$50M Lawsuit Threatened Over Mt. Kisco Senior Housing Delay

By Neal Rentz

The new partnership looking to build 129 units of senior housing on Kisco Avenue is threatening to file lawsuits totaling $50 million against the Village of Mount Kisco.

Despite the village board having voted unanimously Mar. 13 to grant the Manhattan-based HFZ Capital the option of buying the 17.7 acres at 270 Kisco Ave., the contract has yet to be signed by the trustees. Under terms of the agreement, the developer would pay the village about $4 million for the parcel.

Robert Mishkin and Adam Feldman, two of the HFZ Capital partners, expressed frustration last Tuesday, the day after a village board meeting where public opposition to the plan returned.

"Regrettfully and contrary to the advice you as trustees are receiving from the Village Attorney, Whitney Singleton, we will be filing litigation in federal court reopening the Federal Fair Housing Case and Settlement and Westchester County Supreme Court against the Village of Mount Kisco," Mishkin stated in an Apr. 18 e-mail to the village board.

Mishkin told The Examiner that HFZ Capital could seek to sue the village for $50 million. He said for "an unknown reason," the contract has not been signed by the village.

"Do they want the project or not?" Mishkin asked rhetorically.

Notice of claims were not filed by HFZ Capital in state Supreme Court or in federal court as of last week.

The village would be running afoul of federal housing laws should officials fail to sign the contract, Mishkin said.

There would be 40 assisted living units; continued on page 4

Astorino Promises No New Taxes in State of the County Address

By Pat Casey

Westchester County Executive Rob Astorino renewed his commitment for a zero percent tax increase in his State of the County address in White Plains last week, which would mark eight consecutive years of steady or falling county property taxes.

Astorino touted plans for Playland Amusement Park, a $1.2 billion science and technology hub in Mount Pleasant and the potential for $140 million in revenues at Westchester County Airport through a public-private partnership.

"I was elected to stop the tax madness, and we did just that by stopping the out-of-control spending," Astorino said during his nearly hour-long address on Apr. 20. "The county budget today is less than the budget was when we took office in 2010. Taxes are still too high, but citizens and businesses know they can count on me to manage their tax dollars smartly and responsibly."

He noted gains made in private sector employment, nearly 44,000 new jobs since 2010, and a drop in the unemployment rate to 4.2 percent. He also touted other positive developments that make Westchester a desirable place to live and work, such as a 25 percent drop in crime, Westchester's highly educated workforce, the county's placement among the healthiest places in the country and its ranking as one of the top digital counties in the U.S., among other accomplishments.

Highlighted projects included the North 60 proposal for a $1.2 billion Westchester continued on page 6

New Castle Kicks Off Comprehensive Plan Public Hearing; Resumes This Week

By Martin Wilbur

After more than four years of outreach, study and discussion, New Castle officials held the first public hearing session on its proposed Comprehensive Plan update last Tuesday drawing a modest number of speakers.

The new plan, the first time the town has undertaken the project since 1989, is divided into five main categories, containing 48 goals and 184 action items. It is a policy document that will last for the next generation and lays out a path forward for the community in that timespan, said Director of Planning Sabrina Charney Hull.

Broad topics in the plan are Livable Built Environment, which includes buildings, roads and infrastructure; Harmony With Nature, which addresses the environment; Resilient Economy, a section that will help the town prepare for economic changes; Healthy Community, a portion that discusses recreation and sustainability; and Responsible Regionalism, which explains how the town can interact and coordinate with neighboring municipalities regarding planning issues.

Town workshops collected input from various community stakeholders, including residents and merchants, to help shape the plan. It is expected to be adopted in the coming months by the town board.

"Public outreach has been a foundation of our Comprehensive Plan update," Hull said. "This is the community's document. continued on page 6

The Examiner-sponsored Green Team makes its way down Main Street last Saturday morning for the annual Mount Kisco Little League parade, which marks opening day of the league's season. Teams and coaches from the entire organization participated in the event, which ended at Leonard Park, where the games are played. For more photos from the parade and opening day ceremonies, see page 16.

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Fareri Fails to Sway No. Castle on Affordable Unit Relocation Pitch

By Martin Wilbur

Armonk developer Michael Fareri was once again rebuffed by North Castle officials last week in a last-ditch effort to persuade the town board to relocate six affordable units from the lumberyard project to Main Street.

Accompanied by a group of residents who support his unit relocation effort, including those from the nearby Wampus Close development that he built, Fareri addressed the town board before the close of its Apr. 19 meeting.

He reiterated previous comments that if the board refused to reconsider his request, he could file an Article 78 against the town, sell the lumberyard property located on Bedford Road or develop an all-affordable housing project at the site with as many as 48 units.

“We’re going to continue on with what I think is the right thing for the community and do what I think is right and let the courts decide, if need be, and if not, I’ll have to go to a Plan B, which isn’t something I would probably wind up building because it’s not what I believe is the right thing for this community,” Fareri said.

Fareri has been approved for a 36-unit project at the lumberyard, which includes 30 market-rate condominiums and six affordable units. However, he has argued that mixing different economic classes in the same building would cause problems regarding maintenance expenses and is not something he wants to do.

Instead, Fareri wants the six affordable units as part of the 16 units he is proposing at 470 Main St. Earlier this month, the town board granted him the special use permits to advance the Main Street project, which currently calls for 14 market-rate units and two affordable units, but he could also increase the number of affordable units. He still needs site plan approval.

Last week, Fareri also pointed out that the developers of the Brynwood Golf & Country Club, Armonk Square and the Cider Mill project have been allowed to relocate their affordable or middle income units to off-site locations.

“What is getting to me is that this town board they make me live by a separate set of rules than anybody else,” Fareri said last Thursday, the morning after the meeting.

A petition signed by the 29 residents at Wampus Close appealed to the board to reconsider its decision. Residents who spoke at last week’s meeting said that if tax revenue projections are accurate, it was puzzling why the town would opt for about $200,000 in total annual tax revenue under the current plan compared to having 30 market-rate units at the lumberyard which would generate about $100,000 more.

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Developer Michael Fareri will have to pursue other options after the North Castle Town Board refused to budge on moving the six affordable units from the lumberyard project to another Fareri proposal on Main Street in Armonk.

“I’m trying to understand why we could have a practical issue that would have less economic benefit to the town than another practical issue,” said resident Fred Rooney.

Another resident, Art Adelman, a former planning board member, said Fareri’s request would improve the project.

“This way you’ll have the same attractive project with 30 market-rate units because they can be bigger and because everyone knows there’s a need for this type of housing,” Adelman said.

However, Supervisor Michael Schiliro informed the residents that the board has made its decision on the issue.

“That process has passed,” Schiliro said.

“The applicant sits with a permit to build what he asked the town to build at the lumberyard and he got the special use permits to do what he wants to do at 470 Main St.”

Resident Susan Shimer, who does not live near the location and said she was not well-versed on the issue, advised the board to give it another look since units have been relocated in the past.

“So, there is precedent, and while I don’t know all the nuances, I sincerely think, or firmly believe this board should give it very serious consideration regardless of what its thoughts have been in the past, not because I want to (support) a particular project, but if it will be in the overall best interests of the town,” Shimer said.

Westchester County has informed Fareri it is no longer interested in acquiring the lumberyard property.
for seniors with disabilities, while the remainder of the units would be "senior enabled living," he said.

"Yesterday, the village board, made the decision again, now 10 years after the Federal Fair Housing Settlement was signed, to block seniors with disabilities from living in Mount Kisco," Mishkin said.

Anthony Veneziano, an attorney representing HFZ Capital, said his client would consider suing the village if the contract is not signed. He did not mention how long the partners would wait before moving forward with litigation.

"My clients will pursue their rights," Veneziano said.

Mishkin noted that the partners have been trying to open a senior housing facility since 2008 as part of a settlement of claim in the lawsuit filed against the village in 2002. The project was sold to developer Fortus-Hearth in 2012, with an agreement from the village that the housing application would be reviewed and ultimately approved by the village.

After extended inactivity, HFZ Capital recently surfaced as the new applicant. "We have tried to resolve this matter without bringing additional litigation but the Village of Mount Kisco had refused to meet," Mishkin said.

Singleton said any potential lawsuits against the village have no merit. All claims against the village from previous lawsuits in the matter have been dismissed, he said.

While Singleton has acknowledged that the village has not signed the contract to sell its property to HFZ Capital, the developer has not received "any third-party approvals from the DEP (New York City Department of Environmental Protection) or anyone else," he said.

The applicant must obtain site plan approval as well as special use, wetlands and steep slope permits from the planning board.

Mayor Michael Cindrich said he respects residents' rights to voice their opinions, but was concerned about the delay and the pattern of misinformation and inflammatory comments spread throughout the community about the project.

According to numbers provided by the developer, more than $15 million has been spent on the project, Cindrich said. The village has received about $2 million in taxes and contract payments.

"The people who contracted with the village to (develop) the subject property were encouraged to do so by no less than a dozen elected Mount Kisco officials, encouraged by Mount Kisco appointed officials, consultants and village managers," Cindrich said. "Developers and operators of senior citizen housing have invested millions of dollars in good faith to achieve their goal."

Last week, Mount Kisco Village Historian Harry McCartney was one of several residents who opposed the sale of the property and called for a public hearing on the proposal. McCartney said the mountain is the "natural edifice that defines our town" and that the area should be preserved as open space.

"The most beautiful part of our village is that mountain," said resident Pat Reilly.

Conservation Advisory Council (CAC) Chairman Robert Liebman questioned whether the site, which is very steep, was appropriate to build senior housing.

Veneziano said the environmental issues being raised by project opponents had previously been addressed by the planning board. Only five of the nearly 18 acres would be developed, he said.

Furthermore, the building that would house the seniors has been reduced from three and a half to one and a half stories, Veneziano said.

Though the village board did not determine last week if a public hearing is warranted, Deputy Mayor Anthony Markus e-mailed a statement following last week's meeting.

"Speakers noted that there are many reasons why the development should not take place and requested a public hearing," Markus wrote. "The members of the village board will hold a meeting to decide whether or not to schedule a formal hearing."

The project is on the agenda for Tuesday night's planning board meeting.
Democratic County Exec Hopefuls Bash Astorino in Forum

By Martin Wilbur

Democratic county executive candidates Kenneth Jenkins and George Latimer vowed Sunday they would protect needed services, resolve outstanding issues related to the affordable housing settlement and support more inclusive policies in their administrations.

Joined by an enthusiastic crowd of supporters at a forum organized by nine progressive grassroots organizations in Croton-on-Hudson, the two hopefuls continually portrayed two-term incumbent Rob Astorino as a far-right ideologue who is out of step with mainstream Westchester values and even many Republicans.

A third candidate, Assemblyman Thomas Abinanti (D-Pleasantville), was also scheduled to attend but informed forum moderator Bruce Campbell.

Jenkins and Latimer argued that Astorino’s dogmatic approach of refusing to consider even a small tax hike may be politically popular but has jeopardized the county’s fiscal outlook. Westchester also remains the highest taxed county in the United States, they said. Under Astorino, county government has had flat taxes in the United States, they said. Under Astorino, county government has had flat taxes

Astorino’s dogmatic approach of refusing to the affordable housing settlement is "masquerading as standing up to the federal government," said Jenkins.

"I’m running for county executive to be your county executive because I know we deserve better,” he said. “I know we can do better. My plan gets us there.”

Latimer, a state senator from Rye who serves the 37th Senate District, said in three of his four years when he served as Board of Legislators chairman before becoming a state legislator taxes were zero. Growing revenue along with small tax increases when needed is a healthier alternative rather than borrowing for operating expenses.

"What we’re seeing now is an ideological approach that says we are not going to raise taxes," Latimer said. "All of these things will come due, and when they come due, what will suffer is not the fiscal policy alone, we’re going to suffer in our environment, in our transportation in our affordable housing.”

Both candidates pledged that the remaining affordable housing issues would be resolved shortly after they would take office. Last week it was reported that the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) once again found the county’s Analysis of Impediments (AI) to zoning to be insufficient. Jenkins said the main issues have been source of income, submitting an AI that is acceptable to the federal government and how to deal with municipalities that do not comply with the agreement.

Latimer said he would head to Washington with a team of county officials and find common ground with HUD.

“We want affordable housing that would be acceptable to everybody and I guarantee within a month we will have turned a corner on this issue,” Latimer said.

Restoring the county’s Human Rights Commission would send a strong message to the public, particularly when the JCC of Mid-Westchester was receiving threats and there were other hate incidents earlier this year, the candidates agreed. Both said it would be properly staffed.

The two candidates also said they work to make restore vital services such as health, mental health and transportation. Jenkins said one idea he has is to use 10 percent of the county’s $400 million corrections budget to fund programs for youths.

“It will help our school districts, it will help save money for our school districts," Jenkins said. "It will help make sure that social services will have less pressure on them. At the end of the day, that’s the kind of forward thinking we need to have.”

Latimer reiterated that he would bow out of the race should he fail to gain support at the May 10 Democratic convention. The party should unify and not force the unnecessary expenditure of money, he said.

However, Jenkins said he would press ahead to a Sept. 12 primary if he’s not selected because Democratic voters should have a choice.

Both candidates said turning out Democratic voters, who are often unmotivated in off election years, is a key to defeating Astorino in November.

“IT’s all about taking a message and packaging a winning strategy,” Jenkins said. “We all understand this is what it’s all about.”

The organizations that co-sponsored the event are Action Together Northern Westchester; Indivisible CD 17; Indivisible Rivertowns; Indivisible Pleasantville; Up2Us; Up & Up Action Initiative; and Yorktown Together.

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New Castle Kicks Off Comprehensive Plan Public Hearing

continued from page 1

It's based on your hopes and dreams for New Castle.

At the Apr. 18 hearing, about a half dozen speakers delivered comments, each focusing on a different topic with tone ranging from complimentary to negative.

Resident Elizabeth Hamyson said that as a lifelong Chappaqua resident whose family has been in town for multiple generations, she was concerned that the proposed plan is too development friendly, which could contribute to the town losing its character.

Astorino Promises No New Taxes in State of the County Address

continued from page 1

Bio-Science and Technology Center. Earlier this month, the county board approved a lease with Fareri Associates on 60 acres of county-owned property at the Grasslands campus in Mount Pleasant. When finished, the project is expected to generate $9 million in estimated real estate taxes, $7 million in projected annual rent to Westchester County and 12,000 jobs.

Astorino said the county is seeking to enter into a public-private partnership for the airport as part of an FAA program. Bids are due back in 90 days.

Of the County Address

Astorino asked the Board of Legislators to join him in a lawsuit to ward off the closure of Indian Point. He cited the potential loss of billions of dollars to the county and local communities. The lawsuit charges that Gov. Andrew Cuomo failed to follow the state Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) before announcing plans to close the plant.

One of the objectives of the plan is to bring a greater mix of housing for seniors, empty-nesters and young adults, with an eye at including some residences in downtown Chappaqua.

“The whole document, it doesn't ever say anything about making sure that the existing residential uses, that we look at preserving the mix that we have, so not changing that mix,” Hamyson said.

Supervisor Robert Greenstein responded that one of the town's challenges is that many seniors can't afford to stay in New Castle and many young families can't afford to move in. The goal, Greenstein said, is to give those households a place to stay.

“There's actually plenty of people who would like to sell their houses if they had an option to move in the community,” Greenstein said. “They love the community, they have their friends and this is their community and they don't have anywhere to go.”

Another resident, Annette Clearwaters, who attended some of the outreach sessions, said she was uncertain how the information in the plan will translate into actual changes. She recalled one session where there were four different proposals to revitalize downtown Chappaqua, and asked how that could be implemented.

“From a resident's perspective, when I think of a Comprehensive Plan, I mean I appreciate this, but to some extent this is just collating everything people said, obviously, what got more comments and more support,” Clearwaters said.

Councilwoman Lisa Katz said the Comprehensive Plan doesn't dictate where a particular building should be placed, but recommends broader goals resulting potentially in zoning changes and overtures to developers. Board members have indicated that following adoption, the board will address the set of action items it wants to prioritize each year.

“If we waited to do that and we waited to develop every one of the 184 action items on there, the town would never get a plan done,” Katz said.

Kristen Browde, the Democratic nominee for supervisor, delivered the most critical comments of the evening, taking to task Greenstein and the board majority for spending four years on a plan that calls for additional study. She also said the process largely cut out the town's planning board from having meaningful input.

“(That) it took us four years to produce this document shows exactly what's wrong here,” Browde said. “It took four years for this administration to say we need to study this problem more, and that's what the action is – study it more.”

The hearing is expected to resume at Tuesday night's board meeting. Greenstein said there could be several more sessions in the weeks ahead.

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MOUNT KISCO'S OLDEST JEWELRY STORE
New Castle Mulls Bank Moratorium for Downtown Chappaqua

By Martin Wilbur

New Castle is weighing whether to enact a moratorium on banks moving into downtown Chappaqua as the town board is moving closer to adopting its new Comprehensive Plan.

The possibility of placing a temporary ban on new banks in the hamlet, discussed at last week's board work session, comes as Wells Fargo has announced it is moving out of 75 S. Greeley Ave. in June and will consolidate operations with the bank's Pleasantville branch, said Supervisor Robert Greenstein.

Officials hope to take a likely six-month or one-year break to reassess the downtown as zoning changes may be considered as part of the town's strategy to revitalize the commercial center. Since the start of the Comprehensive Plan update process, the town board has been talking about how best to achieve an attractive mix of stores that will draw foot traffic to downtown.

"I think most people would agree that we have too many banks," Greenstein said. "I don't think we need any more banks, so I think maybe it's a good time to discuss a moratorium as we're about to adopt a Comp Plan."

However, any moratorium targeting a specific use would have to be well-researched and written to protect the town from potential legal challenges. Town Attorney Nicholas Ward-Willis, who called the idea a bit unusual, said that banks are considered retail.

"It's something we need to look into because it's not something that you can walk into without being careful and make sure you're doing it correctly," Ward-Willis said.

The town would also have to show what it's studying to justify a moratorium, he said.

While most of the board understood Greenstein's reasoning, Councilwoman Hala Makowska said she was skeptical whether the town should be heavily influencing types of uses. Instead, it should address the matter when it discusses the 184 action items listed in the proposed Comprehensive Plan.

"If we have another bank come in – I think the odds are very low – that's fine, but if the retail mix is important to downtown zoning, we should now step up to the plate and put it as a high priority action item and get the retail mix so we actually have a rationale rather than a specific point of time at a specific business that's pulling out of one building," Makowska said.

However, Greenstein responded that the board isn't going to delve into 184 items at once but would prioritize about five to seven each year.

The board is likely to discuss the issue again in the upcoming weeks.
OBITUARIES

Robert Barr

Robert A. Barr, a longtime Mount Pleasant resident, passed away peacefully at Skyview Nursing Home in Croton-on-Hudson on April 22, his 88th birthday.

Barr was born and raised on Barnhart Avenue in North Tarrytown. He attended North Tarrytown High School where he was a three-sport athlete in basketball, football and baseball. His love for baseball continued for many years after school and in the service as a windmill softball pitcher.

Barr married the love of his life and his best friend, Patricia Barr, in St. Teresa of Avila Church in North Tarrytown. They had five adoring children, Debbie (Donnie) Henken, Robert (Margaret), Michael (Maryly), Rick (Nina) and Beth (Drew) Roza. They had 12 grandchildren and five beautiful great-grandchildren. Barr was predeceased by his parents and two brothers.

Harry Carlson

Harry E. Carlson, Jr., formerly of Hawthorne, passed away on Feb. 19 after a long illness. He was 83.

Carlson is survived by his loving wife of 60 years, Elizabeth Carlson; his daughter, Kim Carlson, of Greensboro, Md.; son Glenn Carlson and daughter-in-law Denise Carlson of Richmond Hill, Ga. and son Scott Carlson of Yonkers. He is also survived by seven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

A Bedford Hills native, Carlson enlisted in the U.S. Navy one week after his 17th birthday to serve his country during the Korean War. He served aboard the aircraft carrier USS Tarawa during his four-year enlistment. He was awarded the National Defense Service Medal, Navy Occupation Service Medal with European Clasp, China Service Medal, United Nations Service Medal, Navy "E" Award: Good Conduct Medal and Korean Service Medal.

After returning home from his military service, Carlson began a 39-year career as a police officer in the Town of Rye Police Department. He retired from the Town of Rye Police Department in 1985. He was a strong advocate of procuring the best training and equipment for the department. Carlson was also instrumental in getting self-contained breathing apparatus that met NFPA standards on all apparatus out of concern for the safety of his men. He was a role model and mentor to many young firefighters during his tenure with the department.

Visititation will be held this Friday, Apr. 28 from 7 to 9 p.m. at Hawthorne Funeral Home. A memorial service will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, Apr. 29 at Kensico Cemetery; 273 Lakeview Ave. in Valhalla.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Alzheimer’s Association, P.O. Box 96011, Washington D.C. 20090.

Rocco Legato

Rocco Legato of Bedford Hills passed away surrounded by his loving family on Apr. 18 at Rosary Hill Home in Hawthorne. He was 71.

Legato was born in Calabria, Italy on Sept. 2, 1945, to Antonino and Francesca (nee Papalia) Legato. He is survived by his beloved wife, Lucille (nee Gleason, Legato); his sister, Conetta (Pasquale) Legato Papalia; brother Carmelo (Teresa) Legato; brother-in-law Antonio Cambareri; and by many nieces and nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews and friends. He was predeceased by his sister, Porsia Legato Cambareri.

Professionally, Legato worked for 39 years for the New York State Department of Transportation in Katonah. He was a member of the local Elks Club and was a Mason. He also was one of the first responders at the World Trade Center on 9/11. Visitation was at Cassidy-Flynn Funeral Home, Inc. in Mount Kisco on Apr. 21, which included a prayer service. There was a private interment on Apr. 22.

He retired from the Town of Rye Police Department in 1985. He was owner/operator of RAB Security until a year prior to his death.

Visititation is scheduled for Hawthorne Funeral Home on Tuesday, Apr. 25 from 4 to 8 p.m. A funeral Mass will be held at Holy Rosary Church in Hawthorne on Wednesday, Apr. 26 at 10 a.m., followed by interment at Sleepy Hollow Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, donations to Rosary Hill Home, 600 Linda Ave., Hawthorne, N.Y. 10532 would be appreciated.

COUNTY POLICE

Report of a possible larceny from a vehicle on Rustling Lane at 9:24 a.m. The complainant stated that a cell phone was taken from the vehicle.

Report of criminal mischief and a possible larceny on Hickory Kingdom Road at 5:48 p.m. The responding officer stated that the resident reported that the windows of a cottage on the property were damaged. The officer confirmed the damage.

A complainant reported at 8:10 p.m. that she believes her husband vandalized her vehicle at their Limestone Road residence.

A complainant reported at 3:59 p.m. that a 19-year-old student is acting hostile and aggressive because he did not want to comply with school orders.

Ap. 19: Between 7:19 and 10:25 a.m., there were seven overnight larcenies from vehicles reported by residents. The incidents were reported from Brookwood Road, Bedford Banksville Road, Mianus Drive, Cedar Hill Road and Hickory Kingdom Road.

A La Quinta Inn employee reported an apparent dispute between two guests in Room 138 at 8:54 a.m.

A report of a suspicious white Volkswagen driving slowly in the area of Wampus Elementary School and Crittenden Middle School on Wampus Avenue at 9:23 a.m. The complainant stated that the vehicle operator was wearing a hijab or garment covering the face.

Rochester Police Department

Apr. 15: A 31-year-old Croton-on-Hudson man was arrested on Roselle Avenue at 12:07 a.m. for domestic violence.

Apr. 18: Police responded to reports of a verbal dispute between two neighbors at 8:25 a.m. on Washington Avenue No charges were filed.

Apr. 20: A report of a larceny on Foxwood Drive at 12:10 p.m. Police could not provide additional information due to the ongoing investigation.

Please visit examiner.com for more local police reports.
No. Castle Contemplates Borrowing $4M to Speed Road Paving
By Martin Wilbur

The North Castle Town Board is planning to borrow up to $4 million to accelerate paving after the town's Budget and Finance Advisory Committee recommended the action if officials hope to quickly improve the roads.

Under the scenario laid out last week by the committee, the town could borrow the money within the next several months and add the roughly $1.15 million it set aside for repaving in this year's annual budget. If the town budgets another $1 million in 2018, it can complete about $6 million worth of repaving by the end of next year.

The town has been slowly increasing its repaving budget in recent years, moving it to $800,000 and $900,000 in 2015 and 2016, respectively. In each of those years, the town, with a general fund balance that currently stands at a robust $6.4 million, has transferred additional money. In all, it has spent $1.75 million and $2.5 million on paving the past two years, although most of the money spent last year was paving Windmill Farm's seven miles of road following completion of its $10 million water main replacement project.

As a result, 31 miles of the town's 92 miles of roads have been repaved in the past five years, improving the Pavement Condition Index (PCI) from a deficient 65 to 70, said committee member Alex Greene.

Greene said by borrowing the money, the town would be able to upgrade its PCI within two years to 76, which matches the highest in the county, without jeopardizing North Castle's bond rating. Greene said that roads in the Northeast rarely exceed an 80 PCI because of weather conditions.

“This is that shot in the arm that propels you forward and advances work in ways that otherwise could not be contemplated,” Greene said.

Town Administrator Joan Goldberg said it costs about $300,000 to pave one mile of road, although that figure varies depending on how extensive the repairs may be in a location and whether drainage on a road needs to be upgraded.

Debt service, which included repayment of principal, would cost about $400,000 a year for 15 years on $4 million, Greene said.

The town would still be required to place money in its annual operating budget to maintain the 76 PCI.

Supervisor Michael Schiliro, a proponent of an accelerated paving program, said the matter has been discussed and debated by the board for a few years and he urged his colleagues to make a decision.

“'This is the biggest quality-of-life issue in town,” Schiliro said. “Everybody drives a car and people are on the roads every single day.'

Other board members agreed and supported Schiliro's call to borrow the money.

"There's not one person who doesn't talk to me about roads," said Councilman Stephen D'Angelo.

Despite unanimity by the board, Goldberg indicated she was hesitant to support the borrowing plan. She said the town has improved its PCI by five points by increasing the paving line in the annual budget. By adding $400,000 of debt service, that would raise the Highway Department's annual payment in that line to more than $600,000, a level Goldberg characterized as “dangerous.”

“The issue with debt is it ties the town's hands,” she said. “Without debt, the town has the ability to constrain itself in a difficult year.'

But Greene said that if the town is in difficult fiscal shape in a given year, it won't have the money to do annual paving.

“I think if you're talking about not having the money, you're not going to have the money in either scenario," he said.

Greene estimated that it would take about 14 weeks from the time the town officially authorized moving ahead with borrowing until it received the money.

The board is planning to have further discussion on the matter at its work session Wednesday evening. The meeting is scheduled to begin at 6 p.m. at Town Hall.
Mary Althoff

Former Chappaqua resident Mary FitzSimmons Hellman Althoff, surrounded by her family, went home to be with the Lord on Easter Sunday, Apr. 16, at Greenville Memorial Hospital in Greenville, S.C. She was 85.

Born in Evanston, Ill. on Nov. 21, 1931, to Wesley and Martha Strickland Hellman, Althoff grew up in Chappaqua where she was an avid field hockey player at Horace Greeley High School and at Northwestern University. Upon graduating from Northwestern, she married Richard "Dick" Joseph Althoff of Detroit on June 19, 1954.

While raising five children in Chappaqua, Althoff used her artistic abilities to bring joy to many through her arts and crafts and oil paintings. She then embarked on a 40-year journey as a silversmith, creating beautiful sterling silver jewelry for generations to enjoy.

In 1976, with her family, she relocated to Roswell, Ga. where she became an avid golfer and continued her silversmithing. While a Hilton Head Island resident, Althoff was an active member of St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church in Beaufort, S.C. to be closer to family and attended St. Francis by the Sea Catholic Church and St. Francis Catholic Church School Endowment. She was predeceased by her husband, Thomas W. Althoff.

Althoff was an avid golfer and continued her silversmithing skills, but she enjoyed golfing and entertaining. She is survived by her five children, Cathy Kerr of Summerville, S.C., Cindy (JT) Thompson of Bountiful, Utah, Richard (Ashley) Althoff of Sarasota, Fla., Stephen (Cinda) Althoff of Greer, S.C. and Michael (Jill) Althoff of Hendersonville, N.C.; 12 grandchildren, Wesley, Alyssa and Meghan Althoff, Ashley, Amanda and Reid Althoff, Taylor, Wesley, Amelia and Victoria Thompson, Kyle (Madison) and Abigail Althoff; and two great-grandchildren, Brayden and Colton Althoff.

Family received visitors on Apr. 27 at Keith Funeral Home in Hilton Head Island, S.C. Following visitation, a Celebration of Life was held for family and friends at Hogs Head Kitchen & Wine Bar in Hilton Head Island. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on Apr. 28 at St. Francis by the Sea Catholic Church in Hilton Head Island. A private burial service for family followed at the Beaufort National Cemetery in Beaufort, S.C.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church School Endowment Fund, 307 Gower St., Greenville, S.C. 29611 and St. Francis by the Sea Catholic Church, 45 Beach City Rd., Hilton Head Island, S.C. 29926.

Mary Carmody

Mary (Jill) Carmody died on Apr. 8 at the Baptist Medical Center in Fernandina Beach, Fla. following a short illness. She lived in Osprey Village at Amelia Island Plantation, Fla. and in Katonah.

She was 87.

Carmody was the daughter of the late Mary and Edward F. Keating of Scarsdale. She was predeceased by her husband, Thomas W. Carmody. Carmody is survived by her four children, Meg (Steve) Roberts of Delmar, N.Y., Thomas (Ellen) of Waynne, N.J., Kevin (Cindy) of Portland, Ore. and Cathy (Jim) Nellis of Hinesburg, Vt.; her six children, Jessica (Jimmy) Green, Michelle, T.J., Kelly, Shannen and Victoria; her sister, Joan Keating, of Florida; and sisters-in-law Lila, Carole and Ann Keating. Her three brothers, Ed, Jack (her twin) and Dick, predeceased her.

Her high school years were spent at Convent of the Sacred Heart in Greenwich, Conn., followed by Newton College (now Boston College) in Chestnut Hill, Mass.

Frances Rinaldi

Frances J. Rinaldi of Pleasantville died on Apr. 16. She was 86.

Rinaldi, a homemaker, was born on Nov. 22, 1930, to the late Antonio and Antonina Armisto in Ossining. She was educated in the Town of Mount Pleasant, where she left school in the eighth grade in order to work and help support her family. This unselfish act was prominent throughout her life.

She married Alfonzo Rinaldi on Sept. 9, 1956, at Holy Innocents Church in Pleasantville. Their strong marriage lasted 60 years. She is also survived by her loving daughter, Ann Marie Rinaldi, of Pleasantville, and one brother, Joseph Armisto, of Florida.

Visitation was at Hawthorne Funeral Home on Apr. 20. Graveside services took place at Kensico Cemetery in Valhalla on Apr. 21.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the American Heart Association (www.donatenow.heart.org) or the Children’s Cancer Association (www.joyrx.org).

Anthony SanMarco

Anthony (Tony) Charles SanMarco, a longtime Hawthorne resident, passed away peacefully on Apr. 22 surrounded by his loving family.

He was 85.

SanMarco was born on Feb. 18, 1932, in New York City to Salvatore and Gertrude SanMarco. He grew up in New York City before meeting the love of his life, Vivian, and moving to Hawthorne. He is survived by his three children, Lorene Mettler, Anthony SanMarco and Debra Mancusi; seven grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews.

SanMarco was a retired truck driver, an armored car driver for Brinks security, a private chauffeur and an auxiliary police officer for the Town of Mount Pleasant. He enjoyed traveling with Vivian to their condo in Florida as well as taking many cruises. SanMarco also enjoyed watching classic movies and drinking an occasional scotch on the rocks. He took pride in his cars and loved taking his family for rides into the city or casino.

Although he had a tough exterior, underneath everyone knew he would do anything for his family and friends. He loved nothing more than spending time with everyone. He was always surrounded by family members and many friends who will always cherish their many happy memories. He led an energetic and full life filled with laughter and joy.

For many years, she sold real estate at Holmes & Kennedy in Chappaqua. She has always been involved in a variety of community and church activities. She enjoyed membership at the Mount Kisco Country Club and at The Amelia Island (Ocean) Club in Florida.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated this Saturday, Apr. 29 at 10 a.m. at Church of Saint John and Saint Mary (Upper Church) in Chappaqua, followed by interment at Gate of Heaven Cemetery in Valhalla. Visitation hours will be held at Beecher Flooks Funeral Home, Inc., located at 418 Bedford Rd. in Pleasantville, on Friday, Apr. 28 from 4 to 8 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, please make contributions to the American Heart Association (www.donatenow.heart.org) or the Children’s Cancer Association (www.joyrx.org).
Holocaust Victims Remembered at Solemn Ceremony

By Anna Young

Hundreds gathered at the Garden of Remembrance in White Plains Monday afternoon to commemorate the Holocaust during this year’s Yom HaShoah Holocaust Commemoration ceremony.

With the theme, “Keeping the Memory Alive: Generation to Generation,” the Holocaust and Human Rights Education Center partnered with the Westchester Jewish Council to reflect and honor the six million Jews that were killed.

A procession where more than 25 rescued Torahs that are housed in Westchester, a candle lighting ceremony and musical selections emphasized the solemn purpose of the gathering.

“Today we remember the six million Jews who were killed for the crime of being, of being who they were, for being Jewish,” said Rabbi David Holtz, president of the Westchester Board of Rabbis. “Today we honor the heroes and the martyrs, the victims and the survivors.”

Keynote speaker Esther Geizhals of Larchmont shared her story of survival after being sent to Auschwitz concentration camp in 1944 at 14 years old.

After arriving in Auschwitz with her mother and brother, her family was quickly separated as she was motioned to go right while the rest of her family was told to go to the left.

“I started to cry, I wanted to be with my mother and I started to run to the other side. Out of nowhere came an inmate who told me in Polish, 'Don't you dare move from here' and she stood and blocked my way,” Geizhals said. “They took me into the house, they shaved my hair and they disinfected me with a powder. They took my clothes away and gave me one single garment, a dress that was two sizes too big.”

After spending six weeks in Auschwitz, Geizhals was moved to two other camps, Bergen Belsen and Rochlitze in Czechoslovakia. In 1945, Geizhals managed to escape during a death march when eventually she was liberated by the Russian army.

“As the war came to an end, Geizhals returned to her hometown with the hope of finding a surviving member of her family. She soon found her way from Poland to an American zone in Germany, where she was able to travel to the United States in February 1947.”

“People who are born in this country, don't really appreciate how wonderful our country is,” said the 87-year-old survivor. “I'm here 70 years and I'm a very loyal citizen.”

“If we had Israel in 1939, we wouldn't have lost six million Jews, who were killed because they were born Jewish,” Geizhals added.

Congressman Eliot Engel, who spoke at the event, said he believes the best way to honor those who were murdered is to make sure the United States continues to show its support to Israel.

“That's the way we can remember all of the family members and all of the people who perished because we have to always continue to say, no matter what, no matter all the tragedies, the people of Israel live,” Engel said.

As survivors continue to pass away, the remaining few believe the importance of sharing their stories and experiences with the younger generation so genocide never happens again.

“We must share our stories for the new generation to remember what happened to us,” said Bettina Graf, a New Rochelle resident and survivor from Vienna.

“Her (Geizhals) story of survival gives life to the history, to the death march, concentration camps, and the ghettos and her story is a reminder of why we mourn the loss of six million lives,” County Executive Rob Astorino said. “We’re blessed to know those who survived, we’re blessed to know Esther and we are obligated to reflect on her memories to carry her experiences with us in our hearts.”

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Following several months of contentious meetings earlier this school year, six candidates submitted petitions to contest two seats in next month’s Chappaqua Board of Education election. The candidates that will be listed on the ballot are Sanford Benardo, Rhonda Kaufman, Leah Heiss, Dean Rock, Jane Shepardson and Victoria Tipp, the board’s current vice president. Kaufman was defeated last spring by incumbents Warren Messner and Jeffrey Mester in a three-candidate race for two seats. The five-member board’s other incumbent whose term expires this year, Karen Visser, is not running for re-election.

Interest in this year’s trustee election figured to be high after the current board was heavily criticized by large crowds who attended a series of public board meetings last fall in the wake of the Christopher Schraufnagel scandal. Also on the May 16 ballot are the candidates for the Chappaqua Library Board election. Ronni Diamondstein and Leslie Wertheim are running for those seats.

Mount Pleasant School Board Sends $58.95M Budget to Voters

By Neal Rentz

The Mount Pleasant Board of Education voted unanimously last Tuesday to approve a $58.95 million 2017-18 budget that meets the state-mandated property tax cap. Following the Apr. 18 meeting, Superintendent of Schools Dr. Susan Guiney said the final budget is little changed from her originally proposed spending plan.

Guiney said the estimated tax rate increase would be 1.3 percent and the tax levy would rise 1.28 percent, the district’s ceiling for next year to still comply with the cap. Spending is proposed to increase $649,000 over the current budget, she said.

Though the district meets the tax cap, crafting the budget was a challenging process. “It absolutely was a difficult budget to put together, having to stay within the tax cap,” Guiney said.

The spending plan calls for the reduction of 3.6 teaching positions districtwide, mainly due to expected student enrollment declines, she said. Some electives at Westlake High School will not be offered next year due to insufficient student enrollment.

District residents will have the chance to vote on the 2017-18 budget on Tuesday, May 16 from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. in the Westlake High School gymnasium.
Mt. Kisco Drug Take Back Day Slated Set for This Saturday

By Neal Rentz

The Village of Mount Kisco is taking part in the national effort to prevent abuse of prescription drugs.

Mount Kisco Partners in Prevention and the Mount Kisco Drug and Alcohol Abuse Prevention Council are co-sponsoring the semiannual Prescription Drug Take Back Day this Saturday, Apr. 29 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the police station located at 40 Green St.

Village residents are encouraged to drop off their unused, unwanted or outdated prescription medications. The medications will be turned over to the federal Drug Enforcement Agency for proper disposal.

Residents should obscure or personally remove identifying information from the packaging.

“We participate in the national Prescription Drug Take Back Day on a local level to safely and properly dispose of prescriptions from our community,” said Domingo Maceira, coordinator for Partners in Prevention. “Removing these drugs from the home minimizes the risk they may be found by teens or children.”

The village began participating in the program for eight years, Maceira noted.

Mel Berger, chairman of the Drug and Alcohol Abuse Prevention Council who has spearheaded Mount Kisco’s participation in the national effort, said the idea is to prevent prescription drugs from being abused.

“Prescription drugs that languish in home medicine cabinets are highly susceptible to diversion, misuse and abuse,” he said. “We encourage all residents to clear out their medicine chests and bring the unwanted prescriptions to the collection site.”

For more information about Drug Take Back Day, call Maceira at 914-356-5569 or e-mail dmcmkpartners@gmail.com.
Guest Column

It Can Wait: Distracted Driving a Danger to Everyone on the Road

By Marissa Shorenstein and Anthony B. Spada

Spring is the season of life, a time of renewed energy and growth. It is a time when more people take to the roads and sidewalks and revel in warmer weather. Despite the vibrant colors of the flowers, the sound of children playing outdoors, April is also Distracted Driving Awareness Month, a month in which we also face the grim reminder that distracted driving is as dangerous as ever.

As technology improves, the ability to stay connected to our friends, family and social media rests at our fingertips. But you must remember, the decision to take your eyes off the road is not worth a life. We may be heading to different destinations, but we are all on this road together.

This message couldn’t be more important as AAA research shows that 81 percent of drivers say texting and e-mailing while driving is a very serious threat to safety. AT&T research shows that more than 9 in 10 people consider smartphone distracted driving to be dangerous, yet 7 in 10 engage in smartphone activities while driving.

Though the majority of drivers are aware of the dangers of distracted driving, despite the warnings, they continue the risky behavior. This is why AT&T and AAA remain committed to educating the public on the increasing dangers of distracted driving, and social media endangers the lives of the drivers around you, children riding their bikes and the mother crossing the street with her newborn baby.

The campaign has inspired more than 15 million pledges – and counting – from people across the country to not drive distracted. Take the pledge at ItCanWait.com. One pledge could save a life.

Another tool is AT&T DriveMode, a free app that silences incoming text message alerts when your car reaches 15 miles per hour.

Both AAA and AT&T are proud to support the efforts of It Can Wait – and we encourage all drivers to do so. The message is simple: keep your eyes on the road and not on your phone.

Marissa Shorenstein is the New York President/Senior Vice President of AT&T and Anthony Spada is president and CEO at AAA Western and Central New York and President of AAA New York State.

Letter to the Editor

Bedford School Board Candidate Pledges to Make the Tough Decisions

My name is Bill Canavan, and I have decided to run for the Bedford Central School District Board of Education this spring.

As a Bedford resident for the past 22 years, and a father of three children currently in the district, I believe that this is the ideal time for me to run for the board. Progress has been made here over the past year by the new board of education. The board’s recent adoption of a fiscally responsible budget that stays under the state’s property tax cap and puts money into the reserves is another indication that things are moving in the right direction. I would like to join these hard-working trustees to maintain the positive momentum that we have recently seen.

For a decade, my view from the sidelines has been an unsettling one, as I’ve witnessed the problems plaguing our school district. I’ve wanted to pitch in and offer solutions, but now realize the best way to affect change is to actually serve at the board level.

As a scientist and successful entrepreneur who has just embarked on my 18th year in business, I believe that I am a most qualified candidate to analyze the data available to us, understand both sides of the equation and make the tough decisions that must be made for the overall welfare of our students and community. I pledge that as your elected representative on this board, I will work tirelessly for the betterment of our most important commodity and our future: our children.

I believe that academic excellence, balanced with fiscal sustainability, can and will be a reality here with strong leadership and new ideas. We deserve great schools, strong property values and residents who are thrilled with both. This is a beautiful area, filled with talented families. I seek to inject more common sense into our school system and ask for your support.

Please vote Marissa Scanlan and Bill Canavan on May 16.

Bill Canavan
Bedford

Mount Pleasant Library Book Sale on Tap This Week

The Friends of the Mount Pleasant Public Library will hold its semiannual book sale starting this Thursday Apr. 27 and running through Tuesday, May 2 at the main library in Pleasantvile. The sale begins with the Friends’ Preview Sale on Apr. 27 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. for members only. (Anyone from the public can join the organization at the door.) The sale continues for the general public on Apr. 28 from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Apr. 29 from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. That is followed by Bag Day on Sunday, Apr. 30 from 1 to 4:30 p.m. On Monday, May 1, there will be the All You Can Carry Sale from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., which is free for members but carries a $10 admission charge for the general public. Any leftover books will be free on Tuesday, May 2 from 10 a.m. to noon.

The Mount Pleasant Public Library is located at 350 Bedford Rd. in Pleasantville. For more information, call 914-769-0548 or visit www.mountpleasantlibrary.org.
know your Neighbor

Cindy Schmerler, Alzheimer's Advocate/Journalist, Pleasantville

By Martin Wilbur

Cindy Schmerler and her family watched helplessly as they saw her mother decline.

Her mom, a longtime bridge player, 7-handicap golfer and a lifelong volunteer, had been active into her retirement years with Schmerler's dad. But the day came when any denials about her condition could no longer be ignored, especially since Schmerler's father, who was 10 years older than her mother, was the primary caregiver.

"I saw my mother firsthand every single day," Schmerler said. "I was there when I found the slipper in the refrigerator down in Florida, and I knew immediately at that point."

The family sought help at some of the top university Alzheimer's programs in the United States, but it was too late. In 2010, her mother succumbed to the disease, about 10 years after the family first suspected of a problem, when she fell down the stairs at Schmerler's Pleasantville house.

Since her mother's passing Schmerler has dedicated herself to volunteering for the Alzheimer's Association to help raise money to find a cure for the disease – or at least preventative measures.

The task is daunting as reported cases of Alzheimer's continue to spiral. There are now about five million Americans with the disease; it is projected that number will more than triple by 2050, Schmerler said. Combined with threatened cuts to the National Institute of Health, which has some of the top researchers in the field, steady progress has been made, but the race is on to do more.

"Alzheimer's is not a sexy disease because if affects older people," Schmerler said. "But guess what? We're all getting older and everyone will, and we all know someone who's been affected by this now."

Last week Schmerler, 58, an award-winning journalist and broadcaster who has mainly covered tennis during her career, was named co-chair of this year's Westchester Walk to End Alzheimer's, a roughly 2.5-mile walk scheduled for Sunday, Sept. 24 at SUNY Purchase. She will be sharing the duties with Neil Klar, a Katonah resident. More than 2,000 people are expected to attend.

The event is the largest effort in the world to raise money for Alzheimer's research and awareness. Last year, the five walks in the Hudson Valley raised more than $1 million, according to the Alzheimer's Association.

Despite juggling career and family responsibilities – Schmerler has a son and daughter – efforts haven't waned since her mother's death.

"Right after my mother passed away in September 2010, my feeling was I have to be part of the solution, as I would be doing a huge disservice to the memory of my mother and to my father, who at the time was 91," she said.

The time she spends on behalf of the Alzheimer's Association is impressive considering her work has taken her around the globe covering some of the biggest events and personalities in tennis. Schmerler is a contributing editor at Tennis magazine and her work has appeared in The New York Times, The Boston Globe and USA Today, among other publications.

What's amazing about tennis is it's such an international sport. It taught me geography, it taught me about people, so I wouldn't trade anything that I've done."

While she continues her career, Schmerler also wouldn't trade the work she's done on behalf of the Alzheimer's Association. She said researchers know what causes and are working on preventative measures to delay the onset of the disease.

During her more than six years since she started volunteering, Schmerler has also noticed an increased willingness for people to talk about Alzheimer's. She also encourages families who have loved ones with Alzheimer's to remain as independent as possible.

"They're living their lives doing everything that they can," Schmerler said. "Maybe they're slowing down a bit and maybe they're not driving anymore. These aren't people who should be hidden away in a closet. They're very, very much alive and thriving and they have a really rotten, rotten disease, but as long as they can they're trying to be very productive members of society."

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For ballplayers of any age, there’s always tremendous anticipation when opening day arrives and that was certainly true last Saturday morning in Mount Kisco. The Mount Kisco Little League kicked off its 2017 season with its customary parade through the village’s downtown, all the way to Leonard Park, where the players take the diamond and compete. Even though it wasn’t a perfect spring day, a little bit of rain couldn’t dampen the enthusiasm of all those involved, including some of the adults who joined in the festivities. Good luck to all the players this season.

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If My House is Dusty, Am I a Bad Person?

If we are made from dust and shall return to dust, as the Bible tells us, does that give us a pass to live with the stuff during the time in between?

While dust is inevitable, it horrifies some of us, as though its presence on our furniture and floors tells the world something unflattering about us, not only as housekeepers, but as human beings.

And some of us just don’t care.

I remember an interview long ago in The New York Times in which an eccentric artist said she hadn’t dusted her apartment in over 30 years, saying, “after the first two years or so, you really can’t tell the difference.” That kind of empirical research really impresses me.

In the HBO movie “Grey Gardens,” Jackie Kennedy Onassis’s aunt and cousin, Edie Beale, and her daughter, are depicted as living in squalor in a neglected ramshackle house, with garbage strewn throughout and a hoard of cats and raccoons relieving themselves on the floor. When Onassis arrives to help remedy the situation and registers her shock at the condition of the property, Edie dismisses the condition of her living environment by saying simply that her daughter “hasn’t been keeping up with the dusting.”

Is inattention to dust the first degenerative step to chaos in the home? Maybe for some. A recent survey revealed that 83 percent of us are happier in a clean house and the act of cleaning itself gives 57 percent of the population a feeling of satisfaction. Furthermore, it shows that 38 percent of women and 24 percent of men experience real stress living in a messy environment.

It would seem that, especially in times of stress, dusting and cleaning can be therapeutic. Psychologists have found that there is a marked difference in mood before and after cleaning, just as with a therapy session.

Professor Carol Nemeroff, director of Social and Behavioral Sciences at the University of Southern Maine, said this psychological boost may be derived from biological programming to clean out our nests.

“And because we know that good hygiene leads to good health,” she said, “cleaning may ultimately be related to a basic survival instinct.”

Wow, get out that dust rag.

For those who still don’t feel like dusting, it may be motivating to know that dust is composed largely of our own flaking skin cells. Now that we know what it contains and that it can cause real stress, does this explain the expression “uncomfortable in our own skin?”

Add to our skin cells other flaky stuff such as fabric fibers, dust mite excrement, hair, pet dander, pollen and regular dirt and debris, and you have a pretty nasty brew that can give people allergies and breathing problems a real hassle.

There are both fancy and simple ways to get rid of dust. The fancy way is with an air purifier of which there are two types: those with fans that pull air through filters and those called electrostatic precipitators in which an electrical charge is applied to the dust drawn into the device and captured on oppositely charged plates. Both are available as either portable units, which offer varying degrees of effectiveness depending on the model, or as whole-house systems. Prices range from $100 for a portable model to over $1,000 for a whole-house system.

But, among the houses I’ve listed or sold, I was aware of only one couple that had a whole-house air purifier system. So, unless people are plagued by allergies, I suspect that most of us dust with old-fashioned elbow grease, using either regular rags or one of those new magic dusters to which particles cling, such as the Swiffer Sweeper or Pledge Grab-It Cloths. Because the latter option can be expensive, a regular rag can be just as effective if dampened before use and cleaned frequently.

I definitely do not recommend a feather duster because it merely spreads the dust around.

It’s funny how the exploratory process can affect you. As I sit at my computer, I’m very aware and uncomfortable in the knowledge that there is a lot of dust trapped between the keys of the keyboard. Are the raccoons soon to follow?


By Bill Primavera

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WE’LL help you SAVE MONEY on your heating and cooling bills!
By Colette Connolly

Since its opening three months ago, 5 Spice Tea House & Restaurant is fast becoming the go-to eatery of choice for Asian fusion lovers who appreciate the eatery's flavorful dishes made from fresh, wholesome ingredients.

Located in what was once the Old Town Tea House on Mount Kisco's South Moger Avenue, the restaurant, under the experienced eye of general manager Tony Chen, offers a delicious combination of Thai, Malaysian and Szechuan cuisine.

Chen, who previously managed other Asian fusion restaurants in New York City and also worked in restaurant sales, is a near constant presence in the renovated space. The father of two said he likes the change of pace in Mount Kisco and is excited about offering local customers the chance to try the restaurant's unique dishes.

Some of those include the Vietnamese Black Pepper Steak Cube, served with bok choy and carrot in a spicy pepper sauce; the Malaysian Red Curry, consisting of chicken, beef or shrimp with tofu, potato, red pepper, sweet bean, string bean and eggplant in a coconut curry sauce; and the Singapore Mei Fun.

A section on the menu called Classic Delicacies is sure to please. Items such as fresh broccoli in garlic sauce, mixed vegetables in brown sauce, eggplant in garlic sauce, bok choy in fresh minced garlic and sambal sauce can be combined with a choice of bean curd, steak cube, white meat chicken, shrimp, beef or scallop.

For the health-conscious eater, 5 Spice Tea House has a steamed mixed vegetable dish on the menu that can be eaten with either white sauce, black bean sauce or garlic sauce on the side. Customers can choose from tofu, shrimp, chicken or scallops as add-ons.

Gluten-free dishes are also available upon request.

Chen said a few dishes are fast becoming favorites among the restaurant's loyal customers. They include the steamed soupy buns, the Szechuan pork and shrimp wonton and Gyoza, otherwise known as pan fried dumplings.

True to its name, the restaurant offers a variety of teas, including black tea, fruit green tea and special flower tea, made from green tea buds and a choice of natural fresh flowers, such as jasmine, chrysanthemum and rose.

Also popular is the restaurant's bubble tea, a Taiwanese tea-based drink, that contains pearl milk and chewy tapioca balls.

Turning out high quality cuisine is a priority at 5 Spice Tea House & Restaurant. If a dish is not up to par, the chef must start over, Chen said.

"I personally taste everything before it leaves the kitchen to make sure it's on point," he said.

The restaurant, which also has a $25 minimum delivery service, currently offers a three-course prix fixe dinner menu for $19.98. The special includes starter, soup or salad and an entrée.

Lunch at 5 Spice is equally satisfying and a good value at $10. It includes an entrée and choice of miso soup, wonton soup, hot and sour soup or house salad, and can be paired with white or brown rice.

Located at 11A S. Moger Ave., 5 Spice Tea House & Restaurant is open Monday through Thursday from 11 a.m. to 9:30 p.m.; Friday from 11 a.m. to 10:30 p.m.; Saturday from 12 to 10:30 p.m.; and Sunday from 12 to 9:30 p.m. Call 914-666-8882 or 914-666-8883 to order. A full menu can be found on www.yelp.com.
Happenings

Tuesday, Apr. 25

**Drop-in Tech Help.** Drop in for help with any of your technology devices. Mount Kisco Public Library, 100 E. Main St., Mount Kisco. 4:30 to 6 p.m. Free. Every Tuesday. Info: 914-666-8041 or www.mountkiscolibrary.org.

**RUBIX CUBE: The 80's Strike Back!** RUBIX KUBES is taking the universe by storm as the most original '80s tribute band of all time. It's more than just a cover band, it's a totally awesome, true '80s experience. Led by a male and female dynamic duo of karma chameleons able to transform to the voice and character of any '80s icon. Madonna, Michael Jackson, Cher, Prince, Devo, Bon Jovi, Guns N' Roses and more are right before your eyes on the same stage in one concert. Westchester Broadway Theatre, 1 Broadway Plaza, Elmsford. Dinner at 6:15 p.m. Show at 8 p.m. $84 per person (plus tax). Show only: $50 per person (plus tax). Info and tickets: 914-592-2222 or www.broadwaytheatre.com.

**Demystifying Medicare.** For anyone trying to navigate their way through our complicated healthcare system for older adults. An engaging, interactive program that outlines Medicare and explains the costs associated with medical and drug insurance provided by the government and private companies. Presented by the Westchester Library System's Westchester Seniors Out Speaking, Phelps Hospital Auditorium, 701 N. Broadway, Sleepy Hollow. 6:30 to 9:15 p.m. Free. Registration required. Info and registration: 914-366-3177.

**Italian Language and Culture.** Mara De Matteo, born and raised in Italy and passionate about her native language, combines lively conversation with grammatical instruction in her classes. She creates interactive lessons on the richness of Italian culture, past and present, through real-life anecdotes, literature, personal memoirs, films and even songs. Recommended for children two-and-a-half to five years old. Mount Pleasant Public Library, 350 Bedford Rd., Pleasantville. 3 to 4 p.m. Free. Wednesdays through June 14. Info: 914-769-0548 or www.mountpleasantlibrary.org.

**Pound Fitness Program.** A 45-minute full-body jam session that combines cardio, Pilates, plyometrics and isometric movements and poses with the excitement and euphoria of drumming. Using lightweight drumsticks called Ripstix, you’ll rock your entire body into beautiful shape while torching calories, isolating core muscles and strengthening coordination and balance. Dance Emotions, 75 S. Greely Ave., Chappaqua. 10:15 a.m. $20. Every Wednesday. Also Saturdays at 11:15 a.m. RSVP required. Info and registration: Contact Peggy at 914-960-4097.

**Mommy Meet-up.** Whether you just gave birth to your first or fourth child, join us and enjoy time to meet and chat with other new moms in the Romperee Indoor Playground. This is not a structured class, but rather an opportunity to hang out with your new baby. We also invite guest speakers to come and share their expertise about various topics that interest parents of newborns. World Cup Schools, 160 Hunts Lane, Chappaqua. 10:15 to 11 a.m. Free. Every Wednesday through June 21. Info: 914-238-9267.

**Adult Coloring Club.** It’s a relaxing, analog stress-reducer that can give you a sense of accomplishment. Coloring also provides a creative outlet to people who may not be trained artists. The library provides colored pencils and intricate mandala patterns, just bring your creativity. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whippoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 10:30 a.m. Free. Every Wednesday. Info: 914-273-3887 or www.northcastlilelibrary.org.

**Toddler Storytime.** Finger plays, action rhymes, songs and stories to encourage an enjoyment of books and to stimulate early listening, learning and speaking skills. Recommended for children one to two-and-a-half years old. Mount Pleasant Public Library, 350 Bedford Rd., Pleasantville. 10:30 to 11 a.m. Free. Every Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Info: 914-769-0548 or www.mountpleasantlibrary.org.

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

**Storytime.** For children 18 months to five years old. Mount Kisco Public Library, 100 E. Main St., Mount Kisco. 11:15 to 11:45 a.m. Free. Every Wednesday and Thursday. Info: 914-666-8041 or www.mountkiscolibrary.org.

**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.mountpleasantlibrary.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.

**Tech Help.** Tech help is available and will be provided by local high school students. Drop in with your tablet, smartphone or laptop. A librarian will also be available to assist with more technical questions. Mount Pleasant Public Library, 350 Bedford Rd., Pleasantville. 3 to 4 p.m. Free. Wednesdays, through June 14. Info: 914-769-0548 or www.mountpleasantlibrary.org.

**Exploration Club.** A group for the Boundless opportunities to discover and create! Explore a new theme each week incorporating literacy and a variety of hands-on activities (science, art and more). Recommended for children five to seven years old. Mount Pleasant Public Library, 350 Bedford Rd., Pleasantville. 3:30 to 4:15 p.m. Free. Also May 10 and 24. Info: 914-769-0548 or www.mountpleasantlibrary.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.

**Art Series: Sevada Gregoryan.** In remembrance of the anniversary of the Armenian Genocide over 100 years ago, we will look at the bright and hopeful works of this unique folk artist. Currently living and working in China, this Armenian-born artist’s work is brimming with hope and symbolism. In addition, we will also look at the work of French-born Jewish folk artist Jovan Obican. Discussion led by Professor Valerie Franco. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whippoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 7 p.m. Free. Info: 914-273-3887.

**Separation/Divorce Support Group.** A new group for men and women separated, in the process of separating or post-divorce. Establishes a safe place where attendees can deal with the pain and loneliness brought about by the ending of a significant relationship. This nondenominational group will use the 12 Steps to focus on its members and the choices made to cope and adjust. Lutheran Church of the Resurrection, 15 S. Bedford Rd., Mount Kisco. $10. Every Wednesday, 7 to 8:30 p.m. Info: Contact Ilene Amiel at 914-980-0898 or e-mail 12stepdivorcegroup@gmail.com or visit www.meetup.com/Mount-Kisco-12-step-Separation-Divorce-Support-Meetup.

**The William H. L. Donat Commemoration.** Distinguished award-winning author and Harvey Nagorski will talk about those who searched for and prosecuted Nazis at the Nuremberg and Dachau trails. Nagorski spent more than three decades as a foreign correspondent and editor for Newsweek. Both of his more recent books, “Hitlerland: American Eyewitnesses to the Nazi Raise to Power” and “The Nazi Hunters,” have received critical acclaim. Followed by a book signing. Iona College’s Ryan Hall, 715 North Ave., New Rochelle. 7:30 p.m. Free. Info: Contact Julie Scallero at 914-696-0738 or jscallero@hhrccny.org.

**Thursday, Apr. 27**

**Knitting Circle.** This group is open to everyone who has an interest in knitting. Live, love, laugh, learn and have fun together during these creative journeys. Responsibilities include patterns and ideas and celebrate creative spirits together while enjoying the ancient art of knitting. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whippoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Free. Every Monday and Thursday. Info: 914-273-3887.

**Bridge for Beginners With Joel Goren.** Classes for beginners who want to learn the basics of bridge. The lessons are designed for players with little or no previous knowledge of bridge. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whippoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 10:15 a.m. Free. Info: 914-273-3887 or www.northcastleread.org.

**Toddler Storytime.** Finger plays, action continued on page 28
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Camp Saw Mill Introduces Yoga Curriculum for Children

Camp Saw Mill is ushering in its 24th year as one of the county’s leading summer day camps for children 2 to 10 years old.

Based at the Saw Mill Club in Mount Kisco, the luxury camp is renowned for its early developmental programming through gentle instruction and freestyle play within the club’s elite core offerings of tennis and aquatics. Ancillary play within the club’s elite core offerings through gentle instruction and freestyle play, such as music, science and literacy, the latter of which bridges the gap between the end of one school year and the beginning of the next and keeps kids actively learning.

This summer marks the first time that yoga will be added to the curriculum led by Master Yogi Michelle Briks, who serves as the club’s yoga director. While campers will receive guidance on exercise through basic yoga poses, Camp Saw Mill aims to use the program in ways that are more beneficial for a child’s long-term well-being.

“Yoga allows children to build self-esteem through play and focus in a worry-free environment,” Briks said. “Kids learn mindfulness and relaxation techniques without realizing that they’re learning it because the process is not intimidating.”

While a slew of competitor camps are located within a 10-mile radius, Camp Saw Mill has steered clear of gimmick attractions. Instead, it has maintained its go-to status among discerning parents due to its commitment to tradition that has empowered children of all backgrounds for more than two decades.

“Camp Saw Mill is dedicated to nurturing the capabilities within each of its young campers in a way that is engaging, educational and fun,” said Nicole Weiss, director of Camp Saw Mill. “We collaborate with our elite team of instructors, in addition to our highly-trained camp counselors, to ensure an age-appropriate experience that is rewarding to our campers and their parents beyond a sport and well beyond the summer to create well-rounded individuals.”

Camp Saw Mill offers a multitude of scheduling options to meet various lifestyles, including extended day offerings.

Free Saw Mill Club Tennis Event for Kids April 29

The Saw Mill Club will be holding its inaugural 10-and-under event on Saturday, Apr. 29 from 5 to 7 p.m. This event is for children six to 10 years old and open to everyone, both members and non-members. There will be demonstrations, fun, games and prizes.

The goal of the event is to introduce your child to the New USTA 10 & Under Pathway, which will be implemented this fall in all Saw Mill Club programs. At the event, parents will have a one-time opportunity to take advantage of the very attractive early sign-up offer.

For more information or to sign up, contact Zuka Mukhuradze, director of tennis, at 914-733-4007 or at zuka@sawmillclub.com, or Rick Levine, tennis office manager at rlevine@sawmillclub.com.

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P’ville Chamber of Commerce to Honor Alvarez With Award

By Anna Young

The Pleasantville Chamber of Commerce this week is honoring Paul Alvarez, co-owner of Alvarez Cleaning Services and Alvarez Home Services, as Business Person of the Year.

Alvarez, 34, has overseen marketing and operations for the family-owned businesses since 2006. He will be feted during the chamber’s 18th annual awards ceremony Wednesday evening at Tesora D’Italia Ristorante.

“It’s a blessing because this business that we have is a family business,” said Alvarez, who has served as the chamber’s vice president since 2013. “We work together and to be named Business Person of the Year as the face of our business is an honor.”

His parents, Bill and Maritza, emigrated with Paul from Ecuador in 1989, and opened Alvarez Cleaning Services in 2001, providing the community with affordable, hands-on cleaning services for residential and commercial customers. Eight years later, the father-son duo expanded their operations, opening Alvarez Home Services, a repair and handyman business.

“We ended up getting a lot of accounts, and once we gained the trust of our customers, we were asked if we could provide other kinds of services,” said Alvarez. “It’s been a blessing because this business that we have is a family business.”

Eight years later, the father-son duo expanded their operations, opening Alvarez Home Services, a repair and handyman business.

“We ended up getting a lot of accounts, and once we gained the trust of our customers, we were asked if we could provide other kinds of services,” said Alvarez. “It’s been a blessing because this business that we have is a family business.”

Alvarez said. “Pleasantville is a place that has given us so much and we wanted to do something to give back.”

The Pleasantville Chamber of Commerce’s Apr. 26 reception will be held from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Tesora D’Italia Ristorante is located at 160 Marble Ave. For more information about the dinner or to make a reservation, visit www.pleasantvillechamber.com.

Paul Alvarez, who operates the family-owned Alvarez Cleaning Services and Alvarez Home Services, will be honored Wednesday by the Pleasantville Chamber of Commerce as Business Person of the Year.

STATE OF NEW YORK SUPREME COURT
COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER
SUPPLEMENTAL SUMMONS Index No. 54009/2016


To the above named Defendants:

You are hereby summoned to answer the complaint in this action and to serve a copy of your answer, or if the complaint is not served with this summons, to serve a notice of appearance on the Plaintiff. If you do not respond to this summons and complaint by serving a copy of the answer on the attorney for the mortgage company who filed this foreclosure proceeding against you and filing the answer with the court, a default judgment may be entered and you can lose your home. Sending a payment to your mortgage company will not stop this foreclosure action.

YOU MUST RESPOND BY SERVING A COPY OF THE ANSWER ON THE ATTORNEY FOR THE PLAINTIFF (MORTGAGE COMPANY) AND FILING THE ANSWER WITH THE COURT.

This is an attempt to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. The foregoing summons is served upon you by publication pursuant to an Order of Honorable David F. Everett, Acting Justice of the Supreme Court of the State of New York, signed the 13th day of April, 2017, at Westchester, New York. The object of this action is to foreclose a mortgage on the following property: Tax L.D. No. 98.10-70/.1012 0/k/a 4-1-1.2

The Unit known as Number 1-2 (hereinafter called the “Unit”) in the Buildings known as Briarcliff Commons Condominium, in the Village of Briarcliff Manor, County of Westchester, State of New York, designated and described as Unit Number 1-2 in the Declaration establishing Briarcliff Commons Condominium (hereinafter called the “Declaration”), made by the Grantor under the Condominium Act of the State of New York, (Article 9-B of the Real Property Law of the State of New York), which Declaration is dated May 16, 1986 and recorded in the Office of the County Clerk, Westchester County (Division of Land Records), New York on the 22nd day of May 1986, in Liber 8483 of Land Records, at Page 203, and which Unit is also designated as Section 4, Plate 22, Block 1, Lot 1-2 on the Floor Plans of the Buildings as certified by Gemnola and McWilliams, architects, on the 7th day of May, 1986 and filed in the Office of the County Clerk, Westchester County (Division of Land Records), on the 22nd day of May, 1986, as Map Number 22337. The land on which the Building containing the Unit is located (and on which the other buildings forming a part of Briarcliff Commons Condominium are located) is described as follows: ALL that certain plot, piece or parcel of land situate, lying and being in the Village of Briarcliff Manor, Town of Ossining, County of Westchester and State of New York, bounded and described as follows:

BEGINNING at a monument at the northeasterly corner of the herein described premises and the northerly corner of the property now or formerly of the Village of Briarcliff Manor and on the southerly boundary line of property known as Briarcliff-Peekskill Parkway at Westchester County Parkway Monument Number 22;

RUNNING THENCE along property now or formerly of the Village of Briarcliff Manor, South 3 degrees 35 minutes 00 seconds West 118.40 feet; THENCE along property now or formerly of the Village of Briarcliff Manor, South 63 degrees 10 minutes 00 seconds West 327.56 feet to property now or formerly of Keator;

RUNNING THENCE partly along road now or formerly of Keator and others on a course, North 34 degrees 54 minutes 50 seconds West 546.16 feet; and North 32 degrees 09 minutes 50 seconds West 128 feet;

RUNNING THENCE along the northerly boundary line of land now or formerly of G. Pacchiana the following courses and distances:

South 15 degrees 34 minutes 50 seconds West 23.05 feet; South 81 degrees 37 minutes 50 seconds West 131.72 feet;

RUNNING THENCE along North State Road as presently widened the following courses and distances:

On a curve to the right having a radius of 131.72 feet and a length of 16.39 feet; North 37 degrees 00 minutes 32 seconds East 12 feet; North 58 degrees 48 minutes 37 seconds East 59.24 feet; North 28 degrees 52 minutes 34 seconds East 28.28 feet; North 2 degrees 37 minutes 43 seconds East 23.02 feet; North 19 degrees 39 minutes 18 seconds East 55.01 feet to the southwesterly side of lands of Briarcliff Peekskill Parkway, (Route 9-A);

RUNNING THENCE along the southerly side of lands of Briarcliff Peekskill Parkway (Route 9-A) the following courses and distances:

On a curve to the right having a radius of 319.60 feet and a length of 142.40 feet; South 62 degrees 38 minutes 40 seconds East 650 feet to the point or place of BEGINNING. Said premises being described as Section 4, Plate 22, Block 1, Lot 1-2 on the Tax Map of the Town of Ossining.

TOGETHER with an undivided 3.09 percent interest in the common elements of the Property described in said Declaration (hereinafter called: the “Common Elements”).

Subject to easements, covenants, and restriction of record.

These premises are also known as 12 Colby Lane, Briarcliff Manor, NY 10510.

WOODS OVIATT GILMAN LLP
Attorney for Plaintiff
700 Crossroads Building
2 State Street
Rochester, NY 14614

Local Children’s Book Drive to Run Throughout May

Gamechanger, a tutoring and test prep service, is partnering with Barnes & Noble to support the Children’s Aid Society at Wagon Road Day Camp in Chappaqua by collecting new or gently books for toddlers, early readers, pre-teens and teens at eight locations locally throughout the month of May.

Starting Monday, May 1, collection boxes will be placed at DeCicco & Sons, 17 Maple Ave., Armonk; Euro Pizzeria, 103 N. State Rd., Briarcliff Manor; Mt. Kisco Seafood; 477 Lexington Ave., Mount Kisco; Walgreens, 411 King St., Chappaqua; All Good Things, Golden Horseshoe Shopping Center, 1074 Wilmot Rd., Scarsdale; Ardsley Diner, 731 Saw Mill River Rd., Ardsley; and Billy’s Hair Salon, 23 E. Main St., Mount Kisco.

For more information, call 914-449-6772 or e-mail connect@gamechangernew.com.
FINANCIAL

COINS, GOLF ITEMS, ART, JEWELRY, COMICS

COLLECTIBLES!

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Donate your car to Wheels For Wishes, benefiting Make-A-Wish. We offer free towing and your donation is 100% tax deductible. Call 315-400-0797 Today!

Helpful information 866-296-7093


PROPERTY TAX FORECLOSURES.

AUCTIONS


HELP WANTED

AIRCAREERS Start Here Get trained as FAA certified Aviation Technician. Financial aid for qualified students. Job placement assistance. Call AIM for free information 866-296-7093

LAND WANTED

Cash buyer seeks large acreage 200+ acres in the Central/Finger Lakes and Catskills Regions of NY State. Brokers welcome. For immediate confidential response, call 607-353-8068 or email info@NewYorkLandandLakes.com

LAWN AND GARDEN


LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF FORMATION of 926 JSA Realty, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on January 27, 2017. 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: 926 Wynnewood Road, Pelham, NY 10803. The principal business address of the LLC is: 926 Wynnewood Road, Pelham, NY 10803 Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

NOTICE OF FORMATION of 926 JSA Realty, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on January 27, 2017. 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: 926 Wynnewood Road, Pelham, NY 10803. The principal business address of the LLC is: 926 Wynnewood Road, Pelham, NY 10803 Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

NOTICE OF FORMATION of HUTCH95 REALTY MANAGEMENT, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on February 3, 2017. 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: 926 Wynnewood Road, Pelham, NY 10803. The principal business address of the LLC is: 926 Wynnewood Road, Pelham, NY 10803 Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

NOTICE OF FORMATION of NIN-JACATSTUDIO, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 10/03/2016. NY office location: Westchester County, SSNY has been designated as agent upon the LLC 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: 3700 Campbell Ct., Yorktown Heights, NY 10598 Purpose/character of LLC: Any lawful purpose.

NOTICE OF FORMATION of NIN-JACATSTUDIO, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 10/03/2016. NY office location: Westchester County, SSNY has been designated as agent upon the LLC 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: 3700 Campbell Ct., Yorktown Heights, NY 10598 Purpose/character of LLC: Any lawful purpose.

NOTICE OF FORMATION of BASIL-BOX LLC. Art. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 04/10/17. Office Westchester County, SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 26 Meadow Ln, #B, Pleasantville, NY 10570. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

PUBLIC NOTICE "A LOCAL LAW amending Section 104.115(5)(f) of the Laws of Westchester County to provide the County authority to enter into a lease agreement for approximately 60 acres of County-owned property located at the north portion of the Grasslands Reservation(also known as the Valhalla Campus at Grasslands) in the Valhalla section of Mount Pleasant, New York, and commonly referred to as the “North 60” with Faveri Associates, LP, its successors or assigns, for a term not to exceed ninety-nine (99) years for the purpose of creating a research and development complex to support the County of Westchester’s growing medical and bio-tech industry.” A Local Law, the description of which is cited above, was adopted by the Westchester County Board of Legislators in session April 3, 2017 and approved by the County Executive on April 6, 2017. This Local Law, Local Law Intro No. 8778-2017 which is subject to a referendum on petition shall take full effect sixty (60) days after its adoption. A copy of the full text of said Local Law is available for inspection during regular business hours in the Office of the Clerk of the Westchester County Board of Legislators, 8th Floor, Michaelian Office Building, 148 Martine Avenue, White Plains, New York 10601.

SUNDAY VANDERBerg Clerk & Chief Administrative Officer of the Westchester County Board of Legislators Westchester County New York Date: April 11, 2017 White Plains, New York

NOTICE OF FORMATION of MDU On-Demand Services, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on February 3, 2017. Office location: Westchester County, SSNY designated as agent for service of process on LLC. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to: c/o United States Corporation Agents, Inc., 7014 13th Avenue, Suite 202, Brooklyn, NY 11228. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. The address of the LLC is 5 Shore Road Pelham, NY 10803. The business helps residents in apartment buildings take care of daily chores.

NOTICE OF FORMATION of PAK CREATIVE, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on January 30, 2017. Office location: Westchester County. The SSNY is designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: Peter McKin-
What does the Fed mean for your bond portfolio?

Since at least 2010, people have been predicting higher interest rates. Now, finally, the Federal Reserve has been steadily raising its benchmark rate. But contrary to what you might expect, this does not necessarily mean that we are in a bear market for all interest rates. In fact, there have been several periods when the Fed consistently raised its benchmark rate and long-term rates actually fell.

For example, from 2004 to 2006, the Federal Reserve raised its benchmark interest rate from 4.75 percent to 6.25 percent. Conversely, from 1991 to 1993, the Fed cut rates from 7 percent to 3 percent, during which long-term rates remained elevated and at some points even increased.

This is worth noting because many investors mistakenly structure their portfolios based on what they hear people saying about interest rates or what the Fed might be doing.

For instance, in the aftermath of the great financial crisis, many pundits were claiming that with the economy recovering, interest rates were sure to go higher. What actually happened was that the 10-year treasury bond rates fell from 3.75 to 2.5 percent. Thus, investors who took this advice and positioned their portfolios with the expectation of rising interest rates in 2010, would have missed out on at least seven years of higher current yields, not to mention price appreciation.

The takeaway is that interest rates are more than just the Federal Reserve. Though the Fed does play an important role, the bond market is large, complex and difficult to predict. As such, an intelligent portfolio allocation, and not the intuition of pundits, is the investor’s best hope for maximizing wealth.
The Big Dipper: The Most Reliable Set of Stars in the Sky

To the north, high and bright on this month's shrinking mid-spring nights is the Big Dipper. It goes by different names in different cultures, but that group of seven stars, the brightest in the much bigger constellation Ursa Major, the great bear, is among the most famous groups in the sky.

Full of deep-sky objects you’ll need a telescope to see, it’s one of the most useful, too. You can test your vision, or, in these days of light pollution, you can test how dark your skies are. It also points the way to Polaris, the north star, and some other stars that we’ll talk about another time.

Over the years, you might have noticed that it’s different from other star groups. It’s not seasonal like, say, Orion, which, as I write this, is slowly making its way into the dusk, splitting the scene after wintering in the south end of the sky.

Instead, the Big Dipper is reliably there, night after night, month after month, warm weather or cold. It’s circumpolar – wintering in the south end of the sky.

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Instead, the Big Dipper is reliably there, night after night, month after month, warm weather or cold. It’s circumpolar – one of a number of objects that that don’t rise, cross the sky and set each day. Instead, they’re so far to the north that they’re in the sky and above the horizon the whole time, appearing to orbit Polaris. These days, the Dipper hangs upside down, emptying out over the rest of the northern sky. The W-shaped Cassiopeia, the queen, another circumpolar group, dances with it around Polaris.

Many people are surprised and underwhelmed by Polaris. It’s the brightest in the dim and difficult-to-spot Little Dipper (officially, Ursa Minor, the little bear), but is only about the 50th brightest star in the sky. It’s a three-star system, but from hundreds of light years away, we see it as one. Merak and Dubhe, the two stars at the far end of the Big Dipper’s bowl, sometimes called the pointer stars, can be used to draw a line almost straight to Polaris and guide you northward.

Let’s take a closer look at the Dipper’s handle. The ancients would use the second star from the end, Mizar, as a vision test. Right alongside it is Alcor, Can you see it? These are a naked-eye double star.

As it happens, though, Mizar is actually a group of four stars and Alcor another two. In legend, these two were thought of as the horse and rider, but imagine, six stars: four horses and two riders. It was a team, racing across the sky!

This May isn’t a great time to see the planets. Toward the west, we’re almost at our last chance to see pale orange Mars for a while. It’s fading into the dusk, and by the latter part of the month, it’ll be too low and the skies will be too bright for it to be easy to see. Venus and Mercury are in the pre-dawn skies, while Saturn’s rising inconveniently late, slowly making its way along its 24-Earth-year orbit. The Moon will meet up with Jupiter and Spica again on the night of May 7. The Full Flower Moon is May 10.

I hope you’ll head outside this month and have another look at the Big Dipper. You might be surprised at what you’ll see.

Clear skies, everyone!

Scott Levine has loved astronomy since he was young and now watches and writes about the skies near his Croton-on-Hudson home. You can read Scott’s Sky Watch astronomy website, with its “Space, taken easy” approach to naked-eye astronomy, at scottastronomy.wordpress.com. You can also find him at astroscott@yahoo.com or on Twitter @scottlevine13.
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rhymes, songs and stories to encourage an enjoyment of books and to stimulate early listening, learning and speaking skills. Recommended for children one to two-and-a-half years old. Mount Pleasant Public Library, 125 Lozza Drive, Valhalla. 10:30 to 11 a.m. Free. Every Tuesday and Thursday. Info: 914-741-0276 or www.mountpleasantlylibrary.org.

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, 125 Lozza Drive, Valhalla. 11 to 11:30 a.m. Free. Every Tuesday and Thursday. Info: 914-741-0276 or www.mountpleasantlylibrary.org.

Blood Drive. Co-sponsored by Suburban Propane of Mount Kisco. Mount Kisco Public Library Community Room, 100 E. Main St., Mount Kisco. 12 to 5 p.m. Info and reservations: 800-RED-CROSS or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter sponsor keyword Blood Drive.


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.mountkiscolibrary.org.

Gaming Old School. Join old school gaming enthusiasts to play board games like a kid again. Open to all ages. Mount Kisco Public Library, 100 E. Main St., Mount Kisco. 4 to 5:30 p.m. Free. Every Thursday. Info: 914-666-8041 or www.mountkiscolibrary.org.

Read to Rover. Dogs love listening to stories. Come meet Rover and read your favorite story. For children five years old and up. Mount Kisco Public Library, 100 E. Main St., Mount Kisco. 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Free. Every Thursday. Info: 914-666-8041 or www.mountkiscolibrary.org.

Great Books Forum Series. Thomas Hardy’s “Jude the Obscure” will be discussed. Led by Professor Maryanne Vent. Westchester Community College’s Gateway Center, Room 131, 75 Grasslands Rd., Valhalla. 6 to 8:30 p.m. Free. Info: Contact Professor James Werner at james.werner@sunywcc.edu.

Friday, Apr. 28

New York State Legislators Town Hall. Meet members of the Westchester special projects. Please let them discuss the most pressing issues facing the state, including replacement power for Indian Point and decommisssioning the site; broadband investment through state funded programs; economic development initiatives to make New York more competitive; shared services initiative; free tuition at public universities; and reform of public pensions and benefits. Pace University’s Wilcox Hall, 861 Bedford Rd., Pleasantville. 8 to 9:45 a.m. Westchester County Association members and young professionals: $35. Non-members: $45. Registration required. Info and registration: Visit www.westchester.org.

Rummage Sale. Items for sale include clothes, books, furniture, antiques, toys, sporting goods, household items, jewelry and gifts. Proceeds support local and foreign mission projects and the church’s School, 25 School Lane, Scarsdale. 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. Free. Info: 914-769-0548 or www.mountkiscolibrary.org.

Tai Chi Class. A graceful form of exercise that helps reduce stress and is beneficial for a variety of other health conditions. It promotes serenity through gentle, flowing movements performed in a slow, focused manner accompanied by deep breathing. Reformed Church of the Tarrytowns, 42 N. Broadway, Tarrytown. 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. Free. Registration required. Info and registration: 914-366-3937.

Zumba. Low-impact Zumba with Amy. A great dance fitness workout for those who like to sweat, sizzle and tone while moving to the beat of exhilarating rhythms with low-impact/high intensity approach. A perfect class for those who need to protect vulnerable body parts such as knees, shoulders and back. Try a free trial class. Addie-tude Dance Center, 42 Memorial Plaza (lower level), Pleasantville. 11 a.m. to noon. Drop-in rate: $12. Every Friday. Also Tuesdays from 10 to 11 a.m. Info: Call or text the instructor at 914-643-6162.

Make Your Home Fit You: Everyday Ergonomics. This interactive talk from In Place ReDesign Architecture will discuss ways to customize a kitchen for all members of the family; design bathrooms to increase both safety and comfort; figure out the best ways to make tables and counters that are the right height; determine accurate matches between body types and various home fixtures; find the chairs best suited for people; set up a home office; and create the right balance of lighting in your home, especially for the kitchen and bath. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whippoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 3 p.m. Free. Info: 914-273-3887 or www.northcastlib.org.

Opening Reception for “Rebel, Rebel.” A solo exhibition of new works by New York artist Adam Handler. The exhibit will debut a new body of artwork comprised of Handler’s “Girl” and “Tulip” paintings, recurrent and favorite themes for the artist. These works continue to deal with the female archetype, and issues of identity, and depict an international set of characters. Doing away with perspective and proportion, he opts for bold, loud colors and exaggerated forms, embellished with repeated patterns of colorful floral adornments and geometric configurations that reach out to the edge of the canvas and impart a “personality” to each girl. Madelyn Jordan Fine Art, 37 Popham Rd., Scarsdale. 6 to 8 p.m. Free. Exhibit continues through June 10 Tuesday through Saturday 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Info: 914-723-8738 or visit www.MadelynJordanFineArt.com.

Friday Night Cinema: “The Waiting City.” This 2009 Australian romantic drama follows a young couple in love as they go to India for what they think will be a quick adoption of a baby. In English. Post-screening discussion led by Professor Valerie Franco. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whippoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 7 p.m. Free. Info: 914-273-3887.

Hoff-Barthelson Music School Master Class Series. Internationally celebrated flutist Guy Eshed will coach the school’s flute students. Hoff-Barthelson Music School, 25 School Lane, Scarsdale. 7 p.m. Free. Info: 914-723-1169, visit www.hbms.org or e-mail hb@hbms.org.

Friday Night Film Series: “Mustang.” In a northern Turkey village, Lale and her four sisters are walking home from school, especially for the kitchen and bath. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whippoorwill Rd. East, Armonk. 7 p.m. Free. Info: 914-723-3887.

Fall Prevention: A Matter of Balance. Many seniors have a fear of falling and restrict their activities. This eight-session program emphasizes practical strategies to reduce this fear and increase activity levels by improving strength, balance and flexibility. Phelps Hospital, C Level classroom, 701 N. Broadway, Sleepy Hollow. 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Free. Saturdays through May 6. Registration required. Info and registration: 914-366-3937.

Native Plant Sale. Versatile plants that provide food and shelter for birds, butterflies and bees and add splendor to the landscape will be on sale at the Native Plant Center’s 18th annual Native Plant Sale. Westchester Community College’s Native Plant Center, 75 Grasslands Rd., Valhalla. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Center members may enter at 9:30 a.m. Free admission. Info: 914-606-7870 or visit www.nativelandcenter.org.

Meditation Workshop. Michael Cardillo will help you reach peace and a clear vision in meeting your life’s goals. An AA member, he will share his knowledge and meditation techniques. Open to all. Mount Kisco Public Library, 100 E. Main St., Mount Kisco. 10:30 a.m. to noon. Free. Every Saturday. Info: 914-666-8041 or www.mountkiscolibrary.org.

Wolves of North America. Learn about...
I've written on numerous occasions that today's wines are of the highest quality and greatest value in the history of wine. A mere 30 years ago (which is a short breath in the 6,000-year history of wine), poor growing techniques in vineyards and unclean and adulterated grapes and fermented grape juice were the culprits in many off-putting wines sold in the marketplace.

Then the latest generation of winemakers took over the family reins in wineries across the globe. They were eager to learn new techniques and to employ new technology to enhance their wines in order to meet the changing tastes of consumers. The value and quality of wines priced at $15 and below has grown exponentially in the last 10 years.

A parallel history of water has occurred. Ancient Egyptians, Greeks and Romans cultivated grapes and produced wine as an alternative to contaminated water. As the quality of water began to improve, it was added to wine to dilute its bitter taste and off-flavors. Medieval winemaking practices dictated a ratio of two to three portions of water to one portion of wine. In more modern times, water continues to be added to wines to mitigate unwanted components, including high alcohol and undesirable concentrations of naturally occurring sugars. In California, regulators now permit the limited addition of "water units." (That's term for water, referencing his miracle of transforming water into wine at the Marriage at Cana.)

Once water became clean and pure, it slowly became a beverage of choice over other beverages, including certain wines. I remember the first time, which seems like ages ago, I put tap water into a bottle and expected me to pay for it when I can drink my own (seemingly) free New York City Catskills spring water from my kitchen faucet. But over time, convenience won out over logic, and today I'm buying cases of "spring water" at my local supermarket.

These days, enterprising businesses are selling a bottle of water for less than a quarter. So, just as quality wines have been declining in price, so has bottled water. And that sounds like markets in perfect sync with each other: higher quality and lower prices.

Of course, there are exceptions to the norm. There are still a few wines in the marketplace where economic elasticity is upside down. I'm seeing the same phenomenon for waters. High-end "designer waters," like the 11-ounce Voss, retail for well over $1. Even higher-end bottles from "Canadian Glaciers" retail for up to $14 per bottle.

In today's consumer market psyche of "I will outspend you simply because I can" and "I need to have the most expensive product in the market," it's difficult to rationalize the price of wine compared to these waters.

When the vectors of wine and water prices cross in a pricing graph, it might be quite disconcerting to consumers. The price of select waters is greater than that of select wines?

The "elixir of life"—wine or water? You decide. Is it composition or economics?

Nick Antonaccio is a 40-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.

The Elixir of Life: Wine or Water? At What Cost?

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You Heard It Through the Grapevine

The “elixir of life” – wine or water? You decide. Is it composition or economics?

By Nick Antonaccio

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Happenings

continued from page 28

the mythology, biology and ecology of wolf families and discover why April is a special time for packs in North America. Whether the wolves are living on the Arctic tundra or the high desert of the southwest, wolf families are out searching for prey as they prepare for the birth of this year’s pups. Guests will visit ambassador wolves Atka, Alawa, Nikai and Zephyr and the center’s critically endangered red wolves and Mexican gray wolves. Wolf Conservation Center, South Salem. 11 a.m. Adults: $14. Children (under 12): $11. Also Apr. 30 and May 29 at 11 a.m. and May 6, 21, 27 and 28 at 2 p.m. Pre-registration required. Info and pre-registration: Visit www.nywol.org.


Animal Anatomy. Learn how an animal’s physical attributes are connected to their methods of hunting, protection, travel and nesting through films produced by Mercy College students. Filmmakers tell the animals’ stories through their eyes. Ages. Greenburgh Nature Center, 99 Dromore Rd., Scarsdale. 2 to 4 p.m. Free. Info: 914-723-3470 or visit www.greenburghnaturecenter.org.

Faith, Food and Friends. A weekly gathering that includes prayer, song, discussion and dinner for all. Emanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church, 197 Manville Rd., Pleasantville. 5 p.m. Free. Info: 914-723-3470 or visit www.greenburghnaturecenter.org.

Italian Conversation for Kids. Sara Machiavelli, a Bologna, Italy native, will teach children about her country and native language. Mount Kisco Public Library, 100 E. Main St., Mount Kisco. 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. Free. Also May 6. Info: 914-861-6666 or 841-0411 or visit www.montkiscolibrary.org.

Demystifying Medicare and Healthcare Coverage for Seniors Seminar. This seminar will help those who already have Medicare, will soon to turn 65, planning their retirement or assisting relatives and friends with their medical decisions and paperwork. The program outlines the various parts of Medicare and lays out the costs associated with the medical and drug insurance provided by the government and private companies. Topics include original Medicare; Medicare Advantage plans; prescription drug plans (Part D); Medigaps (supplemental plans); and various cost-saving programs. North Castle Public Library, 19 Whippoorwill Rd., East, Armonk. 1 p.m. Free. Info: 914-273-3887 or www.northcastlelibrary.org.

Spring Hike. Finally, spring weather has arrived. Enjoy a spring hike around the preserve. Cranberry Lake Preserve, Old Orchard Street, North White Plains. 1 to 2 p.m. Free. Info: 914-428-1005.

Pack Chat for Kids. This is the best introduction to wolves for families with young children. Kids will learn about the mythology surrounding wolves and the important role of wolves in the natural world. This is an exciting time for wolves as they are searching for prey preparing for the birth of this year’s pups. Guests will visit ambassador wolves Atka, Alawa, Nikai and Zephyr and the critically endangered red wolves and Mexican gray wolves. Wolf Conservation Center, South Salem. 2 p.m. Adults: $14. Children (under 12): $11. Also May 6 and 28 at 11 a.m. Pre-registration required. Info and pre-registration: Visit www.nywol.org.

The Weimar Chronicles: Bach in the Kingdom of Two Castles. Ars Antiqua presents this program featuring Bach’s early formative years where as a court musician in Weimar he provided music for two competing dukes. Unfortunately, the Weimar Kingdom and its complicated succession of dukes and princes, brothers and half-brothers, created an artistically satisfying but politically volatile situation for Bach. Within the castle walls was a world devoted to poetry, painting and music. It was also a place where Bach was swept into the drama of double loyalties, family tension and intrigue. St. Mary the Virgin, 191 S. Greeley Ave., Chappaqua. 8 p.m. $35 (tickets available at the door). Info: 914-238-8015 or visit www.ars-antiqua.org.

Lohud Comedy. Some of the Hudson Valley’s best comics. The Schoolhouse Theater, 3 Owen Rd., Croton Falls. 8 p.m. $25. Info and tickets: 914-277-8477 or visit www.schoolhousetheater.com.

A Tribute to Sonny Rollins. Don’t miss the final jazz event this season as Ravi Coltrane, James Carter, Joe Lovano, Jimmy Heath and special guests pay tribute to the great Sonny Rollins in a one-of-a-kind festival-style program. The Performing Arts Center at Purchase College, 735 Anderson Hill Rd., Purchase. 8 p.m. $47.50 to $77.50. Info and tickets: 914-251-6200 or visit www.artscenter.org.

Sunday, Apr. 30


“Communicating With Your Special Needs Care Providers.” Learn how to successfully communicate with the various support professionals in your child’s life. This interactive workshop will explore how to express what you need so professionals will listen; how to document your communications; how to deal with difficult encounters; and the importance of creating an environment where everyone is on the same page, working together for the betterment of children. Families are encouraged to bring their stories, strategies and wishes to achieve positive and productive communications with their child’s team. Light refreshments will be served. Sunrise Children’s Home, 15 Spring Valley Rd., Ossining. 1:30 p.m. Free. Registration required. Info and registration: Contact Paula Listi at 914-333-7051 or e-mail plistisunrisechildrens.org.

Hoff-Barthelson Music School Master Class Series. Jon Manasse, principal clarinet with the American Ballet Theater Orchestra and the Mostly Mozart Festival Orchestra, coaches the school’s clarinet students. Scarsdale Public Library, 54 Olmsted Rd., Scarsdale. 2 p.m. Free. Info: 914-723-1169, visit www.hbms.org or e-mail hb@hbms.org.

Chamber Music at Rye Presbyterian. The closing concert of the 2016-17 season at will feature pianist Jeevon Park, violinist David Chan and cellist Rafael Figueroa performing works by Robert Schumann, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Frederic Chopin and Johannes Brahms. Rye Presbyterian Church, 882 Boston Post Rd., Rye. 2:30 p.m. $40. Info and tickets: Contact Ronald Arron at 914-523-4646 or e-mail ronarron@optonline.net. Tickets will also be available at the door.

Encountering Jesus: Meeting the Christ of Faith and the Jesus of History? A presentation by Father James Martin, who will help lead people into an encounter with the mystery that lies at the center of Christian lives. Part of the Maryknoll Speaker Series. Maryknoll Society Center, 55 Ryder Rd., Ossining. 2:30 p.m. Free. Reservations required. Info: Visit www.maryknollsociety.org/what-we-do/speaker-series. Reservations: 914-941-7636 ext. 2445 or e-mail MaryknollSpeakersSeries@maryknoll.org.

New Westchester Symphony Orchestra Spring Concert. This local community ensemble conducted by Benjamin Nemcicky will feature soloists Taz Kim and Reed Peterson, the orchestra’s Student Concerto Competition finalists. The program will include Beethoven’s Piano Concerto, No. 3., Mvt. 1 Elgar Cello Concerto Competition finalists. The closing concert of the 2016-17 season at will feature pianist Jeevon Park, violinist David Chan and cellist Rafael Figueroa performing works by Robert Schumann, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Frederic Chopin and Johannes Brahms. Rye Presbyterian Church, 882 Boston Post Rd., Rye. 2:30 p.m. $40. Info and tickets: Contact Ronald Arron at 914-523-4646 or e-mail ronarron@optonline.net. Tickets will also be available at the door.


Family Teaching Garden Series: Seeds. Families make flowers using volunteer materials from the Giving Garden, where food is grown to be donated to those in need. A seven-session series. Presented by InterGenerate. John Jay Homestead, 400 Jay St. (Route 22), Katonah. 4 to 4:45 p.m. $20 per family. Five classes for $75. Seven classes for $100. Advance registration required. Info and registration: Visit www.johnjayhomestead.org.
Sherlock Holmes Gets a Makeover in Hudson Stage's Newest Production

By Martin Wilbur

It's fitting that when Hudson Stage was searching for a director to present "The Hound of the Baskervilles," which opens Friday evening for a three-weekend engagement at Whippoorwill Hall in Armonk, they turned to Mark Shanahan.

A veteran actor who also has an extensive director's resume, Shanahan has gained a reputation in theater circles as someone who could execute a comedy. It also helped that he has previously directed comedic adaptations of the production in several other venues across the United States.

"They not only wanted to bring something different but bring a little levity and joy to the audience than they're used to," Shanahan said. "There's all sorts of different theater that they provide but probably not something as vaudevillian and comical as this."

The story, billed by Hudson Stage as "Sherlock Homes meets Monty Python," is based on one part of the series of crime novels written at the turn of the 20th century by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle featuring the fictional detective. Shanahan said the comedic version of the story, which turned into "The Hound of the Baskervilles," was created by John Nicholson and Stephen Canny, members of a London-based clown troupe.

"It's an outstanding production for the theater which is why it's often reprised, along with providing audiences with a hilarious experience, he said.

"I love these plays that celebrate the imagination in the theater," said Shanahan, a lifelong New Yorker who still lives in the city. "It can only be done in the theater and that's what's important to me."

Shanahan has plenty of experience at directing other whimsical comedies, such as "Around the World in 80 Days," "Peter and the Star Catcher" and "The 39 Steps." Shanahan said the show forces the three actors to engage the audience. It stars Denis Lambert as Sherlock, Joe Delafield as Lord Baskerville and Matt Ban as Watson. Lambert and Delafield slip into other characters throughout the play as well.

With a compressed rehearsal schedule of just a few weeks, it takes actors who are talented and committed, he said.

"It's a very short rehearsal period, which will require actors who are prepared and really adept and know what's funny instantly and kind of teach each other in rehearsal," Shanahan said. "It's actually a great thing because it provides the rehearsals with a sense of urgency, and we have no time to waste."

Left to right, Denis Lambert as Sherlock and various characters, Joe Delafield as Lord Baskerville and a variety of characters and Matt Ban as Watson in Hudson Stage’s production of “The Hound of the Baskervilles,” which opens Friday evening for a three-weekend engagement at Whippoorwill Hall in Armonk.

For Shanahan, who found the love of the stage in high school and studied theater at Brown University, whether it’s acting or directing, the joy is telling a story. It also doesn’t matter whether you’re on Broadway, where he performed "The 39 Steps," or a black box theater in the middle of nowhere, the approach of connecting with the audience is the same, he said.

"We want people to laugh and have a great time, and it's really funny," Shanahan said. "I think it's very funny and that's what makes me so happy."

With the final preparations for the show nearly complete, Shanahan is also looking forward to the joy of sitting back on Friday night, something he makes sure to do, even as the director.

"When it's opening night, I have my director's hat and I get to put it down and sit in the chair and be an audience member and get to enjoy it," he said. "That's a great thing about being a director, eventually you have to hand it over to the actors."

Hudson Stage will present nine performances of "The Hound of the Baskervilles." Shows are Friday, Saturday and Sunday from Apr. 28 to May 13. Fridays and Saturdays the show times are 8 p.m. with matinees on Sundays, Apr. 30 and May 7 and Saturday, May 13 at 3 p.m. Tickets are $40 for general admission and $35 for seniors and students.

For tickets and more information, visit www.hudsonstage.com. Whippoorwill Hall is located at the North Castle Public Library, 19 Whippoorwill Rd. East in Armonk.

Art World Front and Center in Jacob Burns’ FrameWorks Series

By Neal Rentz

Art in a variety of forms will be showcased in the FrameWorks: Art on Film series scheduled to open this Saturday, Apr. 29 and run through May 7 at the Jacob Burns Film Center in Pleasantville.

Programmer Kathy Bonomi, who selected the films for the series, said FrameWorks is an ongoing series throughout the year but also occupies a spot on the film center's calendar each spring.

Now in its 11th year, one of the reasons Frameworks maintains its popularity is because Westchester is home to myriad artists and art lovers, Bonomi said.

"It's a brand by now," she said.

This year's series of nine programs kicks off with a screening of "Goya: Visions of Flesh and Blood," the 2016 documentary about the acclaimed Spanish artist Francisco Goya, will be presented on opening night of the 2017 FrameWorks: Art on Film series Apr. 29 at the Jacob Burns Film Center in Pleasantville. Shown above is the film's director, David Bickerstaff.

"Never has suspension of disbelief been this much fun, as we watch two female astronauts board a fully-realized spaceship and launch into the cosmos for their first steps on Mars to the cheers of NASA engineers back at mission control," Bonomi said about Sachs and his work. Following the screening, Sachs will participate in a question-and-answer session moderated by Matt Bollinger, an artist who serves as an assistant professor at the School of Art/Design at Purchase College.

On May 6, "Pull My Daisy" and "Me and My Brother," two rarely screened films directed by artist Robert Frank and starring poet Peter Orlovsky, will be presented.

The Jacob Burns Film Center is located at 364 Manville Rd., in Pleasantville. Call 914-747-5555 or visit www.burnsfilmcenter.org for information, including ticket prices and the full schedule.
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