YCCC Renamed in Honor of Former Supervisor

By Rick Pezzullo

The Yorktown Community and Cultural Center (YCCC) in the heart of downtown Yorktown Heights has been renamed in honor of Albert Anthony Capellini, a former supervisor in the Town of Yorktown, a prominent real estate attorney and an active community volunteer.

The Yorktown Town Board voted unanimously last week to make the name change and on Sunday officially recognized it during a ceremony before the first concert of this year's Yorktown Lions Concert Series, which also is being dedicated to Capellini, who died April 12 at the age of 75.

Yorktown Supervisor Ilan Gilbert, who knew Capellini for 27 years and called him a mentor, had suggested renaming the YCCC for Capellini after other suggestions were made, including placing Capellini's name on the playground at the YCCC and the lectern in the meeting room at Town Hall.

“You want to have something where his name will be repeated. Something that will keep his name on people's lips for years to come,” Gilbert said. “Something on a level that's worthy of Al Capellini.”

Capellini was born on October 17, 1942 in Manhattan and grew up in Yorktown Heights. He was a prominent real estate attorney and had been a town councilman and supervisor in Yorktown for many years.

The YCCC has been renamed the Albert A. Capellini Community and Cultural Center in honor of the former supervisor and well-respected attorney (inset).

King Kone Crowned

State Senator Terrence Murphy, who was joined by Somers Supervisor Rick Morrissey and mascot “Murph the Lion,” recently presented King Kone co-owner Brian Hopkins in recognition of the longtime ice cream institution's outstanding contributions, dedication to growth, prosperity, and the betterment of the community and New York State. “King Kone is a local tradition. Their ice cream will make you feel like a kid again,” said Murphy. “It is appropriate that Brian and his wife Deborah are the first business owners to receive this award, not only because King Kone is a unique success story, but also because of its long tradition of making people happy.”

Refurbished Gym at Peekskill Youth Center Opens

By Anna Young

Peekskill officials and community members celebrated the grand reopening of the Walter Corney Gymnasium located at the Kiley Youth Center last week following a $16,000 refurbishment project.

With the more than 30-year old establishment in disrepair and the Peekskill Housing Authority unable to obtain the funds to renovate the gym, the housing authority teamed up with Peekskill officials to get the job done.

Housing authority chairperson Nancy Vann expressed her gratitude to the city for coming together to provide a playful and safe atmosphere for the youth.

“I'm so proud to have this important center for our youth,” Vann said at the June 29 ribbon cutting ceremony. “I've never seen the kind of enthusiasm and the kind of progress that we've seen after just a few months of this administration and we know there are going to many, many more ribbons to cut.”

With the project receiving donations from organizations like Habitat for Humanity, Fidelis Care and the New York Liberty WBNA, it took nearly three months to raise the $16,000 required to replace the flooring in the gym. After just weeks of construction, children were back on the court playing basketball on the fresh new floor following Friday's ribbon cutting.

The Kiley Youth Center is where many of the city's youth recreational events, activities and programs are

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Refurbished Gym at Peekskill Youth Center Opens

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held. The center, which is open Tuesday through Saturday, provides year-round supervised youth programs free to the public. The gym was named after Walter “Coach” Corney, a life-long Peekskill resident who died in 2011.

Peekskill Mayor Andre Rainey said while the project only started three months ago, this had been a passion project for him for about two years. He said he was excited for the refurbished gym to reopen to provide children with the opportunity to get off the street and play in a safe and welcoming environment.

“In my administration, and me as the mayor, I want to make sure people know the importance of opening stuff for our youth and giving them opportunities,” Rainey said. “I think I’m in a leadership role where I have the attention of the entire community and (I’m going to) take advantage of that.”

YCCC Renamed in Honor of Former Supervisor Al Capellini

Continued from page 1

Harlem before attending high school at Mount St. Michael Academy in the Bronx. Always fascinated with history and the law, he attended Fordham University, graduating in 1964 with a B.A. in political science. He then attended Columbia Law School, earning his L.L.B. in 1967. He then returned to Fordham, where he pursued a Ph.D in political science. He was awarded an M.A., before taking on a higher obligation as an assistant district attorney of the Bronx, a position he held until 1974.

Three years earlier, he and his wife, Rosanna, moved to Yorktown Heights in Westchester County. In 1975, Capellini was elected to the Yorktown Town Board. During his year on the council, he also taught political science and government at New York Institute of Technology. In 1976, he was elected as supervisor of Yorktown. For the next four years, he served the community, successfully navigating the town through some difficult economic times.

Once his four-year term as supervisor ended, Capellini ran for state Assembly and eventually opened a real estate law practice in Yorktown Heights. He served the needs of his clients faithfully and ardently for 38 years. Throughout the last four decades, he represented his clients effectively in front of the Yorktown Town Board, Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals.

The accolades Capellini received for his service to his community over the years were numerous. Among them: he was a former president of the Lions Club, and was named Lion of the Year in 1984/85 and a Melvin Jones Fellow in 1990. He was a founding member of the Circolo da Vinci Italian-American Club, holding the title of president in 1989. He was named Person of the Year by the Yorktown Democratic Club in 1999, Business Person of the Year by the Yorktown Chamber of Commerce in 2004, and was a trustee of the Jack De-Vito Foundation in 2011. The Circolo da Vinci Italian-American Club will set up a scholarship this year in Capellini’s name.

Do You Have Back Pain?

Treatment has come a long way:
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Q: What if I have chronic back pain, will I need surgery?
A: Not necessarily. There are plenty of effective non-surgical solutions for back pain, and over 80 percent of people with back pain respond to non-invasive treatment. When you first see a medical provider – whether it’s your primary care provider, a chiropractor, a physiatrist, or an orthopedist – you’ll undergo a thorough examination. For most patients, a care provider will recommend over-the-counter anti-inflammatory medicines (naproxen, ibuprofen), a program of stretching and exercise, and perhaps modalities such as heat massage, muscle stimulation, and physical therapy.

Q: What if my back still feels lousy after a week or two?
A: For the one in five patients who don’t respond to non-invasive treatments, a medical care provider may recommend an MRI or a CAT scan to determine whether a disc — the rubbery cushioning between the vertebral bones of the spine — is pressing on a nerve in the spinal cord. If the imaging doesn’t reveal any problems, you may get a prescription for stronger anti-inflammatory drugs or pain killers. For some patients, an epidural injection of steroids may help calm inflammation that’s triggering pain.

Q: What if I have disc problems and my pain won’t go away?
A: When there is a lot of arthritis in the spine, a patient’s mobility is already limited and fusing the vertebrae is often the best choice. However, if the spine is relatively healthy, an artificial disc will help preserve natural motion and prevent deterioration of adjacent discs, compared to fusion. The artificial disc is made of a soft plastic center placed between metal alloy plates.

Q: What is recovery like for this procedure?
A: New, minimally invasive techniques, limit damage to surrounding muscles and nerves, and as a result, patients recover much faster. The surgery can be done on an outpatient basis and risks are minimal. After a week or two of soreness, patients begin physical therapy and many are back to normal activities in less than six weeks. I remember a disc replacement patient who came in for her follow up 10 days after surgery. Her sciatica was completely gone and she was able to stop taking pain medications. Every patient is different, of course, but the vast majority of patients experience significant improvements post-surgery.
Indian Point Nuclear Power Plants Operated Safely in 2017

By Rick Pezzullo

The two active nuclear power plants at Indian Point in Buchanan operated safely in 2017, according to the federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC).

At a public hearing June 21 in Tarrytown attended by approximately 75 people, NRC officials unveiled the findings of their annual assessment of units 2 and 3, which are scheduled to stop producing energy in 2020 and 2021 respectively.

Brian Haagensen, a senior resident inspector, said during more than 8,400 hours of inspection or related activities throughout 2017 revealed findings of “very low safety significance.” The inspection included how Entergy, owner of the plants, handled adverse weather preparation, security, maintenance, “force on force,” and spent fuel storage.

“We are pleased that following more than 8,000 hours of review and inspection last year, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission judged Indian Point to be a safely operated plant. Indian Point’s nearly 1,000 employees are focused on continued safe and reliable operation of the facility through its planned closure of Unit 2 in 2020 and Unit 3 in 2021,” stated Jerry Page, a spokesman for Entergy.

During the hearing, Indian Point received praise from several business leaders, including Deb Milone, director of the Hudson Valley Gateway Chamber of Commerce, and organizations, such as the New York Affordable Reliable Electricity Alliance (New York AREA).

“Indian Point is one of the safest facilities in the country,” Milone said. “Our economy will take a hard hit without Indian Point.”

“Indian Point is a safe, well-run facility. That is what is most clear from the NRC’s rigorous annual assessment of Indian Point,” said Arthur “Jerry” Kremer, chairman of AREA. “The plant continues to operate to the highest safety standards, as it has year-in and year-out. Indian Point will have an important role to play through 2021, supplying large amounts of clean power and being an engine for the region’s economy.”

However, others raised issues about the plants remaining safe, particularly during the lengthy decommissioning process in the future.

“I hope you guys are on the job the next four years,” Michel Lee remarked to NRC officials.

Yorktown Man Killed in House Fire on Baldwin Road

By Rick Pezzullo

A 53-year-old Yorktown man was killed in house fire Sunday afternoon on Baldwin Road.

Frank Fonte was found dead in the single-family home by Yorktown firefighters after they responded to call from a neighbor at about 4:51 p.m. He was the lone occupant in the residence.

Yorktown firefighters battled the blaze with more than 75 fire and EMS personnel from Croton, Redford Hills, Millwood, Mohegan, Ossining, and Somers. Once the fire was deemed under control, the Westchester County Fire Cause and Origin team, Yorktown firefighters and Yorktown police detectives entered the home and began a preliminary investigation.

A final determination of the cause of the fire has not been made. The Westchester County Cause and Origin team will continue to search.
Yorktown High Grad on Verge of Making History in Congress

By Rick Pezzullo

A Yorktown High School graduate pulled off a stunning political victory last week and is poised to become the youngest woman ever elected to Congress.

Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, 28, a member of the Huskers 2007 graduating class, defeated incumbent Joe Crowley in a Democratic primary on June 26 in the 14th Congressional District, which covers the Bronx and Queens, and will face Republican Anthony Pappas for the seat on November 6.

Crowley, 56, has been a congressman since 1999 and for the last two years has served as the Democratic Caucus Chairman of the U.S. House of Representatives, the fourth highest leadership position in the House Democratic Caucus.

Ocasio-Cortez won 57% of the votes cast in the primary in her first bid for elected office and reportedly spent less than $200,000 in the campaign, as compared to $3.4 million spent by Crowley.

At the beginning of her campaign video, Ocasio-Cortez said, “Women like me aren’t supposed to run for office.”

According to Wikipedia, from 2003 to 2007, Ocasio-Cortez attended Yorktown High School, where she won second prize in the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair with a research project on microbiology. As a result, the Lincoln Laboratory at MIT named a small asteroid after her: 23238 Ocasio-Cortez.

Following her victory in the primary, Michael Blueglass, her science research teacher, posted on Twitter that Ocasio-Cortez “is a fantastic person that is truly “walking the walk” to Make A Difference for so many!!!”

After high school, Ocasio-Cortez attended Boston University and worked as an intern in the immigration office of U.S. Senator Ted Kennedy. She graduated in 2011 with a bachelor’s degree in economics and international relations.

Ocasio-Cortez worked as an educator at the nonprofit National Hispanic Institute after college and created a publishing company that specializes in children’s literature painting a positive picture of the Bronx. In 2016, she worked as an organizer for Congressman Bernie Sanders’s presidential campaign.

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Happy July 4th!
Police Blotter

Westchester County District Attorney

A Lake Peekskill resident and former Sleepy Hollow Middle School secretary was sentenced to five years' probation June 27 for stealing more than $10,000 from the Tarrytown Union Free School District.

Carol Ressa, 54, must finish paying restitution of the balance due of $2,929.56 during her first 12 months of probation.

According to Westchester County District Attorney Anthony Scarpino, Jr., Ressa, between October 2011 and March 2017, stole unauthorized checks drawn from a school district bank account and made them pay- able to herself. She also stole multiple checks and money orders that had been provided to the school district by middle school stu- dents and their families to pay for various student activities, such as class trips, yearbooks and school lunches.

After stealing the various checks and money order payments, Ressa deposited the stolen funds into her personal bank ac- counts for her personal use. As a result of the scheme, she stole more than $10,000.

Last February, Ressa pled guilty to grand larceny in the third degree as a public cor- ruption crime, a Class C felony.

State Police

June 9 - On June 9, State Police from the Cortlandt barracks arrested Jorge L. Valdovinos, 38, of Ossining, for Endangering the Welfare of a Child, a class A mis- demeanor, and Public Lewdness, a class B misdemeanor. On June 8, police received a complaint of a suspicious person at the Kohl's Store located on Route 6 in the Town of Cortlandt. Loss Prevention advised troopers that Valdovinos was observed entering the store on several occasions, and would proceed immediately to the children's shoes department then appeared to be touching his genitalia over his pants while near children. On the night of June 8, Val- dobinos entered the store and exposed him- self to children again. Witnesses were able to obtain and license plate, and the suspect was identified as Valdovinos. He was arraigned before the Town of Cortlandt Court and re- marked to Westchester County Jail in lieu of $3,000 cash bail or bond.

June 19 - State Police from the Cortlandt barracks arrested Anthony J. Massaro, 33, of Lake Peekskill, for Resisting Arrest, a class A misdemeanor, Public Lewdness, a class B misdemeanor, Disorderly Conduct, and Exposure of a Person, both violations. At approximately 9:17 p.m., troopers were dis- patched to Tanglewoodle Road in the Town of Putnam Valley by Putnam County 911 for a report of an unknown disturbance. Once on scene troopers found a highly in- toxicated Massaro face down on the ground, and screaming for help. When troopers at- tempted to assist Massaro, he began to un- dress himself and become combative. While partially undressed Massaro attempted to run onto the public roadway, but was taken into custody. He is due in Putnam Valley Court on July 7.

Yorktown Police

June 28 - Anthony Cassone, 55, of Cort- landt, was served with a Criminal Summons for an underlying charge of Harassment 2nd, a Violation. On April 16, Yorktown Police responded to the Lakeland Schools Administration Building for a harass- ment complaint. Yorktown police officers and detectives conducted an investigation. They determined that between January 17, 2018 and June 17, 2018, Cassone left ap- proximately 25 voicemail messages on the victim's voicemail system, which sources said was a Superintendent of Schools Dr. George Stone, that served no legitimate pur- pose and caused the victim annoyance and alarm. At the victims' request, a Criminal Summons was obtained from the Yorktown Justice Court for a charge of Harassment 2nd Degree. On June 28, the summons was served to Cassone defendant. He is sched- uled to appear in Yorktown Justice Court on July 12 at 6 p.m.

June 26 - A 46-year-old Yorktown man was charged with Petit Larceny after allegedly leaving Turco's without paying for a pizza. Police conducted an investigation and the defendant was located in the area and placed under arrest at the request of the store manager. He is due to appear in York- town Justice Court on July 26.

June 24 - A 52-year-old Mohegan Lake man was charged with Unlawful Imprisonment after police received a trespass complaint at a private Mohegan Lake beach at about 5:45 p.m. An investigation revealed that the defendant, the beach manager, had a dispute with beach members over their use of the beach. He then changed the lock to the beach access fence, locking several people in the beach area against their will and without allowing them a way to leave. Following the investigation at the scene and at the request of the victims, the defendant was arrested and transported to headquar- ters for processing.

He is scheduled to appear in Yorktown Justice Court on July 24.

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Olympic Athlete Promotes Nutrition and Health in Somers

By Kelly Haberstroh

While some people might think Olympic talent comes naturally, American pentathlete Eli Bremer proved that's not always the case.

Bremer spoke about his experiences at Krav Maga in Somers on Saturday, where they hosted a free event promoting the importance of nutrition and health. Attendees sampled nutritional products, took pictures and autographs and heard about the impact of Shaklee Corporation products on his athletic performance.

Bremer said he first got involved with sports because his older brothers were swimmers. However, it took swimming lessons and three attempts to make it onto a team. “I was the slowest member on the slowest team in the slowest lane,” he said.

When he was 13, both of his brothers had stopped swimming and his parents pulled him aside one day and said, “Let’s be honest – sports just aren’t for you.” They suggested he quit sports to focus on piano, as he “showed no athletic talent.”

Instead, Bremer focused on both for a while before quitting piano, against the advice of his parents, to focus solely on swimming day and night because he experienced what he considered the worst kid on the worst team to breaking every record in the city,” he said.

Although he overcame athletic obstacles, Bremer also faced health setbacks when he was diagnosed with anemia in 2002. He was unable to use supplements without risking a four-year ban from the Olympics, since 80 percent had been contaminated, and continuing the use of supplements would be like playing Russian roulette.

His physiologist recommended a high iron diet as a substitute, so for three months, Bremer ate liver and onions every day. However, that diet didn’t work, so his mom recommended he try Shaklee products to boost his iron intake. Bremer decided taking it was worth the risk, since he couldn’t train in his condition anyhow.

“It had a huge difference on my training now that I was breathing more oxygen,” he said. “It also opened my mind to something more than just working hard.”

Bremer’s strategy in high school and college had always been to work harder than everyone else. But at the Olympics, everyone is working their hardest, so he realized he needed to find an advantage.

After realizing the importance of outside factors, his mindset began to shift. He attended the 2004 Olympics as a commentator for NBC after breaking his foot during the trial season. When he experienced what he considered the symbolic closing ceremony, he made a commitment to himself.

“The next time they light the torch, I’m going to be on the field as an athlete,” Bremer said. “I thought, if I’m going to make my family sacrifice, career sacrifice, that I’m going to have to go all in with no regrets. I wouldn’t be able to live with myself if I didn’t give it 100 percent.”

He changed his training philosophy by getting most from his workout and recovery, paid attention to how much sleep he got and went back to nutrition to squeeze everything out of his performance. “It wasn’t an overnight transition. Day in and day out transition. All these little things make a difference,” he said.

In 2007, Bremer competed in a blow-out competition, where his victory guaranteed an automatic spot at the Olympics in the next year.

“One of the best days of my life was calling my parents saying, ‘I’m an Olympian,’” he recalled.

Since his retirement from the Olympics and his partnership with Shaklee, Bremer has dedicated his life to promoting general health and wellness. He strives to help people achieve their fitness goals and is passionate about addressing the health impacts on society.

“Under 20 percent of people in America are eligible to serve in the military,” Bremer said. He believes part of the health crisis is not eating healthy or exercising enough, so people have started to develop health problems later in life as a result.
Croton resident Robert Szpiczynski explained why his family-business in the village is called by the atypical name of Orangeberry.

“We’d been thinking of about something that would reflect frozen yogurt and some fruits and some healthy stuff,” he said. “Combining the two fruits was the idea.”

Orangeberry, which is open every day, has been owned by the Szpiczynski family since 2012. The Croton location was chosen because that is where the family resides, Szpiczynski said.

Szpiczynski said one of the reasons he wanted to open Orangeberry was to provide experience for his children working in the family business.

Aside from the Croton and Ossining areas, some of his customers come from New York City who visit local tourist sites. “They see us on the Internet,” he said.

The business offers 10 frozen yogurt flavors, as well as two types of ice cream. Customers pay per ounce for the ice cream and yogurt and they choose from several toppings including candy, fruit, cookies, nuts, sprinkles, and syrups. The store offers several varieties of smoothies including Strawberry Explosion and Pineapple Paradise and they all have no artificial flavors or colors. “This is natural, pure food,” Szpiczynski said.

Orangeberry also sells both sweet and savory crepes. The most popular sweet crepe is banana with Nutella and the top savory crepe fillings include mushroom, ham, cheese and spinach, Szpiczynski noted.

Summer is a particularly popular time for his store’s frozen yogurt, ice cream and smoothies, Szpiczynski said.

A variety of tea and coffee drinks are also served at Orangeberry, as well as milkshakes and other beverages.

“This is not the first business the family has owned. It formerly owned a deli in Queens, Szpiczynski said.

Szpiczynski explained why his business has been so successful. “Everything is fresh” and his eatery is clean, he said. “People like it. You go to some places and you have stuff all over. Over here is neat and clean,” he said.

“There are plus and minuses” to owning a business, Szpiczynski said. “You’re kind of anchored to the business. It’s very difficult to go somewhere for a long period of time.”

But, he added a positive aspect to owning your own business is knowing “this is yours.”

Orangeberry is located at 124 Grand St. in Croton. For more information, call 914-271-0821 or visit http://www.orangeberryny.com/. Orangeberry is also on Facebook and Twitter.
OMG! A Crazy World of Real Estate Shorthand

My wife gave me a real chuckle the other day when she asked, “By the way, what does ‘btw’ mean?” Margaret is actually very savvy in the technical world, but obviously this abbreviation had passed her by. We’ve all grown up with abbreviations and acronyms that probably originated at sea, such as SOS (originally for “save our ship”) to POSH (for “portside out, starboard in”), and many others that developed on land for everyday living, as urgent as VIP (“very important person”), as French as RSVP (“respondez s’il vous plaît”), as urgent as ASAP (“as soon as possible”) and, the important one I learned attending college in a dry state, BYOL (“bring your own liquor”).

Not all of us studied Gregg or Pitman, but a new shorthand developed, then exploded, with the invention of the personal computer, then the Internet, but especially when texting became our primary mode of communication with others. Who ever heard of LOL (“laughing out loud”), IMHO (“in my humble opinion”) and the ubiquitous OMG! (“oh, my God!”) before we logged on or texted?

But in RE (“real estate”), the world of abbreviations and acronyms frequently draws questions about meanings among realtors and blank looks from buyers and sellers as we start to automatically reference letters from the alphabet, from AO (“acceptable offer”) to ZB (“zoning board”), CMA (“comparative market analysis”), and CO (“certificate of occupancy”).

Keeping up with these abbreviations is a continuing learning process that can lead to misunderstanding, double interpretations and silly sounds (my favorite is FISBO, “for sale by owner,” which when I first heard it sounded to me like a shriek?), FR (“founder”), EF (“entry foyer”), LR (“living room”), DR (“dining room”), BA (“bath”), SGD (“sliding glass doors”), WIC (“walk-in-closet”), GFI or GFCI (“ground-fault circuit interrupter”), and so many others.

This subject first came to mind a while back when I was having a rather uncomfortable conversation with a service provider, a rare situation since most suppliers are very eager to please and to win our business, but this one, who installed tiling, refused to give me a solid estimate of what it would cost to have some tiles repaired and replaced at the water line of my pool.

When I shared with him that I was hoping that it might be around a $500 job, he retorted, “No way! It’s going to be a lot more than that!” When I asked how much more, he said, “I won’t know until I actually do the work and then it will all be ‘TM.’” The only TM I knew was transcendental meditation, which I thought I would surely need when our conversation was concluded, but when I got up the courage to ask what TM was, he was happy to educate me: “time and materials.” This dubious practice of quoting jobs without a quote, or at least some stated limits for costs is one I would caution all homeowners to avoid (at any cost)! But I immediately added TM to my shorthand list to be ITK (“in the know”).

Why everything in the real estate business must be abbreviated, I can’t say, but I suspect it all originated as a way to save space in listings and ads.

Read any ad about a house and you won’t find a complete word anywhere, but rather just a series of letters, some whose meanings are more difficult to guess than others. Consider this house description: EF (“entry foyer”), LR (“living room”), DR (“dining room”), EIK (doesn’t the abbreviation for “eat in kitchen” sound like a shriek?), FR (“family room”), BD or BR (“bedroom”), BA (bath), SGD (“sliding glass doors”), WIC (“walk-in-closet”) WDT (“wood burning stove”), BSMT (“basement”), GAR (“garage”) and DK (“deck”). The ad might also state that it needs TLC (“tender loving care”) and, years ago, it might offer the possibility of a M/D (“mother/daughter”), but we realtors can’t use that discriminatory term anymore.

Styles of homes also have their own codes as with COL (“colonial”), CONT (“contemporary”), RR (“raised ranch”), SL (“split level”) and CC (“Cape Cod”).

Not to be overlooked for confusion are those abbreviations with double meanings such as AC (“air conditioning,” but it can also mean “acre”) and FHA (which can mean either “Federal Housing Authority” or “forced hot air”). And some sound either funny or crude, such as PUD (“planned unit development”), HOA (“home owners association”), HUD (“Department of Housing and Urban Development”), and NOO (which is not an emphatic negative, but rather “non-owner occupied”).

Then there are all the financial terms to keep straight, such as APR (“annual percentage rate”) and ARM (“adjustable rate mortgage,” one of the factors that caused the bubble, then the bust, in the market).

Those that definitely need explanation the first time around may be HVAC (“central vacuum”), HVAC (“heating, ventilation and air conditioning”) and the one I’ll never remember if I live to be 100 years old, GFI or GFCI (“ground-fault circuit interrupter”), a special electrical receptacle that protects us from electrocution in high risk areas such as bathrooms and kitchens.

Before I’m ready to draw a conclusion and say AMEN (not meaning “amenities”), I’ll relate a incident in which I was convinced that abbreviations, while convenient, may be taken too far.

I was in a back-and-forth email conversation with a seller’s agent concerning an offer I was trying to make on behalf of my buyer client. She said she would be sure to “follow-up” with the response of the seller by email. Granted, it was a somewhat low-ball offer, but I was initially startled when the return email’s subject line said simply, “FU.”

Bill Primavera, while a publicist and journalist, is also a Realtor® associated with William Raveis Real Estate and Founder of Primavera Public Relations, Inc. (www.PrimaveraPR.com). To engage the services of The Home Guru to market your home for sale, call 914-522-2076.
Westchester Moving Forward on Plastic Bag Ban Proposal

By Neal Rentz

The Board of Legislators is considering a bill to ban most plastic bags, a measure that would resemble those already approved or being considered by several municipalities around the county.

The proposal, introduced by County Legislator Kittey Covill (D-Katonah), is currently being considered at the committee level and is supported by environmental organizations such as the Sierra Club and Riverkeeper, Covill said.

The county Department of Environmental Facilities has told lawmakers that single-use plastic bags clog the county’s Material Recovery Facility’s equipment, she said. Plastic bags should be put in the regular garbage and not comingled with other recyclable items to be burned with other trash.

Covill said a county single-use plastic bag ban would not supersede local laws unless a municipality would repeal its own statute.

Bags for newspapers, prescription drugs and to cover clothes from dry cleaners would be among the plastic that would be exempt, she said. Thicker plastic bags that have greater potential for reuse would also be excluded from the legislation.

“The point, obviously, is to change behavior,” Covill said.

Consumers would be charged a yet-to-be-determined fee for paper bags if they asked for them. The fee would be kept by the merchants, she said.

If the legislation is approved, store owners would be required to distribute free reusable bags two weeks before the new law would go into effect. In subsequent years, there would be one annual two-week period where free reusable bags would be made available by store owners to shoppers, according to Covill.

Mayor Gina Picinich said the village’s Conservation Advisory Council is currently working on proposed legislation for the village to ban single-use plastic bags. The Village Board could pass its

Continued on page 14

A Myth-Busting Primer About Mold Around the House

Myth: Mold should be cleaned with bleach.

Truth: Mold is dangerous and can cause severe respiratory risk.

Myth: Mold can cause serious illnesses.

Truth: Mold can only make you sick if you are already sick or have a weakened immune system.

Myth: Mold can be cleaned with bleach.

Truth: Mold is dangerous and can cause severe respiratory risk.

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Myth: Mold can be cleaned with bleach.

Truth: Mold is dangerous and can cause severe respiratory risk.

Myth: Mold can cause serious illnesses.

Truth: Mold can only make you sick if you are already sick or have a weakened immune system.
**Tuesday, July 3**

**Free Medicare Counseling:** Get help understanding your Medicare benefits and coverage on Tuesdays year-round (except holidays) at the John C. Hart Memorial Library in Shrub Oak from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and on Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Field Library in Peekskill. No appointments are necessary for the free service. Meet with a trained counselor for information about Medicare Parts A, B, and D, Medicare Advantage Plans, Medicare Savings Plans, Extra Help and EPIC. You can also call the Senior Benefits Information Center Helpline with your questions at 914-231-3260 and a counselor will return your call within two business days. For a listing of all eight SBIC centers in Westchester libraries, go to http://www.westchesterlibraries.org/senior-benefits-information-centers/.

**Senior Benefits Information:** Trained volunteer counselors help older adults and their caregivers find information about government benefits to help them stretch their budgets every Tuesday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the John C. Hart Memorial Library, 1130 E. Main St., Shrub Oak. Get information on Medicare health and prescription plans, nutrition assistance, the Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP), tax relief programs, and much more. Info: 914-245-5262 Ext.227 or http://www.westchesterlibraries.org/sbic.

**Healthy Happy Hour:** Healthy Happy Hours are held on Tuesday nights in Mahopac and another location may be added. Take a 10-day vacation from processed foods. Are sugary, fatty, easy-to-prepare, addictive junk foods making you feel sick and tired? Then reset your metabolism and break your addiction to unhealthy foods. For more information contact Diane at 914-843-8745.

**Hygeia Programs:** Two ongoing programs are being held on Tuesdays at Hygeia Integrated Health LLC, 3505 Hill Blvd., Suite K, Yorktown. Community Acupuncture is being held from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. The cost is $30. Come experience the beneficial effects of acupuncture in a group setting. Register: hyinhealth@gmail.com. On the last Tuesday of the month from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. Eating Disorder Support Group, led by a LCSW and clinical nutritionist will be held. Discuss and resolve issues around relationships with food. Info/register: hyinhealth@gmail.com or www.hyinhealth.com.

**Wednesday, July 4**

**Teen Summer Reading Challenge:** The Teen Summer Reading Challenge, a Somers Public Library program, is being held through Aug. 29 for tweens and teens in grade six and up. There will be raffle prizes available for program participants. Please register on our online at http://www.somerslibrary.org/teensummer.asp or call the library at 914-232-5717.

**Pound Program:** Free fitness classes are being offered to seniors who reside in the City of Peekskill on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 10 to 11 a.m. The Class name is “The Workout.” For more information please contact Ray Glashoff at 914-734-4254. Classes are held at the Neighborhood Center (Field Library), 4 Nelson Ave., downstairs from the Library.

**Pound Program:** POUNDTM Fitness Program, a 45-minute full-body cardio and stress relief jam session, fusing Pilates, cardio, plyometrics isometric movements and poses, is offered at Theatre and Dance Arts 131 Bedford Rd., Katonah. Drop in or weekly discount rates are available. The program is being provided on Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. and on Saturdays at 11:45 a.m. Call Peggy for more information at 914 960-4097.

**Bingo Wednesday:** Come to First Hebrew for $2.00 in total guaranteed bingo prizes, plus an average of $1.000 awarded in specialty games. Doors open 5 p.m. and games begin 7:15 p.m. every Wednesday (except holidays – check First Hebrew’s website calendar). First Hebrew is just west of the Beach Shopping Center at 1821 Main St., Peekskill. Info: 914-739-0500 or www.firsthebrew.org.

**Thursday, July 5**

**Trip to The Tropics:** A quick trip to the tropics will be held at the new “Color of Summer” exhibit at the conservatory at Lasdon Park, Arboretum and Veterans Memorial, located on Route 35 in Somers. The conservatory will be replete with tropical flowering plants from all over the world in a balmy, rainforest climate, accented with the music and sounds of the tropics. There will also be a visit from “Dillon,” the veiled chameleon that has made friends with visitors to the conservatory. He will be in his special enclosure. The exhibit will run through June 30. Admission fees are $5 for adults and $2 for children 12 and under on weekdays and $7 for adults and $3 for children on weekends and holidays. The conservatory is open Tuesdays through Sundays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The last tickets of the day are sold at 3:30 p.m. The conservatory is closed Mondays except holidays. Entrance fees are collected at the Garden Shop. Information about this exhibit and Lasdon is available at lasdonpark.org.

**Behind Prison Walls:** The Images from Behind Prison Walls Art Exhibit of more than 60 pieces of artwork from men and women incarcerated in five New York State maximum and medium-security prisons on display in the Ossining Public Library Art Gallery throughout July. The Ossining Public Library is located at 53 Croton Ave. and is open Mondays and Thursdays 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., Tuesdays 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Wednesdays 1 to 9 p.m., Fridays 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturdays 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sundays 1 to 5 p.m. For more information, visit www.ossininglibrary.org or call 914-941-2416 Ext. 327 or 317. For more information on RTA, visit www.rta-arts.org, e-mail to infog@rta-arts.org or call 914-232-7566.

**Teen Henna Workshop:** A Teen Henna Workshop will be held at the Somers Library from 4:30 to 6 p.m. This program is intended for teens/tweens entering grades six and up (as of September 2018). Space is limited; please register on our online events calendar at www.somerslibrary.org or call the library at 914-232-5717. All Participants must have a signed permission slip from their parent or guardian.

**Friday, July 6**

**Coloring For Adults:** It’s not just for kids, and it’s the latest craze. Join our adult coloring book club at the Somers Library Meetings will be held in the conference room every Friday from 10:30 a.m. to noon. Relax, color, and socialize while following traditional modes. You are welcome to our friendly sacred space. Temple Beth Am is located at 203 Church Pl., Yorktown. For more information, please call our Rabbi at 914-962-7500.

**Jewish Center Services:** At the Yorktown Jewish Center, 2966 Crompond Rd., Friday night Sabbath services are held at 8 p.m. Sabbath services on Saturdays will be held at 9:15 a.m. on most Saturdays. After the services Rabbi Sternstein conducts a learning session based on the Torah portion of the week. Light refreshments are served and everyone is invited to join us as we share in the warmth, knowledge and friendship within our congregation. Info: 914-245-2324 or yorktownjewishcenter.org.

**Saturday, July 7**

**Korean War Display:** "Korea, a War without End: Korean War veterans captured in the Korean War" consists of images, words, vintage equipment and weapons, the “police action” that began in June 1950 when North Korea invaded Western South Korea at Lasdon Park. The exhibit will be open until September. The museum is closed Mondays, except holidays, through Labor Day; open only on weekends the rest of the year. It is also open on July 4 and Veterans Day. Lasdon Park, Arboretum, and Veterans Memorial, a Westchester County Park, is located on Route 35 in Somers. For more information on Lasdon and all Westchester County parks, go to parks.westchester.gov.com.

**Zen Meditation:** Authentic Zen meditation under the guidance of Rev. Paul Tesshin Silverman is held every Saturday at 9 am. At the Fourth Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Westchester, 11698 Strawberry Rd., Mohegan Lake. Visit us at www.yorktownzen.org or e-mail us at yorktownzen@verizon.net.
Putnam Valley Shabbat Service: Looking for a modern Shabbat service steeped in Jewish tradition? Come to Temple Israel of Putnam Valley, a Conservative Egalitarian Synagogue situated on beautiful Lake Peekskill. Our inclusive, community-lead services start at 9:30 a.m. on Saturdays and are held in Hebrew and English. Enjoy a comfortable atmosphere where participation is appreciated and afterwards stay for our delicious Kiddush lunch. Services are free; Family Memberships are $250 per year and include High Holiday Services. The synagogue is located at 140 Lake Drive in Lake Peekskill. For more information, call 845-528-2305.

Yorktown Shabbat Morning Services: Chabad of Yorktown, 2926 Old Yorktown Rd., holds services on Saturday mornings. They are easy-to-follow services with Hebrew/English prayer books, a friendly environment and no affiliation is necessary. Kiddush lunch follows the services. Services begin at 10 a.m. For more information, visit www.chabadnyorktown.com or call Support Connection at 914-245-6402 or 800-532-4290.

Sundad Performs: Sundad, a twice Grammy nominated, internationally known acoustic band described as “World Fusion, New Age” and JamBand music, will appear in Westchester Collaborative Theater (WCT)’s Jazz Masters Series. Sundad will play sets at 7:30 and 9 p.m. at WCT’s black box performance space, 23 Water St., Ossining, General admission is $20. A cash bar and refreshments will be available. Purchase seats online at the ticketing website: https://sundadwct18.brownpapertickets.com. Limited seating available.

Sunday, July 8

Healing Yoga: Yoga classes for women with breast cancer are held at 5 p.m. on Sundays at Hudson Yoga, 5 Old Post Rd. South, Croton. Weekly classes are being conducted by rotating instructors. The suggestion fee is $15. Info: Ellisha Simpson at 914-319-4010.

Bingo: Bingo will be played tonight and on July 15 at the Yorktown Jewish Center, 2966 Crompond Rd. The doors will open at 5 p.m. and play begins at 6:30 p.m. There will be $3,000 in prizes awarded during each Sunday session. Food will be available. Info: 914-245-3234 or yorktownjewishcenter.org.

Summer Concert Series: The Taconic Opera summer program for emerging opera singers, New York Opera Conservatory, offers you an opportunity to hear the upcoming generation of professional singers as they gain valuable experience perfecting their craft. Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, 801 Kitchawan Rd. (Route 134), Ossining, will host the following programs: July 8, 7 p.m. – solos from Mozart’s Mass in C; July 14, 7 p.m. – solos from Haydn’s Creation and July 15, 7 p.m. – solos from Rossini’s Messe Solenelle & Puccini’s Messa di Gloria. For information about the NY Opera Conservatory, visit http://www.newyorkoperaconservatory.com. For more information about the Taconic Opera or to sign up for event notices, visit www.taconicoopera.org.

Monday, July 9

Vacation Bible School: Today through July 13 from 9 a.m. to noon, Vacation Bible School will be held at First Presbyterian Church of Yorktown, 2880 Crompond Rd. Info: www.fpcyorktown.org.

Somers Library Monday Program: Bridge at the Somers Library is being held on Mondays throughout 2018 from 10:30 a.m. to noon. These classes are for beginners and players with some experience as well. Learn how to navigate your way around the game from bridge master Walter Heitner. You will learn bidding and work on the play of the hand. By working with a group, you will all get better together. Space is limited; register online at www.somerslibrary.org or call the library at 914-232-5717.

Free Jazz Sessions: Free Jazz Jam Sessions are being held every Monday at The Winery at St. George, 1715 E. Main St., Mohegan Lake. Info: 914-455-4272.

Movie Monday: “A Wrinkle in Time” will be screened as part of the Movie Mondays series at 6:30 p.m. at the Field Library, 4 Nelson Ave., Peekskill. Info: 914-737-1212 or peekskill.org.
Sounds of Summer Series Returns to the Jacob Burns

By Neal Rentz

Summer is a favorite time for outdoor concerts. The season has also become synonymous at the Jacob Burns Film Center with programs and films dedicated to music.

The Sounds of Summer 2018: Music Films, Old and New is scheduled to open July 8 and run through Aug. 23. The annual series began in 2010 and features works covering a variety of music genres. This year’s series includes 21 films selected by Burns Programming Director Brian Ackerman, Senior Programmer Andrew Jupin and Programmer Karen Sloc Goodman.

“We’re always looking for films that will entertain and inspire our audiences,” Goodman said of the series’ success.

Ackerman said the series will include new films and classics, including the opening night screening of “Yellow Submarine,” the psychedelic animated film directed by George Dunning. Also scheduled for July 30, “Yellow Submarine” will be introduced by Scott Freiman, the curator of a series of multimedia presentations about The Beatles.

The movie includes several hits from The Fab Four, including “When I’m Sixty-Four,” “Lucy in the Sky With Diamonds,” “Eleanor Rigby” and “All You Need is Love.”

Freiman will also display his expertise about The Beatles in two films. On July 16 and Aug. 15, “Deconstructing the Beatles: The Birth of the Beatles” will be screened while “Deconstructing the Beatles: 1963 Yeah! Yeah! Yeah!” detailing the band’s early commercial successes will be shown on July 26 and Aug. 23. Those Beatles’ programs include music, video and other materials to analyze the group’s music, Goodman said.

The series is presented in partnership with public radio station WFUV 90.7 FM.

“It’s a great partnership to have,” Goodman said.

Disc jockeys Rita Houston, WFUV’s program director, and Dennis Elsas will come to the Burns to explore the musical legacies of two listener favorites: the Avett Brothers and Rolling Stones guitarist Keith Richards. The Avett Brothers are the subject of the documentary, “May It Last: A Portrait of the Avett Brothers,” directed by Judd Apatow and Michael Bonfiglio, about the Grammy-nominated North Carolina-based band. Following the July 17 screening, Goodman will lead a discussion with Houston.

“Keith Richards: Under the Influence,” the documentary directed by Morgan Neville, will be presented on Aug. 2. The 2015 movie, which will be followed by a discussion with Goodman and Elsas, documents Richards recording his first solo album in two decades.

Goodman said two of her favorites in this year’s series are “Chavela,” the documentary directed by Catherine Gund and Daresha Kyi about legendary Costa Rican singer Chavela Vargas (July 9) and “Blades is Not My Name,” the documentary directed by Abner Benaim, about the singer-songwriter (Aug. 8).

Ackerman said an annual series tradition will continue on July 31 with the presentation of “Stop Making Sense,” a 1984 concert film directed by the late Jonathan Demme starring The Talking Heads. Demme was actively involved with the Burns in a variety of capacities. The sound will be turned up loud “as Jonathan wanted it,” Ackerman said.

While audiences will not be sitting outside to enjoy the featured music, Ju-pin said there really isn’t anything like it on the big screen.

The Jacob Burns Film Center is located at 364 Manville Rd. in Pleasantville. For the complete schedule and for tickets, call 914-747-5555 or visit www.burnsfilmcenter.org.

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Crossword

ACROSS
1. "...___ quit!"
4. Chicago baseball player
7. Ad ____ committee
10. Relatives
11. "Put ___ Happy Face"
12. Period
13. Sun Devils’ sch.
14. Hair piece
15. Temperature controls, briefly
16. Western Australian capital
18. Sask. neighbor
19. Indirect implication
22. Narrow sea channels
24. Homer’s hero
27. You don’t have to be celestial to get your stringed instruments repaired at this Shrub Oak shop, ____ Guitars
30. Peekskill sewing and arts & crafts emporium, ____Fabrics
31. Nickelodeon fan
32. Rock music style
34. Civil War letters
35. "I Like ___"
36. End of the week, briefly
37. Scull
38. Cygnet’s mother
39. Transgression
40. Pipe joint

DOWN
1. African antelope
2. Like baked dough
3. Buries
4. Steer steerer
5. Prefix with corn or verse
6. Caddie’s burden
7. Top dog
8. Ocean predator
9. Wine holder
17. Coach
18. “Uh-uh!”
20. House vote
21. Become separated
23. Manatee
25. Take back
26. Bag
27. Partner of hop and jump
28. Small child
29. Mideast gulf port
32. Failing grades
33. Med. diagnostic

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Years of YES

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Matthew McCarthy

Matthew McCarthy, a lifelong resident of Putnam Valley, died June 26. He was 56.

Born November 3, 1961, he enjoyed baseball, particularly the Mets. Mr. McCarthy was very athletic, and played in many softball leagues. He would always try to make people laugh. Whenever someone needed a hand he was always there. He loved fishing and could often be found at one of the many streams in Putnam Valley. He will be missed by everyone who knew him.

He was predeceased by his parents Walter and Mildred McCarthy. He is survived by his brothers Ed, Dan and Wally McCarthy and his brother-in-law Chris Stern, as well as his sisters Kathleen McCarthy, Helen Herlihy, Loretta McCarthy and Josephine Stern, and his sister-in-law Betsy McCarthy. He is also survived by nieces Colleen Schwartz, Eileen Mohammed, Meagan Stern, Sara McCarthy, and Maggie McCarthy-Salls and nephew Jack McCarthy.

Plastic Bag Ban Proposal

Continued from page 9
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Picinich said she would be in contact with county officials about the village’s proposed law.

In other activity, Covill said the county recently enacted legislation to prohibit anyone under 21 years old from purchasing tobacco products, including electronic cigarettes and related items.

The law will go into effect in early August, she said.

E-cigarettes are popular among high school students, Covill said. The vaping liquids have flavors such as bubble gum and popcorn but contain nicotine. E-cigarettes have made smoking “cool” among youths, she said.

“They look like a thumb drive. They’re very difficult for a parent to police,” Covill said.

Obituary

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LEGAL NOTICES
NOTICE OF FORMATION OF J&R WINDOWS LLC. Art. of Org. filed with the (SSNY) on 04/17/2018. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY has been designated as agent upon whom process against it may be served. The Post Office address to which the SSNY shall mail a copy of any process against the LLC served upon him/her is: 90 State Street, Suite 700 Office 40, Albany, NY 12207. The principal business address of the LLC is: 49 Park Drive, Mount Kisco, NY 10549. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF MILAN MEDIA LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 07/13/2018. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served & shall mail process to: 124 E 117th St, Apt 4D, New York, NY 10035. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF ABIRIMILAN MEDIA LLC Articles of Organization were filed with the SSNY on May 7, 2018. Office Location is Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to 33 Westview Ave, White Plains, New York, 10603. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF ALVIN IRBY LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on January 21, 2016. Office Location is Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to 124 E 117th St, Apt 4D, New York, NY 10035. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF KEAM VENTURES LLC ARTS. Of Org. filed with the SSNY on 05/28/2018. Office Location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process served and mailed by SSNY to: 3199 Albany Post Rd. Suite 226A, Buchanan, NY 10511. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF SAS CAPITAL ADVISORS, LLC. Arts of Or filed with Secy of State of NY (SSNY) on 09/23/2018. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served and mailed by SSNY to: 201 Willett Avenue #302, Port Chester, NY 10573. Purpose: any lawful acts or activity.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF KJH ENTERPRISES LLC. Of Org. filed with the SSNY on 04/04/2018. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served and mailed by SSNY to: 201 Willett Avenue #302, Port Chester, NY 10573. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF KJH ENTERPRISES LLC. Of Org. filed with the SSNY on 04/04/2018. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served and mailed by SSNY to: 201 Willett Avenue #302, Port Chester, NY 10573. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.
"A picture is worth a thousand words."

"Every picture tells a story, don't it?"

These phrases have a deep-rooted legacy in American culture, both written and sung. As products of their time, they conveyed an aesthetic that was as much a symbol of their time as they were iconic mileposts marking a change in the public's interaction with society and each other.

To my 20th century sensibilities, these phrases connoted the evolution, and juxtaposition, of two-dimensional perspectives.

In the mid-20th century, marketing campaigns were beginning to understand the power of images over text as a means to market products. It became a standard advertising, as expressed in numerous product, political and social advertisements, that well-crafted photos and video clips were more impactful than text and were worth a thousand, or more, words.

But the medium for these messages is rapidly changing.

Who can forget Rod Stewart’s driving, raspy voice singing “Every Picture Tells a Story” in 1971. (My how time flies. It seems the early ‘70s were only a few decades ago, not nearly a half-century.) Today, his song title, and theme, conveys a concept unheard of until the last few years.

The change I refer to in these two examples is the advancing technology of augmented and virtual reality. More specifically, how manufacturers, including wine companies, are integrating new technologies into their core advertising and marketing.

The new technologies infiltrating our real and virtual lives are virtual reality and augmented reality.

The distinction is rather clear. Virtual reality immerses the wearer of a specially designed headset/goggles in alternative realities. Augmented reality adds to, but doesn’t replace, our current real experiences. It is augmented reality that is popping up in a new advertising campaign recently launched. I read an example of these two technologies a while ago.

Virtual reality is swimming with the sharks; augmented reality is downloading an app and watching a shark seemingly leap out of your screen. Remember the Pokémon Go app of a few years ago? Augmented reality.

Here in 2018 we have an app that presents a video that tells a story and it’s worth a thousand words.

An Australian company markets a brand named 19 Crimes. It is a growing collection of Cabernet Sauvignon, Shiraz, a Chardonnay and a few red blends, all catering to the American palate of fruit-forward, nicely rounded wines. Many are available at retail shops in our area for about $10.

What makes the brand distinctive is its underlying theme. Beginning in 1783, the British government banished to Australia criminals convicted of one of 19 specific crimes, otherwise punishable by hanging. These were the early colonists who have been immortalized in history. Several of the crimes are a bit outlandish, including impersonating an Egyptian (number 5), stealing fish from a pond or river (10), stealing roots, trees or plants (11) and clandestine marriage (15).

Each bottle of the 19 Crimes collection displays a photo of one of these criminals. Download the free app, point your smartphone at the bottle and the photo of the criminal comes to life, re-galing you with the convict’s trials and tribulations.

I find this to be a very effective marketing tool. And the consuming public agrees. The wines are flying off the shelves, at a pace of one million cases a year. Another lure, embraced by younger consumers, are the corks, randomly numbered for each crime, which have become collectibles.

Contrary to the declining sales of Australian wines in the United States, 19 Crimes is bucking the trend, thanks to a brilliant marketing campaign and bolstered by augmented reality. And every video tells the story, don’t it?

Nick Antonaccio is a 46-year Pleasantville resident. For over 20 years he has conducted wine tastings and lectures. Nick is a member of the Wine Media Guild of wine writers. He also offers personalized wine tastings and wine travel services. Nick’s credo: continuous experimenting results in instinctive behavior. You can reach him at nantonaccio@theexaminernews.com or on Twitter @sharingwine.

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NOTICE OF FORMATION OF AMEN HOMES LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State New York on January 31, 2018 in Westchester County. The Secretary of State is designated as agent for service of process. The Secretary of State shall mail a copy of process to: c/o Christopher Miller, 422 South 7th Avenue, Mount Vernon, NY 10550. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF MWM BUILDING & SUPPLY SERVICES LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State New York (SSNY) on June 7, 2018. County: Westchester. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall

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Shrub Oak Athletic Club’s Thomas Imperati slides in safely under tag of Yorktown’s Sean Riordan in SOAC’s 10-0 opening-round win over the host Yorktown Crusaders last Friday in the Yorktown Athletic Club’s 4th of July Tournament. SOAC then advanced to defeat Ossining, 13-0, in Saturday’s second round and would go on to cruise to the tourney title after a 10-0 semifinal win over the Cortlandt Panthers and a 12-2 championship win over the Clarkstown Stars last Sunday... see Baseball Notebook 

SOAC Rises Tide, Wins YAC 9U 4th of July Tourney Title

Tommy Tsunami!
Imagine domination for one minute, total control. Now imagine mercy, putting one’s opponent in checkmate from start to finish. Such was life for the Shrub Oak Athletic Club 9-U team en route to the Yorktown Athletic Club’s 4th of July Tournament championship last weekend.

SOAC went 4-0 (all four wins by mercy rule) in the tournament, including victories over the Yorktown Crusaders (15-0), the Ossining Pride (13-0), the Cortlandt Panthers (10-0 in semis) and the Clarkstown Stars (club team), 12-2, for the tournament title.

The team ERA in tournament was an astounding 0.086, led by pitchers Nicholas Santobello (2-0 2.40 ERA) and Louie Vernagallo (2-0 0.00 ERA). Vincent Lugo provided excellent relief in two games with a 0.00 ERA.

Santobello went three innings in the championship to earn the win, allowing two earned runs and whiffing seven. Jake ‘The Rake’ Bruno went 3-3 with four RBI to lead the team. Joseph LaPeruta, Michael Zumatto and Ryan Hogan all had two hits apiece to set the table and clean it off.

To put in perspective, the Clarkstown Stars were a very successful club team from Rockland County that came into the championship game 3-0 and had only given up four runs entering the title tilt.

In Greater Hudson Valley Baseball League action, the Mahopac Indians (B) 10-U team improved to 5-3 with an 18-3 win over East Fishkill last Saturday. P Gavin O’Keefe pitched two innings for the win, allowing no hits and no runs while fanning five for the win. He also led a 15-hit attack by going 3 for 3 with three RBI. Charles “Prizmo” Przymybski

continued on next page
RIP, Friend… May the Beers be Cold and Fish be Biting

Matt McCarthy had a language of his own, a vernacular you had to be around often to truly appreciate, much less understand. Born and raised in Putnam Valley and an early-'80s graduate of Peekskill High School, we could fill this newspaper with tall tales of McCarthyisms.

Prior to his passing last Wednesday, the 55-year-old McCarthy battled alcoholism for much of his life; that was never a secret or something he was ever ashamed of. It was beyond his control and he knew full well – at an early age – that he was essentially powerless over it. It was the only thing holding him back.

McCarthy could throw a baseball as hard and as far as anyone I ever met; the stuff of legend. He could hit in the clutch like few dudes could, whether he stumbled up to the plate (most nights) or was just getting started. “On beer, on base,” he would proclaim!

He used to tell me all the time in the 90s, when I was the End Zone bartender that drove him home more often than I didn’t: “You’re gonna tell my story, Graymon…”

pointing that long, dangly finger at me. Of course, he called me “Graymon” because it rhymed with “Raymon” and he knew before most that I had dyed my once-blond mullet on account of Father Time’s inevitable brutality. He later told me, just months before I conceded defeat: “You’re going bald like a b!+ch, kid!”

Franckness was his strongest point. The “Catcher on the Rye”, as we often called him, told you–on and off the field–how it was, whether you wanted to hear it or not: “Ya know what would look good on you,” he’d bark at every new End Zone barmaid in ‘90s? “Me!”

So, he did ask me to tell his story, and all I can say is that Matt McCarthy, a middle son of four McCarthy boys (plus one sister) on Peekskill Hollow Road, was one heck of friend and one of the finest teammates I ever played with, but also the cruelest example of what can happen when you let yourself go. He once speared a brown trout in the Peekskill Hollowbrook and then bit the head off it in a bar full of people (I kid you not), but he woke up the next morning ready to win another game; something we did more than any team around as the O’Connor’s/Westbrook/End Zone/Pronto Printer teams back in the day.

McCarthy was up for any challenge, including the time we took our softball team into Sing Sing Prison to challenge a squad of inmates, who mocked him openly on account of the raging red birth mark that covered the back half of his head and neck: “That’s a true redneck right there, y’all,” one inmate shouted from the opposing dugout as he approached the plate for his initial at-bat. Matt’s retort, as always, was beyond anything anyone would say aloud in a prison stocked with hardcore murderers: “I’d rather be a redneck than a bunch of locked-up losers,” he shouted back in full throat.

By the time the game was over, these cold-blooded inmates at Sing Sing had essentially befriended him and joked with all of us throughout the game. It was unlike anything I’d ever seen, and most anybody who played softball in Putnam Valley, Yorktown and Cortlandt from 1985 to 2005 has a similar Matt McCarthy story.

I often wondered how Matt never made his way back Sing Sing, what with his penchant for fast times, but Matt evaded the law and was usually my first customer every day I pulled the sticks. He didn’t have a lot to offer folks by way of means, but he’d give you the shirt off his back and would do whatever he could to do right by you. His one-toothed smile was infectious, but his tale is one of woe.

There are so many things about him that I would warn young athletes about. Heck, I’d caution anyone against such passage! But he was one of the best teammates/friends we ever had, there through thick and thin when we needed him.

A lot of you student athletes who read this space on a regular basis have just wrapped up your high school careers and are set to enter ‘The Real World’, which can be cruel if you don’t get your ducks in a row and prioritize the heck out of your lives. This new world we leave the next generation is a harsh existence, one in which we barely coexist across divergent political lines anymore, so play nice and stop demonizing each other despite our vast differences. Civility and total respect for our constitution is the key to our future, and this next generation will steer the course of history.

Life is no joke if you’re the butt of it, so let Matt McCarthy be a lesson to you: You are entitled to nothing, no matter how good you are at it (and he was damn good), so work your craft, and demand the very best you can be – physically and socially–each and every day, because nothing is guaranteed.

RIP my brother! As far as characters go, you were unrivaled. Now, cast your blue Rapala into the heavens and catch us a big one.

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for inclusion in our weekly Baseball Notebook.

LAKELAND stud pitcher Joe Vetrano announced via Twitter that he is “Excited and honored to be selected to represent the Yankees in the 2018 Area Code underclass games”. The NWE/Putnam and Lo Hud Player of the Year is just entering his junior campaign, which makes this honor all the more sick. This Boston College-bound lefty has MLB draft selection written all over him.

Croton Bombers Take NYEB 15-U Tourney Title

The 15-U Croton Bombers recently pose with championship banner after winning the NYEB Battle Of The Bats Tournament on Fathers Day weekend. It was a total team effort as everyone on the team stepped up to win all four games in the tournament in just over 28 hours! Walter Panas’ Matthew Calise was the winning pitcher in the title tilt, pitching six strong innings during the tournament while batting .461 with a .500 on base percentage with 5 singles, 1 double, 4 RBIs, 3 stolen bases, and 2 runs scored!
Mahopac Twins, Coach Lead 10-U Indians to 18-3 Win vs. East Fishkill

Mahopac’s Aquilino family members -- including twins Michael and Matthew and Coach Chris -- were busy scurrying about the baseball diamond last Saturday, leading the Indians to an 18-3 triumph in the 10-U division of the Greater Hudson Valley Baseball League where they improved to 5-3 overall.