuisine J.J. Johnson at The Cecil in Harlem; and Allison and Matt Robicelli from the wholesale bakery Robicelli’s in Brooklyn.

Jacques Pépin, a renowned chef and cookbook author, will make his first appearance since the announcement last month that he was the winner of the inaugural Julia Child Award from The Julia Child Foundation for Gastronomy and the Culinary Arts. (The award will be presented at an Oct. 22 ceremony at the Smithsonian.)

Pépin, 79, is a dean at The International Culinary Center, formerly known as the French Culinary Institute, in Manhattan, and a resident of Madison, Conn. Pépin and his daughter, chef Claudine Pépin, will team up in a cooking demo on Sept. 27.

Separate admission costs apply to festival activities. Several combination packages can be purchased online. An all-inclusive weekend ticket package is also available by advance purchase only and is not obtainable online. The cost is $700 for Preservation Society of Newport County members and $850 for non-members. (The non-member fee increases to $1,000 after Sept. 14.) This ticket has some limitations; prospective attendees should check beforehand for what's covered.

"The three-course luncheon is priced at $32 per person, plus tax and tip, and is offered Thursday through Saturday from 12 to 2:30 p.m. and on Sunday from 1 to 3 p.m. Patrons can also order from the dinner menu at lunchtime on Sunday.

The five-course tasting menu ($90) is offered Thursday through Saturday from 4 to 6:30 p.m. and on Sunday from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m.
Happenings

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complexity of this pressing international issue. The artwork communicates urgency to address not only the environmental shock of climate change, but the political, social and economic impact. Pelham Art Center, 155 Fifth Ave., Pelham, 6:30 to 8 p.m. Free. Exhibit runs through Oct. 24. Info: 914-738-2525 or visit www.pelhamartcenter.org.

“Revival” Opening Reception. A site-specific public art installation by New York-based artist Cara Lynch. Inspired by the historic neighborhood of Pelham, Lynch uses stencil and chalk spray to create patterned mandalas of Tusor style revival architecture on the stone beneath the feet of visitors. Referencing the exterior of many Pelham homes and businesses, the lace-like installation sweeps across the courtyard space, eventually fading from natural, open-air elements into our memories. Held in conjunction with “the only home we have” exhibit. Continues through Nov. 8. Pelham Art Center, 155 Fifth Ave., Pelham, 6:30 to 8 p.m. Free. Info: 914-738-2525 or visit www.pelhamartcenter.org/public_programs.

Mike DeGuidice & Big Shot: Celebrating the Music of Billy Joel. Performing all of Billy Joel’s greatest hits and lesser known tracks and deep cuts from the music legend’s iconic catalogue. Joel hired DeGuidice to join his band for all his shows including all of Billy Joel’s iconic Madison Square Garden dates. When performing Joel’s music, DeGuidice is a dead ringer sound alike. The true Billy Joel fan will be blown away after experiencing Big Shot live. Tarrytown Music Hall, 13 Main St., Tarrytown. 8 p.m. $30, $35 and $40. Info and tickets: Visit www.tarrytownmusichall.org.

Maltby & Shire’s Closer Than Ever. A look into the private song vault of Richard Maltby, Jr. and David Shire. This song cycle is filled with the brilliance for which these musical theater giants are known. White Plains Performing Arts Center, 11 City Place, White Plains. 8 p.m. $25 to $30. Also Sept. 12 at 8 p.m. and Sept. 13 at 2 p.m. Info and tickets: 914-328-1600 or e-mail Info and registration: Email Mishelle.Ciliberti@sicounsel.com or visit www.smartarts.

Sinbad. He arrived on the comedy scene with a “hit-em-in-the-face” style that has kept audiences laughing in the aisles. Ranked by Comedy Central as one of the top 100 standup comics of all time, Sinbad has built a loyal following by taking audiences painful trials or embarrassing tribulations of day-by-day life, throwing them back in their faces and causing an uproar of comedic hysteria. Paramount Hudson Valley, 1008 Brown St., Peekskill. 8 p.m. $40, $50 and $60. Info and tickets: 914-739-0039 or http://paramounthudsonvalley.com.

Saturday, Sept. 12

Pleasantville Farmers Market. Come experience the largest farmers market in Westchester and one voted Best of Westchester 2014 and 2015 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 bluegrass and old-time band, The Bandolins will perform for the Music @ the Market, ARC Stages and Little Village Playhouse will hold acting exercises and theater games for the kids’ event and pre-registration begins for the annual Apple Pie contest on Oct. 10, 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Rain or shine. Info: Visit www.paramounthudsonvalley.com.

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

Second Saturday Divorce Workshop. This workshop will address the legal, financial, family and personal issues of divorce in a logical and compassionate way. With the guidance of trained professionals, participants will gain greater understanding of the confusing divorce process. All proceeds benefit the nonprofit organization Wife.org. 100 S. Bedford Rd., Suite, 340, Mount Kisco. 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. $45. Meets the second Saturday of each month. Registration required. Info and registration: Email Mishelle.Ciliberti@sicounsel.com or visit www.secondsaturdaydivorcetarget.

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

Benefit For The Native Plant Center. Rosedale Nurseries will host this sixth annual event. Native trees, shrubs, perennials, grasses and ferns will be sold, and personal shoppers will help customers choose the right native plants for their gardens. A percentage of event proceeds will be donated to The Native Plant Center. Rosedale Nurseries, 51 Saw Mill River Rd. (Route 9A), Hawthorne. 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Also Sept. 13. Info: Contact The Native Plant Center at 914-606-7870 or visit www.nativeteleplantcenter.org or Rosedale at 914-769-1300 or visit www/rosedalenurseries.com.


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

Teaching Trails: A Community Path for Environmental Education. Join guided trail experience through the woodland forest. Discover who left that track, which tree makes the best animal home or which plant makes its own heat to help melt through the late winter ice. Program runs about 30 minutes. Greenburgh Nature Center, 99 Dromore Rd., Scarsdale, 11:30 a.m. Free. Every Saturday and Sunday (except Sept. 13). Info: 914-723-3470 or visit www.greenburghnaturecenter.org.

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

Hike Around the Lake. Join a relaxing hike around Cranberry Lake. Cranberry Lake Preserve, Old Orchard Street, North White Plains. 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. Free. Info: 914-835-4466.


“Blind Ambition: Carving Out a niche” Opening Reception. An exhibition that comprises wood sculpture and raised carvings by Ron Davidson, a skilled woodworker and glass cabinet maker. A living before an eye disease left him totally sightless 15 years ago. Ward Pound Ridge Reservation, routes 35 and 121 South, Cross River. 1 to 4 p.m. Free. Exhibit continues through Nov. 1. Open daily from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Info: Visit www.parks.westchestergov.com.


Camarama Chamber Players’ Fall Frolic Classical Period. Enjoy a Sunday afternoon of delightful classical music presented by the Camarama Chamber Players. Captivating string orchestral treasures will be performed from the Classical Period. Westchester Community College’s Classroom Building, Room 200, 75 Grasslands Rd., Valhalla. 3 p.m. $20. Seniors: $18. Students (non-WCC): $14. For tickets: Visit www.sunywcc.edu/smartarts.

Monday, Sept. 14


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. Also Sept. 21 and 28. Info: 914-723-3470 or visit www.greenburghnaturecenter.org.

Come enjoy this barbershop quartet when they come to the library. For all ages. Refreshments will be served. Ruth Keeler Memorial Library, 276 Titticus Rd., North Salem. 4 p.m. Free. Info: 914-667-5161 or www.keelerlibrary.org.


Pleasantville Farmers Market. Come experience the largest farmers market in Westchester and one voted Best of Westchester 2014 and 2015 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 bluegrass and old-time band, The Bandolins will perform for the Music @ the Market, ARC Stages and Little Village Playhouse will hold acting exercises and theater games for the kids’ event and pre-registration begins for the annual Apple Pie contest on Oct. 10, 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Rain or shine. Info: Visit www.paramounthudsonvalley.com.
The New Castle Historical Society is hosting its inaugural "An Evening in Greeley’s Garden" at the Horace Greeley House Museum on Saturday, Sept. 19 from 5 to 8 p.m. The evening will include live music performed by a Civil War era string band, beer and wine, hors d'oeuvres and a silent auction.

The New Castle Historical Society’s Board of Trustees and volunteers, Westchester-based artist Cindy Sacks, Kramer Portraits and Hilltop Wines have each provided silent auction items for the event.

The New Castle Historical Society is extremely excited to offer this first time special event at the Greeley House,” said Cassie Ward, executive director of the New Castle Historical Society. "The Garden Party is an opportunity for local residents and their guests to experience our museum and grounds in a new and unique way. The Garden Party will provide guests with the chance to experience the museum's outdoor space similar to the way Horace Greeley did in the mid-1800s when he established his country home and farm in what is now downtown Chappaqua.”

All proceeds from this event will benefit the New Castle Historical Society, a nonprofit educational organization that seeks to discover, preserve and share knowledge about the history of the Town of New Castle and about Horace Greeley’s life. Established in 1966, the historical society maintains a collection of artifacts and documents related to the town, provides programs and exhibits about the town's history and preserves Horace Greeley's second home in Chappaqua.

Tickets begin at $65 and may be purchased by calling 914-238-4666 or by visiting www.newcastlehs.org.

"The historical society will turn 50 next year and will continue to offer expanded programming and activities to encourage a greater interaction with the history and culture of the local area.

In addition to "An Evening in Greeley’s Garden," the historical society will host an array of new programs this fall, including a printing press education program for children under 10 years old (Sept. 27); a purse party fundraiser for locals that love their accessories (Oct. 17); an oral history program at the Chappaqua Public Library where residents will be encouraged to share their stories from the 1960s (Oct. 7); a 50th anniversary kickoff party and Last Man Standing Cash Raffle (Nov. 14); and a "Gold in Your Attic" pop-up store at the Greeley House just in time for the holidays (Dec. 5).

For more information regarding these programs, visit the historical society’s website or e-mail Cassie Ward at director@newcastlehs.org.

**Theater Live-Action Role Play Returns to P’ville This Weekend**

Briarcliff native and theatrical experience game designer Warren Tusk will run his popular game, "The Dance and the Dawn," a gothic fairy tale for 15 players who waltz and duel while in a search for true love, on Sat., Sept. 12, from 6 to 11 p.m. at Arc Stages, located at 175 Tompkins Ave. in Pleasantville.

Tusk’s inventive take on interactive theater is known in theater live-action role play (LARP) circles all over the world. "The Dance and the Dawn" has been played at The Brick Theater in Williamsburg and dozens of times from Ireland to China.

Participants fill out a brief casting survey to find the best role for them. There are seven female and six male parts available. Tusk also offers a private event service to feature one of his games at a celebration or simply to engineer a memorable evening.

"I’m excited to help people live out their own theatrical narratives through this fun, social medium," said Tusk. "Dance is the kind of game that makes it easy for new players to get swept up in the action; it’s introduced many to the hobby."

Games generally feature a story with pre-written characters, each with their own personality, motivations and goals but no script. Participants interact with each other while playing their characters on an improvisational basis, choosing their own actions and dialogue. Similar to murder mystery games, a LARP can vary in length from less than an hour to a weekend or longer.

A theater LARP blends a unique combination of characteristics. Crafted as a game as well as an improvisational play, mechanics are woven into the story to move the action along. Participants have singular personal, powerful experiences as they connect to the other players during the course of the LARP. This intangible element distinguishes the art form and experience.

Introduced to LARP while at Harvard, Tusk combined his interests in theater and gaming. He’s been writing and designing theatrical game experiences for nine years and has 14 to his credit.

To register or for more information, visit http://www.paracelus-games.com. The cost is $20.

**Happenings**

**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.

**Hudson Chorale Auditions.** Westchester’s largest chorus is welcoming new members in all voice parts for a Jan. 24, 2016, concert. The program, Cathedral Classics, will feature the “Durufle Requiem” along with works by Poulenc, Ravel and Messiaen that will be performed with organ. The second concert will be dedicated exclusively to Mendelssohn’s “Elijah” on May 14, 2016, with full orchestral accompaniment. Interested singers can participate in one or both concerts. Pleasantville Presbyterian Church, 400 Bedford Rd., Pleasantville. 6 to 7:30 p.m. Free. Appointment required. Info and appointment: Contact Jeanne Wygant at 914-478-0074 or e-mail JeanneWygant@optonline.net.

**Tuesday, Sept. 15**

**Baby Time.** A fun interactive lap-sit story time that includes songs, rhymes and a few very short stories. The experience gives babies an opportunity to socialize and parents a time to share. Recommended for newborns through 12 months old. Mount Pleasant Public Library, 125 Lozza Drive, Valhalla. 10 to 10:30 a.m. Free. Every Tuesday. Info: 914-741-0276 or www.mountpleasantlibrary.org.

**Wednesday, Sept. 16**

**Crossing the Bridge: Art as a Vehicle for Social Justice.** The Ghana ThinkTank collective (Christopher Robbins and Maria del Carmen Montoya) will discuss ways in which art can function as a vehicle for social justice. Citing examples from their own explorations, particularly between immigrants and anti-immigrant factions on the U.S.-Mexico border, Robbins and Montoya also will make connections to their own actions and dialogue. Similar to murder mystery games, Games generally feature a story with pre-written characters, each with their own personality, motivations and goals but no script. Participants interact with each other while playing their characters on an improvisational basis, choosing their own actions and dialogue.

**Chair Yoga With Alka Kaminer.** Experience greater flexibility, cardiovascular endurance and improved balance, strengthening and toning of muscles, better digestion, stress reduction, mental clarity, improved breathing, relaxation and an overall sense of well-being. North Castle Park and Recreation. 12:30 p.m. 175 Tompkins Ave. in Pleasantville. $10 a class. Every Monday. Info: 914-251-6100 or visit www.pleasantlibrary.org.

**Tuesdays at 1 p.m.** General Admission: $10 at the door. Info: www.newcastlehs.org.

**Thursday, Sept. 17**

**Furniture Crossing the Bridge: Art as a Vehicle for Social Justice.** A talk with the Ghana ThinkTank collective (Christopher Robbins and Maria del Carmen Montoya) will discuss how art can function as a vehicle for social justice. Citing examples from their own explorations, particularly between immigrants and anti-immigrant factions on the U.S.-Mexico border, Robbins and Montoya will make connections to the work of Mexican artist Teresa Margolles. Neuberger Museum of Art, 735 Anderson Hill Rd., Purchase. 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. Info: 914-251-6100 or visit www.neuberger.org.

**Chair Yoga With Alka Kaminer.** Experience greater flexibility, cardiovascular endurance and improved balance, strengthening and toning of muscles, better digestion, stress reduction, mental clarity, improved breathing, relaxation and an overall sense of well-being. North Castle Park and Recreation. 12:30 p.m. 175 Tompkins Ave. in Pleasantville. $10 a class. Every Monday. Info: 914-251-6100 or visit www.neuberger.org.

**Saturday, Sept. 19**

**THEATER LARP**

A theater LARP blends a unique combination of characteristics. Crafted as a game as well as an improvisational play, mechanics are woven into the story to move the action along. Participants have singular personal, powerful experiences as they connect to the other players during the course of the LARP. This intangible element distinguishes the art form and experience.

Introduced to LARP while at Harvard, Tusk combined his interests in theater and gaming. He’s been writing and designing theatrical game experiences for nine years and has 14 to his credit.

To register or for more information, visit http://www.paracelus-games.com. The cost is $20.

**There’s a Word for It**

A vocabulary-building quiz

By Edward Goralski

"CU" in September. In 1966, the song “See You in September” was a big hit for The Happenings. Their version of the Sid Wayne and Sherman Edwards tune peaked at #3 on the charts. Since it is September, all of the quiz words contain the letters “cu.” Perhaps you’ll find a few hints to add to your vocabulary.

1. acumen (n.)
   A) exactness  B) reality  C) insight

2. hocus (v.)
   A) to make helpless  B) deceive  C) remove

3. discursive (adj.)
   A) rambling  B) dissatisfied  C) rude

4. culinarian (n.)
   A) a picky eater  B) a restaurant owner  C) a chef

5. inoculate (v.)
   A) to make immune  B) teach by frequent repetitions  C) shut up

6. scunner (n.)
   A) a strong dislike  B) a twist of fate  C) disgrace

7. facula (n.)
   A) an inherent power  B) bright region of the sun  C) a false front

8. vade mecum (n.)
   A) a pocketbook for notes  B) a medical textbook  C) a legal manual

9. a picky eater

10. a restaurant owner

11. a chef

12. an inherent power

13. a twist of fate

14. a false front

15. a medical textbook

16. a legal manual

17. an inherent power

18. a false front

19. a pocketbook for notes

20. a medical textbook

21. a legal manual

22. an inherent power

23. a false front

24. a pocketbook for notes

25.
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**NOTICE OF FORMATION OF CHEF TDB CONSULTING, LLC ARTS. of Org. filed with SSNY on 06/16/15. Office location: Westchester County. U.S. Corp. Agents, Inc. designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to U.S. Corp. Agents, Inc., 7014 13th Ave., Suite 202, Brooklyn NY 11228. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

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Pace Football Home Opener Highlights Campus Growth

By Arthur Cusano

The Pace University Football team started its 2015 season on a high note Saturday, beating Ave Maria University of Florida 36-23.

It was the first time the Setters competed in their new stadium, which features an all-new artificial turf field, grandstands, lights and press box.

"I'm very happy," said second-year head coach Andy Rondeau. "There just aren't enough wins not to celebrate and get excited about. The kids did a super job, and the growth of our program is exponential."

Rondeau is a former defensive coordinator for several schools, including most recently the College of the Holy Cross and Old Dominion University. He said he moved his family to New York to be part of the rebuilding of the program and the university itself.

The team showed visible improvement Saturday from last year's team, and having vocal fans behind them helped push the players down the stretch, Rondeau said.

"It was great," Rondeau said. "You could hear the crowd behind us, and that's something that's not familiar for us. Last year we never played a home game, and this year we have this beautiful new facility that we are celebrating."

In addition to the new stadium, the university has begun construction on a new fieldhouse slated to open next fall that will have a strength training center, sports medicine center, locker rooms and a jumbo scoreboard facing the football field that will be used during the games. The building was funded by a generous donation by Joe Iannello, COO of CBS and a Pace alum.

"This is an extremely exciting time for Pace Athletics," said Pace University Athletic Director Mark Brown.

Brown came to Pace in the spring of 2011, and said he and the staff began working to increase athletic opportunities by adding women's lacrosse and field hockey. Women's lacrosse launched last year, and the field hockey team began its inaugural season this month.

The Pace University Setters compete in the Division II Northeast 10 Conference along with several other New York colleges, including Adelphi, The College of St. Rose, and LIU-Post. The university has long planning to consolidate the main Pleasantville campus and the nearby Briarcliff campus, but that required renovating facilities on the Pleasantville campus.

A new dorm, Alumni Hall, opened on the Pleasantville campus for this semester, with another dorm slated to open next fall. Most of the students that were living on the Briarcliff campus have been relocated, and the university plans to sell the property in the future.

"On the Briarcliff campus, we had a practice field that was used for men's lacrosse, a softball field and a soccer field," Brown said. "In order to move all those teams over to here (Pleasantville), we needed to upgrade these facilities."

The baseball field, which now has lights and artificial turf, is now also used for the field hockey program. A new softball field will be built to replace the current one on the Briarcliff campus.

Having more students living on one centralized campus creates a more unified community atmosphere, Brown said.

"I noticed yesterday during the (women's) soccer game that students in class or getting something to eat must have heard the activity on the field and decided to walk down and catch the second half of the game," Brown said. "Obviously if they were in Briarcliff, that would not have been an option."

Brown said the hope is that the new facilities, along with strong leadership and strong academic offerings, will help establish the university's footprint and brand in the area. Rondeau plays a big part in that equation.

"He has done a tremendous job recruiting student athletes," Brown said.

Retaining football players from season to season has been a challenge for the school in the past, Brown said.

"In football, it's a lot easier to be successful when you go into battle with 22- and 23-year-old men as opposed to 18-year-old boys — the key is to retain who you recruit so they can mature physically, emotionally and socially to be seniors,"

Saturday's opener drew roughly 1,100 people to the stadium, many of them Pace students and alumni. Reviews of the new facilities were positive.

"It enhances the experience," said freshman Maura McCarthy of Floral Park.

"I think it helps more people come out," she said. "I know I would like to come out and see a game on a nice field." Also in attendance were several former recent Pace players who said they were impressed by the new facility.

"I'm jealous," said Joe Roman of Staten Island. "We graduated last year and I wish we got to play on that field."

Fellow freshman Hailey Pasterchick of New Jersey agreed.

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Serena Williams has reached the quarterfinals in her bid to capture tennis’ Grand Slam in 2015.

A big crowd watches Serena Williams play Madison Keys on Sunday under the half-finished new roof atop Arthur Ashe Stadium.

Genie Bouchard won three matches last week, but had to withdraw from the tournament after slipping in the locker room on Friday.

Venus Williams is seeded just 23rd, but has advanced to the quarterfinals where she’ll face her sister, Serena.

Rafael Nadal hits a backhand in his second-round win in Louis Armstrong Stadium last Wednesday afternoon.

Top-seeded Novak Djokovic sets his sights on a winning volley during a third-round victory in Arthur Ashe Stadium Friday afternoon.

2014 champion Marin Cilic of Croatia hits a backhand in last Wednesday’s second-round victory.

Second-seeded Simona Halep hits a backhand in her 6-3, 6-4 victory over qualifier Kateryna Bondarenko in the second round.

Two-time Wimbledon champion Petra Kvitova, seeded fifth, charges toward the net in her second-round win.

Andy Murray races to his left to hit a backhand return in a second-round win over France’s Adrian Mannarino.

Andy Murray races to his left to hit a backhand return in a second-round win over France’s Adrian Mannarino.

Above: Stan Wawrinka stretches for a backhand return in his straight-sets win in the opening round last Tuesday.

Right: Roger Federer, bidding for his sixth U.S. Open title, hits a forehand in his opening-round victory last Tuesday afternoon.

2015 US OPEN
Week One

RAISING THE ROOF
Anett Kontaveit of Estonia hits a running forehand during her loss Sunday to Venus Williams in Arthur Ashe Stadium.

Germany’s Angelique Kerber, the 11th seed, prepares to hit a backhand return en route to reaching the third round.

Seventh-seeded Ana Ivanovic of Serbia made a hasty exit by losing to Dominika Cibulkova in the first round.

Nick Kyrgios arrived in New York under a cloud of controversy and departed after a first-round loss to Andy Murray.

Spain’s Feliciano Lopez has reached the quarterfinals and will face top-seeded Novak Djokovic.

Sixth-seeded Tomas Berdych smacks a backhand return during his second-round win last Thursday over Jurgen Melzer on Court 17.

Bernard Tomic hits a serve in his five-set win over Lleyton Hewitt in the Grandstand last Thursday.

Seventh-seeded Ana Ivanovic of Serbia made a hasty exit by losing to Dominika Cibulkova in the first round.

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**Panthers Beat Valhalla in Mt. Pleasant Cup Final**

Above: Pleasantville’s Caitlin O’Neill battles Valhalla’s Shannon Brosnan for possession of the ball in Saturday’s game, won by the Panthers.

Above left: Valhalla’s Olivia Bespokka searches for a teammate to pass to in the Vikings’ game vs. Pleasantville this past weekend.

Above right: Janna McPartland of Pleasantville controls the ball during the Panthers’ 2-1 win over Valhalla in the title game of the Mt. Pleasant Cup.

Left: Pleasantville’s Remi Manna moves the ball up the field Saturday afternoon on her way to winning MVP honors at the annual Mt. Pleasant Cup.

Above: Melissa Giglio of Valhalla takes the ball up the right sideline in the first half of Saturday’s Mt. Pleasant Cup title game.

Right: Caitlin O’Neill of Pleasantville runs the ball across the field as Valhalla’s Rachel Adams gets set to give chase in Saturday afternoon’s tournament game.

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**Fox Lane Opens With a Home Win Over the Hornets**

Fox Lane defensive back Kevin Downes battles Lakeland wide receiver Kevin Prunty for the ball and tight end Marty Bailey hangs onto the football as he’s tackled along the right sideline in Friday evening’s season opener, won by the host Foxes 25-7.
FOOTBALL
Week One

Left: Briarcliff quarterback John Plimpton prepares to throw a pass in Saturday’s home game vs. Westlake.
Right: Westlake’s Joseph Ferri carries the football up the middle for a big gain in the Wildcats’ 45-7 victory over Briarcliff/Hamilton.

Above left: Colin Hatcher of Briarcliff/Hamilton finds some running room during the first half of Saturday afternoon’s game, won by visiting Westlake.

Left: Ryan Celaj of Briarcliff/Hamilton carries the football in the second quarter of Saturday’s season opener vs. visiting Westlake.

Right: Anthony Sardo of Westlake runs for a second-quarter touchdown against host Briarcliff.
Far right: Westlake’s Drew Kapica runs with the football near the left sideline in the Wildcats’ win over Briarcliff/Hamilton.

A Late Turnover Costs the Bobcats in Season Opener Against John Jay

Above: Sean Bernard of Byram Hills tries to break a tackle in the fourth quarter vs. John Jay.
Right: Byram Hills’ Matt Milone watches the football slip away as he tries to make a catch while being hit in Saturday’s game that was eventually decided in the final seconds by a Bobcat turnover.

Above: The Bobcats’ Matt Grotta runs with the football during Saturday’s 34-33 loss to the John Jay Indians.
Right: Byram Hills quarterback Lou Filippelli throws a pass in the second half of Saturday’s game vs. visiting John Jay.
Opening-Week Thriller

Lou Filippelli and Byram Hills Fall Short in the Final Seconds to the Visiting John Jay Indians in the First Week of the Season