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January 2015

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Vol. X No. 1

Sale of Abandoned GM Site Returns Property to Tax Rolls



by Robert Kimmel

A gathering at Sleepy Hollow Village Hall of present and past officials celebrated the long awaited sale of the GM site to Lighthouse Landing Venture LLC for redevelopment.

Photo by: Sunny McLean

Almost two decades after General Motors closed its assembly plant in Sleepy Hollow, the vacated 95-acre riverfront tract is back on the village tax rolls, much to the delight of village officials. A contract finalizing the sale of the property by GM to Lighthouse Landing Venture, LLC was signed late last month. The firm was formed as a partnership of Diversified Realty Advisors, LLC of New Jersey, and California based SunCal. The combined

developers reportedly are paying \$39.5 million for the property, a parcel of which will be given to the village for its use. The sale marked the end of a tax cut-off concession made to GM 30 years ago.

In confirming the sale, General Motors released a brief statement: "We support the redevelopment of former GM sites and are pleased with the positive outcome

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Westchester, Rockland Leaders Propose Funding for New Bridge

by Rick Pezzullo

The two leaders of the counties that are separated by the Tappan Zee Bridge have proposed a plan to partially fund the new Hudson River span.

Westchester County Executive Rob Astorino and Rockland County Executive Ed Day sent a joint letter to Governor Andrew Cuomo in late December suggesting the state use a bulk of the approximately \$5 billion it received in settlements over economic and tax improprieties to pay for a portion of the construction of the \$3.9 billion project.

"The bank settlement funds should be spent entirely on state infrastructure projects and not on recurring expenses, and a large portion of those funds should be used to help pay for the new Tappan Zee, a bridge of critical regional and statewide economic importance," Astorino said during a press conference in Nyack.

"Our idea is to use a portion of the state's bank settlement money to fund bridge construction will keep the economic wheels moving in both Rockland and Westchester counties," Day remarked. "Our commuters and businesses simply cannot afford the burden of even higher tolls."

More than 138,000 vehicles cross the Tappan Zee Bridge daily, making it the third most traveled crossing in New York State behind only the George Washington and Verrazano Narrows bridges.

Astorino maintained tolls could skyrocket if the state doesn't dip into the bank settlement funds.

"The money is right there. We just need the governor to resist the temptation to spread the wealth to special interests and recurring expenses," Astorino said. "With infrastructure investments everyone benefits."

The first span of the new twin-span bridge is scheduled to open in 2016, and it's scheduled to be completed in 2018. The new bridge will be designed and constructed to last 100 years without major structural maintenance.

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Decorative Touch: Philipse Manor Garden Club volunteers made wreaths at the Sleepy Hollow Senior Center during the holidays to distribute to Warner Library, Fremont House and the Hudson Valley Writer's Center.

Photo by: Sunny McLean

Fire Rips Through Storied Ardsley Country Club

by Barrett Seaman

Unable to stay asleep in the wee hours of Saturday, December 13, Charlotte Foulk got up around 4:15 a.m. to fetch a sleeping pill when she noticed through her window an unusual light emanating from the hilltop to the east.

"I saw a huge ball of light; I first thought it was a Christmas decoration," she recalled. But that ball of light was too big—and moving, outlining the long roofline of Ardsley Country Club atop North Mountain Road, which is visible across the golf course from her house on Sherman Avenue in Dobbs Ferry.

So she called the police. Within minutes, she could hear the roar of fire trucks coming from the south, where Dobbs Ferry's Volunteer Fire Department had been notified by police, and from Irvington to the north, where not long after Foulk's call,

police had gotten a 911 relay from a New York State Trooper in Rockland County who spotted the fire from across the Hudson River.

Eventually, companies from Tarrytown, Ardsley and other surrounding communities joined the effort to control a blaze that by then had ripped through the slate roof of the three-story building. More than six hours later, hobbled by low water pressure from a distant downhill hydrant, the firemen put it out—but not before the club's kitchen, reception area, the men's locker room on the second floor and several offices on the third floor were destroyed.

Left mostly untouched, save for some water damage, were the bar and grill room on the northwest side of the building and everything to the south, including the original formal dining room and terrace and most of the administrative offices upstairs.

Fortunately, no one was in the building



Cause of fire on December 13 has yet to be determined.

at the time.

Built in 1927 as a monastic retreat for prominent socialite Justine Cutting Ward, the large brick Romanesque-style building was subsequently bought by Frank and Florence Gould, the son of Lyndhurst's Jay Gould, the financier, and she a well-known actress of the day. According to Kate Buford's centennial history of the club, From Hudson to Hilltop, the Goulds fully furnished but never occupied the house. In 1954, Gould deeded the house over to NYU, his alma mater, which in turn sold it to the Ardsley Country Club a decade later.

It would be the club's third home. Founded in 1895 by a cluster of New York's wealthiest financiers, including a Rockefeller, a Morgan, a Schuyler and a Vanderbilt, the original Ardsley Casino occupied the riverfront site where Hudson House apartments currently sit. In 1935, headquarters moved slightly inland and up the hill to the Casino's former stables and renamed the Ardsley Country Club. The move to the top of North Mountain Road in 1964

brought with it a major reconfiguration of the golf course, which had previously included holes on what is now the property of Mercy College, west of Broadway.

The day after the fire, in a letter to a membership of about 400, most of whom live in the surrounding river town communities, current club president Peter Hofmann announced that "restaurant operations will be closed for the foreseeable future," which meant that all of the planned holiday parties were cancelled. When food service will start again will depend on which of several interim strategies the club's board of directors decides to take in the coming weeks, according to club manager Andrew Balint. The golf, swimming and tennis programs will go on as usual, but the main clubhouse is not likely to be fully functional until close to year's end.

Meetings with the club's insurance company, AIG, and representatives of Westchester County's Cause and Origin Team to determine the exact cause of the fire and a full assessment of damage were ongoing at press time.

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Mayor Wray Initiates New Political Party in Sleepy Hollow

by Robert Kimmel

Sleepy Hollow voters will find two slates of candidates competing for Mayor and the Board of Trustees when they go to the polls this coming March. A new, bi-partisan political party has emerged from the discord that has splintered the village trustees over the past two years.

Mayor Ken Wray, a Democrat, has disclosed that he will run again for Mayor under the banner of a Unite Sleepy Hollow Party that will include two Republican candidates along with an incumbent Democrat for the three contested trustee posts.

"What we are doing is creating a new party that is based on inclusiveness and non-partisanship," the Mayor said. "I felt for some time that the process, especially for the last couple of years, was not inclusive."

Wray described the "last few elections" as having been "decided in a Democratic caucus by as few as 50 people, and it excludes everybody who is not a Democrat. That leaves a lot of talented people, who could serve the village, out of the process," he added.

Running on the ballot as the new party's contenders for trustee posts will be Denise Scaglione, and William Ryan, both Republicans, who will be joined by incumbent Democrat Glenn Rosenbloom, who has been a trustee since 2013, and had been Chairman of the Sleepy Hollow Planning Board for two years prior to becoming a trustee. Scaglione, a graduate of Concoria College, was a Webber Park resident for nine years, but for the past six years, she and her husband have resided in Philipse Manor with their two sons. She works part-time at the Scarborough Presbyterian Children's Center as office manager and is active with a number of community organizations.

Scaglione mentioned two reasons for pursuing a trustee seat. "First, I support Mayor Wray in his run again for Mayor," she said in a released statement. "Secondly, I was very troubled and quite surprised at the way several members have voted on very important issues facing our village." She pointed to their "...opposition to the appointment of an outstanding and highly qualified candidate for an entry level police officer position, as among "votes that were clearly not

in the best interests of our village."

Ryan has been with the New York City Fire Department for 24 years, and holds the rank of Lieutenant within a Special Operations Command. He lives in the Webber Park neighborhood in the village with his wife, Tina, and their three children. He serves as a volunteer fireman in Sleepy Hollow, and had been head of its fiscal department operations and staffing, and was Fire Chief for a term.

Ryan also asserted he was running "because I believe the current board is not working well together and this is damaging our community."

Wray anticipates a hotly contested election and said he "welcomes that." While the Sleepy Hollow Democratic caucus, at which party candidates will be selected, does not take place until late this month, it is expected that two of the incumbent trustees, Bruce Campbell and Evelyn Stupel, whose two-year terms are up, will pursue re-election. A third candidate would need to be chosen, assuming Rosenbloom is not placed on the Democratic ticket. There have been indications that Trustee Karin Wompa will vie for the mayoral candidacy. During the last local election, the Democratic ticket ran unopposed.

As for splitting with his party in the village, Wray maintained that, "At the local level we need to work together regardless of our national party affiliation." He said he was "proud to be a liberal Democrat and will continue to be one, and I am sure that Denise and Billy will continue to be Republicans, but I am not sure that national party affiliation matters. What does matter is having people with a vision for the future, and who care about the bigger issues that are facing the village."

The move to place Republicans on the Board of Trustees will not be a precedent for Wray. "It was a real battle for me to get Jennifer Lobato-Church re-nominated," he said, referring to a previous election. "She is a registered Republican who I recruited for the board, and who I think is a good, solid trustee. All of that was overlooked because of her party registration."

One of the most recent controversies that

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Brightview Senior Residence Welcome Center Opens in Tarrytown; TGIF Space Still Empty

by Janie Rosman

The Welcome Center for Brightview Tarrytown, Brightview Senior Living's first community in New York, is now open at 652 White Plains Road in the Stop and Shop Plaza in Tarrytown.

"There are limited options for senior living in the area," explained Deanna DiStasio, Executive Director. "A leader in the senior living industry, Brightview, which serves families from Virginia to Massachusetts, has a long history of providing unparalleled service and care to seniors and peace of mind to families."

When completed, the company's first site in New York at 581 Old White Plains Road, will be a four-story building with 90 units on five acres, and will include 45 parking spaces for families and employees. The footprint is proposed to be 25,000 sq feet and about 70,537 total building square feet. Plans call for a café and bar, a beauty/barber salon, fitness center and several other amenity spaces.

Brightview Tarrytown's 61 assisted living apartments and 29-apartment specialized neighborhood, Wellspring Village, will be created for people living with Alzheimer's disease or other memory impairments. The apartments range from studios

to two bedrooms with two baths, and will be complemented with extensive gathering and amenity spaces. While representatives wouldn't divulge the prices, they said costs are affordable to a broad range of people.

Residents can expect to take occupancy in July 2015, with the company offering a charter club financial incentive for people pioneering in the community. "We look forward to serving seniors and their families in the area they love," DiStasio said.

Previous site plan issues were corrected to reflect more detail for stormwater management, rock removal, visibility, and how the \$15 million investment would benefit the value of the neighborhood.

Further west is the 9,300-square-foot building at 230-240 White Plains Road—the TGI Fridays—which has been empty since August 2014, and unmarked, except for the hours of operation.

The property is handled by Mack-Cali Realty Corporation, and only M-C Vice President of Marketing Ilene Jablonski is authorized to speak about that property. Jablonski said "no comment" when asked about the property. "It's Mack-Cali's policy not to discuss details, including rental fees, to anyone other than interested parties," she said.

TGI Fridays® Corporate Communica-



Photo by: Janie Rosman

There is still no word on what will occupy former TGI Fridays building in Tarrytown.

tions Manager Ashley Hopkins did not respond to phone calls.

"Our TGI Fridays® restaurant in Tarrytown closed on September 1, 2014, for business reasons," the company said via email statement. "We appreciate and thank our guests for visiting Fridays in Tarrytown over the years and look forward to continuing to serve our guests at the new White Plains location, which is set to open in 2015."

One month before the Tarrytown location closed, the chain's parent company,

Carlson, sold TGIF to Sentinel Capital Partners and TriArtisan Capital Partners.

The new location "will feature the brand's new, contemporary design, which includes a lighter, more modern interior, a larger, centrally-located bar, an open kitchen and an upgraded, fresh exterior."

"In another project in Tarrytown, along Rt. 119, White Plains Road, a large commercial structure being completed in the Stop & Shop plaza across from Benedict Avenue reportedly is being built on "spec," without a designated occupant."

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Misuse of Funds Allegations Stir Controversy in Sleepy Hollow

by Elaine Marranzano

Complaints against the Sleepy Hollow Downtown Revitalization Corporation (SHDRC) alleging misuse of funds and noncompliance with grant program guidelines have stirred controversy, and some local officials are crying foul.

A private investigator who admits she is engaged in "a war of sorts" with some members of the village administration said a complaint has been filed with the State Attorney General's office alleging that Village Attorney Janet Gandolfo "misappropriated funds for her own benefit" by accepting a \$4,450 New York Main Street Grant to make improvements to a residential rental property at 75 Clinton Street, of which she is part owner.

The investigator, Frank Morganthaler, claims to represent three local merchants who he said declined to be identified, fearing retribution. A copy of the complaint provided by Morganthaler alleges that Gandolfo's property "does not meet the requirements for obtaining a grant since it is not a commercial property." The Attorney General's office would neither confirm nor deny that it has received the complaint.

The Main Street Grant Program, designed to spur downtown revitalization, is administered locally by SHDRC, a non-profit organization, not affiliated with village government. Of the 19 Main Street Grants awarded to Sleepy Hollow property owners, all went to improve commercial or mixed-used buildings with the exception of Gandolfo's property, which was the only residential property to receive a grant. On the grant application, completed by Susan Roth, executive director of the SHDRC, the building is identified as commercial; however it is listed on the tax rolls as residential.

Gandolfo denies the allegations, which she asserts are being brought by "persons with their own private agenda."

"As counsel to the Village of Sleepy Hollow, I am always a target for certain angry persons," she wrote in a letter-to-the-editor (See page 21). "This claim that I did something inappropriate by applying for a grant is brought by three individuals who, apparently, have now hooked up with a non-resident with a nefarious agenda."

Morganthaler, a retired Marine, said he began investigating reports of what he described as a "culture of discrimination and intimidation in Sleepy Hollow" after the village refused to hire Iraq War veteran Greg Lobato for a position with the police department.

The complaint also alleges that Roth, and Village Trustee Karin Wompa, who is also president of the SHDRC, were "complicit in allowing Gandolfo to misappropriate these grant funds." Roth and Wompa deny any wrongdoing.

"If we couldn't prove that the building was eligible, the state wouldn't have given us the money," said Roth.

According to a New York State spokesperson, residential properties may qualify for the Main Street grants, but it is up to the individual program administrators to decide which properties meet the criteria.

"New York State does not approve or evaluate specific property owners for funding," he said, adding that the SHDRC is responsible for these decisions. "This includes local project selection decisions, and entering into contracts with participating property owners."

"I had to follow the state guidelines, and I did that to the letter, and if it deviated even a little bit, I called and asked," said Roth.

Roth requested and received permission from the state to expand the grant program's target area to include "all commercial properties on Clinton Street." She said she alerted property owners to the change by sending

a registered letter, but neglected to update the SHDRC website to announce the change and couldn't remember the exact wording of the letter, except to say it was "nonspecific"

regarding the type of properties that might qualify.

"We expanded the area so that a grocery store on Clinton Street could be included," said Roth. "In the end, the property didn't qualify." The only property of any kind on Clinton Street to receive a grant was Gandolfo's property. It should be noted that use of the grant money had also been expanded to incorporate other Sleepy Hollow streets and north-south extensions of Beekman Street over a period of six years.

On December 19, the New York State Office of Housing and Community Renewal said that in response to a citizen complaint; it has asked the SHDRC for clarification and documentation relating to its use of funds and adherence to program guidelines.

In a statement, Wompa wrote: "The allegations to date have been made only by individuals unaffiliated with any official or government authority. One can only speculate on their motivation, and I don't wish to do so here. What is quite evident is that their lack of understanding of the process involved with the administration of this grant. The unfortunate result is to mislead the public and distract it from the great work the SHDRC has done." Regarding the State's request, Wompa said she is "happy to meet with them, as we have done in the past throughout the administration of this grant, to review any information they request."

On December 9, Sleepy Hollow Mayor Ken Wray directed village hall staff to cease providing services to the SHDRC to allow it time to deal with the allegations, adding that he is taking no position on the validity of the claims.

"I had to follow the state guidelines, and I did that to the letter, and if it deviated even a little bit, I called and asked."

—Susan Roth,
Executive Director, SHDRC



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State-of-the-Art Surgical Suite Opens at Phelps Hospital

by Rick Pezullo

A new state-of-the-art surgical suite designed for both inpatient and outpatient procedures was unveiled last month at Phelps Memorial Hospital Center in Sleepy Hollow.

"This really is a magnificent facility. Nobody in Westchester has anything like this," said Richard Sinni, a resident of Irvington and chairman of the hospital's board. "It's so technically advanced. Many Phelps surgeons and staff were consulted about the design and capabilities of the new facility. The end result reflects the best ideas for creating an optimal environment for patients, clinical staff and changing technology."

More than two years in the making, the \$15 million Phelps SurgiCenter is 20,163 square feet and occupies the third floor of the 755 Medical Services Building. Slated to open to patients at the beginning of 2015, the suite offers 17 private rooms, many with a scenic view of the Hudson River, and five spacious operating rooms complete with the latest surgical equipment and a video system connected to a central computer system that can transmit CAT scan, MRI, fluoroscopic or X-ray images to any monitors.

"What we have created is a surgical facility that is not only designed for tomorrow's technology, but provides patients with unsurpassed comfort and privacy," said Daniel Blum, president of Phelps. "What it means to the community is a whole new level of service. I'm sure other hospitals will take notice."

A unique feature of the SurgiCenter is the STERIS RealView Visual Workflow Management System, which enables family members and friends of patients in surgery to be informed with updates on a patient's location and progress throughout the process displayed on a digital screen in the waiting room.



(Top) A ribbon was cut recently at the new Phelps SurgiCenter. An oversized "scalpel" was used to do the job by Avraham Merav, MD, Medical Director, Surgical Services, and Richard Peress, MD, Director, Department of Surgery (center). To their left were Mary McDermott, VP, Nursing Services; Richard Sinni, Chair, Board of Directors; Daniel Blum, President; Kathleen Scherf, Nursing Director, Surgical Services. To their right were Lawrence Faltz, MD, Chief Medical Officer; and Kerry Pisano, VP, Support Services. Robert Lane, VP for Development, can be seen applauding at the podium.

(R) Dr. Avraham Merav gives a tour in of the new operating rooms.

Designed by HCP Architects, the SurgiCenter was constructed by BBL Construction Services, which also built the Medical Services Building in 2007. It is connected to the main hospital by a 200-foot-long enclosed bridge, which provides quick access to other medical needs and personnel. "Freestanding surgery centers do not

routinely have cardiologists, pulmonologists and internists standing nearby," explained Dr. Richard Peress, spine surgery specialist and Director of Surgery. "While patients who are seriously ill or need complex surgery cannot be treated at a freestanding surgery center, they can be safely cared for in the SurgiCenter."



Photo by: Rick Pezullo

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Sleepy Hollow Resident Pleads Guilty to Bribery Scheme

by Rick Pezullo

A Sleepy Hollow resident and former special agent with the Federal Bureau of Investigation pled guilty in White Plains federal court last month to being involved in a bribery scheme in which he secretly sold information and documents he had access to for personal gain.

Robert Lustyik, 52, could face up to 55 years in prison when he is scheduled to be sentenced on April 30 by United States District Judge Vincent Briccetti for bribery, conspiracy to commit fraud and theft of government property.

"Lustyik betrayed our system of justice: he breached not only the law, but also his sworn oath, and the great trust and confidence placed in him by citizens and colleagues," said Preet Bharara, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York. "For his criminal conduct he now faces, as he must, serious, commensurate penalties."

Assistant Attorney General Leslie R. Caldwell added, "Robert Lustyik discarded the FBI's principles of 'fidelity, bravery, and integrity,' and sold his badge to the highest bidder. Greed has no place in public service or law enforcement. The Department of Justice will root out corruption wherever it takes hold, and hold accountable those who

abuse the public's trust for personal gain."

Lustyik was an FBI Special Agent who worked on the counterintelligence squad in the White Plains Resident Agency. According to the indictment, court hearings, and the December 23 plea proceeding, Lustyik engaged in a bribery scheme with a friend, Johannes Thaler, and Rizve Ahmed, an acquaintance of Thaler, from about September 2011 through March 2012.

As part of the scheme, Lustyik and Thaler solicited payments of money from Ahmed, in exchange for Lustyik's agreement to provide internal, confidential documents and other confidential information to which Lustyik had access. The documents and information pertained to a prominent citizen of Bangladesh. Ahmed sought, among other things, to obtain information about the Bangladesh citizen to locate and harm him and others.

Lustyik and Thaler exchanged text messages, including messages about how to pressure Ahmed to pay them additional money in exchange for confidential information.

Thaler and Ahmed previously pleaded guilty to bribery and conspiracy to commit fraud before Judge Briccetti. Thaler, 51, of New Fairfield, Connecticut, and Ahmed, 35, of Danbury, Connecticut, both face a maximum sentence of 35 years in prison when they are sentenced in January.

Funding New Bridge

Continued from page 1

In June, Cuomo announced that the New York State Environmental Facilities Corp. (EFC) would provide up to \$511.45 million in low-cost loans to the New York State Thruway Authority for environmental protection and Hudson River restoration projects related to the New NY Bridge project to replace the Tappan Zee. Along with the

\$1.6 billion Transportation Infrastructure Financing and Innovation Act (TIFIA) loan last year from the U.S. Department of Transportation, Cuomo said the EFC loans would help keep tolls on the new bridge as low as possible. The current toll is \$5.

"The governor's objective is to protect toll payers and avoid or limit any toll increases to the greatest extent possible," said Dani Lever, a spokesperson for Cuomo. "We continue to pursue every potential financing option to achieve this goal."

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Final Impact Statement Set for January on Pipeline Project

by Morey Storck

Major opposition groups are awaiting the expected Final Environmental Impact Statement from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, set for January 2015, concerning the Texas-based Spectra Gas Corporation's plan for its Algonquin natural gas pipeline. The major construction project would replace an existing 26-inch diameter pipe for pressurized gas with a new 42-inch diameter pipe from Rockland County to Massachusetts via Northern Westchester and Putnam County.

The proposed pipeline, compressor and metering station expansion would lie within close proximity to the Indian Point nuclear power plants and two proposed high voltage lines. The pipeline already cuts through Blue Mountain Reservation in Cortlandt; however, the 75-foot-easement now in place would increase to an expected 130 feet, in some areas, throughout its 1.4-mile course in the park.

Both sides are digging in. The New York League of Conservation Voters, a non-partisan environmental organization, which usually sides with conservation activists, this time has switched opinions. According to the group, the Algonquin Incremental Market (AIM) Project "would serve local distribution companies in Connecticut and Massachusetts, which in turn will help those states reduce their reliance on coal

and oil. The result will be that by moving to natural gas, a cleaner fossil fuel, these states can immediately start to reduce air pollutants and greenhouse gas emissions. The replacement of the existing 26-inch diameter pipeline with a 42-inch diameter pipeline would provide greater capacity for natural gas to the Northeast."

Spectra has pointed out that most of the work will take place on Algonquin Gas Corporation's current easement which would minimize the environmental disturbance in the local communities. In addition, since the existing route passes through the Croton Aqueduct and watershed, the NYC Department of Environmental Protection must also approve all construction activity in the affected areas.

Opponents of the Algonquin Pipeline Project counter with facts and studies of their own, such as the larger pipeline will increase the potential impact radius, which is the area beyond which a person can survive a leak and fire. The impact radius would have to increase from the present 465 feet on either side of the pipeline to 845 feet on either side. Thousands of trees in the county's Blue Mountain Reservation would need to be cut down with much of the landscape cleared in the new easement.

In August, the Westchester County Board of Legislators overwhelmingly passed (15-1) a resolution calling for an "independent comprehensive assessment

of the potential for a catastrophic explosion of the high-pressure pipe which is in close proximity to a significant seismic zone, and the Indian Point Nuclear facil-

ity." The proposed, high pressure, large 42" diameter transmission pipeline is at least 200% larger in capacity than the current pipe.

GM Site

Continued from page 1

achieved in Sleepy Hollow." The auto company declined to confirm what it received for the property. The deal ends an obstacle ridden path GM experienced pursuing the sale of its abandoned site along the Hudson River. A prospective agreement in 2007 with another developer, Roseland Property, was aborted when it withdrew from a partnership with GM because of litigation hanging over the project and the limitations on the scale of development imposed by the village.

A founding partner and co-managing partner of Diversified Realty Advisors, Jonathan D. Stein, described the site as "a unique piece of real estate," and added, "We couldn't be more pleased then to be the developers." Stein had been an executive with Roseland Property when it pulled out of the pact with GM.

Sleepy Hollow settled a long-standing lawsuit in 2013 filed by neighboring Tarrytown because of that village's concern over the traffic congestion the size of the proposed development would bring to its streets. The settlement, easing the way for a sale, required a developer to pay Tarrytown \$375,000 to address anticipated traffic problems. In 2011, Sleepy Hollow issued a Special Permit to GM controlling the scope of the project. The permit allows the developer to build 1,177 housing units, a 140-room hotel with a large restaurant, 135,000 square feet of retail space, including a large market, and a multiplex movie theater. The Special Permit also provides for approximately 16 acres of public waterfront open space, a riverwalk, several acres of a Village Green and access to the Sleepy Hollow Lighthouse.

"Our proposal obviously will be very consistent with the site plan," Stein said. However, he noted that there could likely be some "updates" based on the need to comply with current regulations. He anticipated that construction could begin on a first phase of the project by mid-year or by the third quarter. Before that happens, infrastructure improvements need to be made to the vacated site which Stein characterized as a "large slab." He cited the need for roads and utilities, and that, he added, "will take some time." Looking ahead, he said that the project's completion could take from six to 10 years. Before any construction begins, Lighthouse Landing, Venture LLC will have to wait for specific building proposals to be approved by the Village Planning Board, and it faces other reviews by village departments.

While still vacant, the property is expected to add nearly \$900,000 annually in tax to the village coffers rather than the \$140,000 Payment In Lieu Of Taxes (PILOT) Sleepy Hollow has received each

year since 1985. The reduced payment was negotiated with GM in an effort to have the automaker keep its plant operating in the village, but the factory was shut down in 1996, with a loss of 4,000 jobs. The property's return to taxation will also provide an important benefit for the Tarrytown School District which had been receiving an annual \$209,000 PILOT. That escalates to an annual tax payment of about \$2 million.

As the property is built up, tax revenues are expected to increase. Both Mayor Ken Wray and Village Administrator Anthony Giaccio used the term "enormous," in describing the future economic impact on the village. In addition to the more advantageous tax collections, Wray pointed out that the population of the village is anticipated to expand from 10,000 to 13,000 residents: "a huge increase," as he described it. The mayor cited the potential changes in the diversity of Sleepy Hollow's population brought about by occupants of the riverfront development, "Lighthouse Landing," and the bearing they would have on the village's median income.

Giaccio saw "...other advantages moving forward, in that we think it is going to spur economic development in the village...encourage people to develop improvements on Beckman Avenue and the surrounding streets." The School District was hesitant to offer immediate comment on what bearing the increased tax revenue would have on its operation in that some of those funds could be used to offset the potential need for tax increases.

A newly formed Sleepy Hollow Local Development Corporation (SHLDC) will hold the deed for the east parcel of the property, on which the village is expected to build a Department of Public Works structure and possibly new athletic fields. Having the LDC maintain the deed for the property allows the village to avoid state mandated construction restrictions imposed on municipalities that would boost building costs by 20-25%, according to Wray. Costs for the DPW building and fields would be raised by bonds issued by the LCD which would pay them off by leasing the land back to the village. The mayor has noted that while decontamination of the site has taken place, the village also did not want to have direct responsibility for any future problems with pollution standards.

Sleepy Hollow's Board of Trustees and Wray spent long hours in tense negotiations on days prior to the contract signing, resolving last minute demands by the involved parties and clearing the way for the final agreement. Now, an area that has been lying barren for what many consider too long is on its way to becoming a major asset for Sleepy Hollow.

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High Water Bills Stun Sleepy Hollow Residents

by Elaine Marranzano

Some Sleepy Hollow residents were shocked when they opened their water bills in November to learn they were being charged hundreds, and sometime thousands, of dollars more than usual. One resident received a bill for \$3,000.

"Ours jumped significantly," wrote Tim Judge on Facebook. "The bill says a 10 fold increase in usage...previous quarter was 1,600 gallons, this one 15,000. No way our water use increased that much."

Village Administrator Anthony Giaccio said inflated bills were sent to some property owners with indoor water meters. "If we can't gain access to read the meter, we send an estimated bill, based on prior usage," said Giaccio, explaining the problem is that the village had been underestimating water bills for up to a year in some cases.

"Some bills were enormous because we underestimated for four quarters," said Giaccio. "Now the resident or business owner

has to catch up. Every case was different. It wasn't village policy to inflate water bills across the board."

Denise Scaglione received a bill for \$1,800. "They did it on purpose so they can come out and check the meters that are in the house," she wrote on Facebook. "My thought was: Why they didn't just try calling?"

Estimated water bills may become a thing of the past because in 2015 the village will transition to a new \$500,000 automated system that will allow meters to be read from a desktop, eliminating the need to visit each home or business for meter readings.

"We'll be able to monitor water use 24/7 from village hall so we can notify residents if they have a leak. It will be a much better system," said Giaccio.

To enable the new system, all 1,600 water meters in the village will be replaced.

In the meantime, Giaccio encourages anyone with a higher than normal water bill to contact the water department at (914) 366-5103.

New Political Party

Continued from page 3

divided the board occurred this past summer when Lobato-Church's brother, Greg, was rejected for an appointment as a village police officer by several trustees. Wray said Lobato was an "outstanding candidate," and

a "casualty of partisan politics."

The new party, chaired by former Trustee David Schroedel, will need to circulate petitions and secure at least 100 valid signatures to get the Unite Sleepy Hollow party and its candidates on the March ballot. The Mayor said supporters of the new party will meet early this month and then begin a petition drive.

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Viewfinder

- 1:** Visitors enjoyed a harp concert during the Tarrytown Historical Society's Annual Holiday Open House.
- 2:** The Hale family poses with Frosty the Snowman, Santa Claus and Rudolph at Warner Library.
- 3:** Josephine Galgano, president of the Sleepy Hollow Seniors Club, and Roberta See, treasurer, decorate tree at Senior Center.

Photos by: Sunny McLean




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The Power of Gay-Straight Alliances in SH, Irvington, and Dobbs Ferry

by Tess Weitzner

Few are strangers to the struggle for identity and social acceptance in high school, but for members of the LGBTQ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning) community, this journey can be exceptionally challenging. There is hope, however, in the halls of Irvington, Sleepy Hollow, and Dobbs Ferry high schools. The Gay-Straight Alliance, a student-run club in all three schools, works to educate the student body on tolerance and anti-bullying, as well as function as a safe haven for those who seek peer support and even anonymity.

Hungry for answers, social justice, or both, many students will join their school Gay Straight Alliance (GSA) during freshman year. One student, who wished to remain anonymous, recalled, "I first started questioning my sexuality in eighth grade, and it was absolutely confusing and terrifying. I felt very alone. When I realized that there was an entire club devoted to LGBT-related issues, I felt less isolated."

Other students, such as Jamie Honigman of Dobbs Ferry, joined out of support for LGBT family and friends. "There is a large lack of education," said the current club president, "It can also be hard for LGBT students to meet, and I wanted to help create a community within the school."

Sandro Gerber, an exchange student from Switzerland, even claimed that the idea of a school-based support group such

as the GSA was entirely unheard of prior to his enrollment at Dobbs. "I was less open," said the senior, "but now, there is a place where people can really talk."

Such a refuge is a relatively new resource that was hardly available a generation ago. Sleepy Hollow GSA supervisor Kristen Dreher explained there was no such group growing up in Hackensack, New Jersey. Today, however, she is proud to oversee a place where "students can feel safe, comfortable, and accepted."

Kate Graubart of Irvington sees the club's mission as teaching others that the feelings of LGBT teens "...are just as valid as those of a heterosexual teen." Similarly, Ben Slaw, a former president of the Sleepy GSA, stressed his belief that, "it's INCREDIBLY important to allow people to explore themselves on their own and to support all directions of exploration, and unfortunately, our society presents a predominantly straight, cisgender view."

According to a 2013 national survey conducted by GLSEN (Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Education Network), 85% of LGBT students reported being verbally harassed at one point in the last year. Statistics such as these ensure the GSA's political activism to be as equally vital as its social outreach. Throughout the year, the GSA tackles a multitude of topics, ranging anywhere from bystander intervention to social media harassment.

In 2009, the Sleepy Hollow GSA was given an award from GLSEN for raising

over \$10,000 for AIDS WALK, creating a safe space in the high school, educating the community through plays such as *The Laramie Project*, and hosting educational workshops for the junior and senior class. Popular among all three GSAs is participation in the NYC Pride Parade and Pride Works, a conference and series of educational workshops hosted by PFLAG (Parents, Families and Friends of Gays and Lesbians) and GLSEN.

Day of Silence, which necessitates participation from as much of the student body as possible, has also been a success in all three schools. "Day of Silence made people who

have lived a secret for their whole lives feel like they had people who cared and wished for them to be happy," said Elsa Ordahl, who witnessed Irvington students remain silent to represent those who are forced into silence about their sexual identity.

While the Irvington GSA holds a healthy number of members (anywhere from four to 26 people could show up at a meeting), Sleepy Hollow and Dobbs Ferry have only a handful of members each and have been struggling to recruit new students. In doing so, both schools have also met the challenge of being taken seriously by the administra-

Continued on page 21

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Time to Give: Volunteering in the New Year

by Krista Madsen

Anne Richards' trajectory of community involvement started off on a familiar path: as the mother of four boys, she was extremely involved in the book sales, the PTA meetings, and so forth, until life took a devastating turn.

After a major car accident, her youngest son (then 13) was given "less than a zero chance of survival," Richards said. "If he did, impossibly, his state would be comatose, a vegetable at best."

Mikey, now 21, is not only alive but thriving, entertaining bedside visitors for the first time in recent weeks and enthusiastically collecting badges from the region's bravest. (If it's not from a "hero" like a firefighter, he's not into it, his mother said.)

After a year and a half between seven hospitals, Richards, rising to the role of "mother bear" against all the odds, fought and won the battle to get him home by Christmas, 2008. But Mikey required a prohibitively expensive medical bed. The director of AFYA (which means "good health" in Swahili) happened upon Richards' Craigslist post and made a very special delivery. Richards has since become involved with this organization aimed at redistributing medical equipment to countries in need, among so many others causes and organizations she supports.

As Mikey's full-time caregiver she is unable to get a job. From his bedside, however, she has two major means of outreach: computer and phone. During Hurricane Sandy when she co-founded Walk a Mile in Our Shoes, Richards realized she really had an aptitude for disasters. "It's called 'trauma mode,'" she said, "I sure as heck knew what it was like to have my world destroyed in a heartbeat. I try to turn the negative into a positive if I can. Volunteering is healing."

Alisa Kesten, Executive Director of Volunteer New York! (formerly the Volunteer Center of United Way), categorized disasters as the most critical time when volunteers kick into action, but noted that we are privy to the collective greatness of small acts of generosity here in the river towns every day. She confirmed that people are extremely invested in supporting each other. "We really are a community that cares about one another," she said.

It was the organization's move to Tarrytown headquarters in 2010 that has "definitely given us more of a boots on the ground perspective," Kesten said. "We are seeing just how supportive and strong service is in the river towns. The community comes together to solve local problems; there's a lot of collaboration."

While Kesten said there's no solid volunteering statistics on the county itself, or this string of hyper-involved river towns, she is certain we stand out in a state that is, surprisingly, traditionally bottommost on the list. (A study from the Corporation for National and Community Service ranks New York and Louisiana lowest for its volunteering rates between 2011-2013; Utah and Idaho enjoy top spots). Kesten has found that the pockets of strong engagement in the state are linked to places

where businesses support community involvement. She estimated that with more than 1,600 nonprofits in Westchester and a thriving business community, volunteering is strong here.

While Volunteer New York! prepares for future unknown disasters and addressing ongoing hunger – establishing a virtual center to better pair volunteers with immediate needs in the wake of another crisis, and applying for a state grant to help staff a trio of tri-country food pantries – the organization's immediate focus this month is coordinating an exhaustive list of public events for the upcoming annual MLK Day of Service.

Kesten expects this year's events will hold particular resonance in the wake of nation-



Volunteer New York! board member Marjorie Lang, of Irvington (grey sweatshirt), participates in MLK Science.

Photo courtesy of Volunteer New York!

al protests over several deaths of unarmed blacks by police. "Given everything going on around the country I hope people will realize how valuable the lessons of Dr. King are, now more than ever. People do want positive change and for good reasons."

Change happens when we come together, she said. Especially, when we come together with people we wouldn't normally interact with, which is often the case when we volunteer.

Westchester is a particularly dynamic place, if challenging, because it has both extreme wealth and its lack side by side. "The

"I sure as heck knew what it was like to have my world destroyed in a heartbeat. I try to turn the negative into a positive if I can. Volunteering is healing."

—Anne Richards

challenge here in Westchester is the huge gap between people who have so much and people who don't," Kesten said. "The need is just as important here; you just don't see it."

With a small army of 700 volunteers supporting a database of about 500 nonprofits, Volunteer New York! is always in grow-mode, trying to bolster its human resources. Play around with its search widget, and you can find volunteering ops perfectly tailored to you, or register your organization to get the help it needs.

"A kind heart is a fountain of gladness, making everything in its vicinity fresher

into smiles." - Washington Irving

Even Sleepy Hollow Country's legendary man of letters knew the power of lifting all boats. There's no question volunteering does good for others, though it's arguably the giver who benefits most of all.

Maybe there's no such thing as altruism, as selfless acts are probably never really selfless, nor should they be. Kesten urged volunteers to follow their interests and skill sets, and said these activities should feature prominently on resumé.

Volunteering can be a key pathway to finding employment when employment can be so hard to find. Nationalservice.org cites statistics that volunteers are 20 percent more likely to get a job. For those without a high school diploma, volunteer-

like Loretta London, flying to third world countries on Healing the Children missions, the opportunities to find your volunteering niche and make an impact are innumerable and immediate.

"You don't have to have money to give," Richards said. Recalling Hurricane Sandy, she said, "The person who brought 17 tractor trailers and the person who brought a case of water both contributed."

Time is what it comes down to. Siena College Research Institute found that New Yorkers list, as their primary excuse for not volunteering, that they are too busy; second, they haven't been asked; third, they don't know where to go to help.

Steve Wilgermein, a Tarrytown firefighter, is asking folks to come by the local firehouses or ambulance corps. "Volunteers seem to have an unselfish habit of doing good. Time is the greatest thing you can give, he said, adding that while it's easy to complain about your community, it's far better to "go out and help make a difference."

Here's a short list of just some of the local causes and organizations that need you now to:

FOSTER INDEPENDENCE: It Takes a Village 10591's mission is to provide support and services that allow seniors in our community to remain independent in their homes. The group is identifying needs and seeking merchant discounts, volunteers for transportation, home maintenance, companionship, grocery buying, and more. For more information email info@itav10591.org

SAVE LIVES: In Irvington, an Emergency Medical Technician Basic-Original course begins on Feb. 11. For more info, contact criticalcaring@gmail.com. To volunteer in various capacities with the Irvington ambulance corps call 914-591-5151. The Sleepy Hollow Corps needs EMTs, first aide responders and drivers, 631-1962. Tarrytown has a junior corps for teens age 14 through 17, 631-6469.

SUPPORT THE PANTRY: The Community Food Pantry of Tarrytown and Sleepy Hollow is always in need of volunteers. Check out www.communityfoodpantryshtt.org.

FEED THE HOME-BOUND. In conjunction with the Food Pantry, Sarita Koch coordinates a program in which families donate food once a month to help feed home-bound individuals in our area. She always needs more monthly donors, and they'll even pick up the food from your front door. Contact: Tarrytowndonates@gmail.com or 914-418-4344.

CONNECT WITH KIDS. Irvington's Abbott House offers numerous opportunities to connect with children and developmentally disabled individuals. Volunteers are welcome in any capacity from lending general office support to leading a workshop. Call 914-365-6715.

To find more local opportunities to give please check out MLK Day in particular (events focused largely on the weekend prior to the national holiday, Jan. 17 and 18) and the Volunteer New York! resources in general at www.volunteernewyork.org.

South Pacific is an Enchanted Evening at WBT

by Morey Storck

An old and wise Broadway adage states that for a musical to succeed on the Great White Way it must contain at least one memorable hit song for the audience to hum leaving the theatre. But, shows that succeed in giving an entire score for the audience to applaud and sing are few and far between. A few come to mind: Jerome Kern's *Show Boat*, Irving Berlin's *Annie Get Your Gun*, Cole Porter's *Kiss Me Kate*, and of course, Rodgers & Hammerstein's *South Pacific*. As Abel Green proclaimed in his Variety review, after the movie was released in 1958 "... probably the greatest galaxy of popular musical favorites from a single show in the history of musical comedy."

South Pacific opened on Broadway April 7, 1949 to rave reviews, running for 1,925 performances. When it closed in 1954 it became the second longest-running Broadway show (up to that time), just behind *Oklahoma*, an earlier Rodgers and Hammerstein mega-hit. It won 10 Tony Awards, plus the Pulitzer Prize.

The story is based on James A. Michener's Pulitzer Prize-winning 1947 book *Tales of the South Pacific* and utilizes elements from the nineteen events described in the book. Those sub-stories stand alone, but all revolve around an American operation to dislodge the Japanese from an important, nearby island. The summary plot-line centers on an American nurse from Kansas who is stationed on a South Pacific island during World War II and falls in love with a middle-aged expatriate French plantation owner. However, she finds it difficult accepting his two mixed-raced children. A secondary romance between a U.S. lieutenant and a young Tonkinese woman openly questions his cultural and social prejudices should he marry her. For 1949, that recurring racial theme to be presented on Broadway and a national tour was certainly an act of social conscience, as well as courage. Eventually, Lieutenant Cable is able to love



South Pacific will be on stage until January 25.

Liat, but unable to muster the courage to bring her home. He is killed in action. Nellie Forbush is able to overcome her feelings of racism and remains on the island after the war with Emile.

Usually, the typical Broadway musical, up until *South Pacific*, had two romantic stories, one serious and one with a lighter note. In this case, perhaps, because of the racial overtones, both stories remained serious. Interestingly, thought had been given to making the lieutenant's romance the main storyline, but after the signing of Mary Martin and Ezio Pinza that possibility was dropped. Other bits of backstage intrigue involved Martin being disappointed that she would not be introducing "Some Enchanted Evening." However, her suggestion that "Gonna Wash That Man Right Outa My Hair" with a shower that actually takes place on stage during each performance, was used. She was also promised that she would not have direct duets with Pinza. And, Pinza's

contract stipulated that he would not have to sing more than fifteen minutes during each performance. A shirtless lieutenant's singing of "Younger Than Springtime" was resisted by Rodgers and Hammerstein because of the perceived sexual connotation until director, Joshua Logan, stepped in.

This WBT production is mounted assuredly and professionally, with an attractive and talented cast that stars Haley Swindal as Nellie, George Dvorsky as Emile de Becque, Zach Trimmer as Lt. Cable, Alison Chi as Liat, Joanne Javien as Bloody Mary and Bill E. Dietrich as Luther Billis. Swindal's demeanor and voice are perfectly pitched for her Broadway pop melodies, particularly with the "Honey Bun" and "Washing That Man Outa Her Hair" scenes. George Dvorsky is commanding with "Some Enchanted Evening." Zach Trimmer is beautifully romantic with "Younger Than Springtime" and resolute with the very important and pivotal "You've Got To Be Carefully Taught". Joanne Javien almost steals the show with her rendition of "Bali Ha'i", and Bill Dietrich, with the ensemble, is delightfully forceful in acknowledging that "There Is Nothing Like A Dame." The choreography by Michael Lichtefeld is tough and suitably masculine. The entire production under the direction of Charles Repole is top-notch. He is particularly skillful in moving his cast swiftly about the thrust stage according to the ever-changing moods and needs of the script. Another enchanted evening at WBT.

Performance dates: Dec. 31, '14 - Jan. 25, '15. Box office: 914-592-2222. Group sales: 914-592-2225. Luxury boxes: 914-592-8730.

Canfin Gallery to Exhibit Jean Duquoc Pastel Works

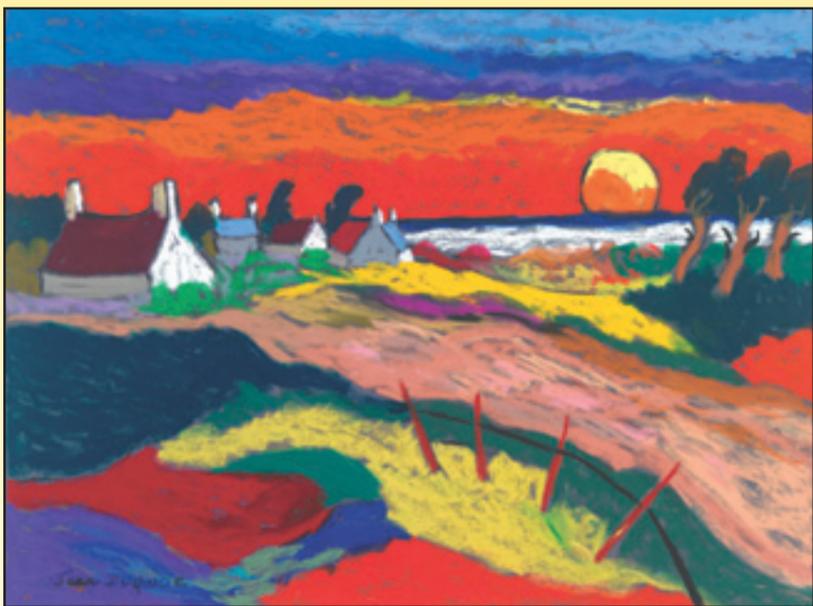


Photo courtesy of Canfin Gallery

by Morey Storck

When we first interviewed Jean Duquoc in November 2013, he spoke of his red sun, so prominent in a great many of his paintings, as "a symbol of rebirth and a window to eternity. The sun radiates the light of unity, of heaven and earth, but also the light of disruption."

That was during the fifth presentation of his work at Canfin Gallery since the gallery opened on Main Street in Tarrytown in 2005.

Born in 1937, the lifework of Jean Duquoc is influenced by the landscape of his beloved home in Brittany, France. Critics use words and phrases such as "uninhibited, transcendent moments articulated

in paint." He allows us to see the land through eyes that are filled with energized excitement, vibrant impressions and boldly dramatic, saturated primary color.

He now shows us that same exhilaration and joy within his pastel collection. The one significant difference is the immediacy, seeing and experiencing results of the moment, without another intervening medium. His fire and passion is very evident, as the gallery points out, in his "quest for the primacy of tonal harmony, as always, grounded in unbridled color."

"Luminosity," the pastel works of Jean Duquoc, will be on display from January 24 to February 22 at the Canfin Gallery.

New Jazz Forum Music Venue to Open in Tarrytown

Mark Morganelli, trumpeter and Executive Director of Jazz Forum Arts, has announced its anticipated move after 23 years in Dobbs Ferry to a 1910 mixed-use building at 1 Dixon Lane, Tarrytown in early 2015. Morganelli and his wife, Ellen Prior (JFA Associate Director) are moving their family to the upstairs residence there and plan to open the Jazz Forum, reckoning back over thirty years to Morganelli's famed Greenwich Village loft/performance spaces. The ground floor commercial space, once home to Breitenbach Bakery, will be reinvented as a not-for-profit performance and visual art space operated by Jazz Forum Arts. It is hoped, that with approvals and licenses, public music performances, enhanced with food and beverage offerings, could commence in late 2015. Jazz Forum Arts, founded in 1985, has been supported by the National Endowment for the Arts, New York State Council on the Arts, Arts Westchester, RiverArts, J.P. Morgan Chase Foundation, and Tarrytown's Feldman Family Fund through the Westchester Community Foundation. Area residents know

Jazz Forum Arts as Westchester County's premier presenter of Jazz and of free concerts for more than two decades. Twenty-two years and nearly 150 concerts of Jazz at the Tarrytown Music Hall, founded by Morganelli, have presented Dizzy Gillespie, Lionel Hampton, Mercer Ellington, Dave Brubeck, Chuck Mangione, Betty Carter, Gerry Mulligan, Spyro Gyra, Sonny Rollins, Pat Metheny, David Sanborn, Chris Botti and many more. Just this past summer, Jazz Forum Arts partnered with the Village of Tarrytown, a relationship that began in 1998 with the Tarrytown Arts Festival, and presented five free concerts at the newly redesigned Pierson Park. There were also eight free concerts at Lyndhurst, Tarrytown presented by Morganelli and Jazz Forum Arts in the fifth year of that collaboration. Plans for the new Jazz Forum at 1 Dixon Lane include weekend sessions featuring some of the finest artists in the world including Wynton Marsalis, Joe Lovano, David Amram and Barry Harris. More Info: 914-631-1000 or www.jazzforumarts.org

Food for Thought

Wolfert's Roost, Irvington

by Linda Viertel

How many river town residents know that Wolfert's Roost was the name Washington Irving bestowed upon the structure he purchased along his beloved Hudson River, later renaming it Sunnyside? Now, Wolfert's Roost has been reincarnated as a charming, much-awaited family-style restaurant, recently opened by chef-owner Eric Korn.

After the success of Korn's Good Life Gourmet catering service and previous pop-up restaurants, his International Culinary Institute training comes to full fruition at his latest venture, located at the former Cupcake Kitchen and Luncheonette site on Irvington's Main Street. Korn describes his cooking as, "New American cuisine. I look at it as New York-based – comforting street food, a 'melting pot' menu." And, from the look of the overflow crowd at dinnertime, his fans are eager to enjoy Korn's eclectic offerings at his informal venture just down the street from Good Life Gourmet.

Regulars can still order his signature falafel sandwich for lunch, in addition to his aromatic pho (Vietnamese soup), complemented by delectable melt-in-your mouth short ribs. Seared tuna salad, Korn's good-life burger with fries, onion jam and beemster cheese, or a small bowl of fried chicken make it hard to choose from the many lunch options written on the blackboard. Pulled pork accompanied by grilled pineapple and Maui onion chips, charred tomato soup or a fresh, crisp kale salad full of colorful beets, creamy goat cheese and crunchy pistachios enhance lunch offerings. The menu changes daily, always including seasonal specials and healthy choices, with almost everything, including stocks, the johny cakes and flat breads, scratch-made.

"It wasn't going to be 'Eric's restaurant,'" Korn declared. "I wanted to make it an Irvington restaurant, small, informal, good for



Sweet tea brined fried chicken and tomahawk steak serving 4 - two signature dishes at Wolfert's Roost.



Fried chicken image ©Doug Schneider Photography

kids." It's a BYO place, so diners can supply their own wine or beer, which keeps the tab low; high-end wines or less expensive BYO's go perfectly with any dinner choice. Start with several "snacks" (house pickled vegetables, spiced nuts or marinated olives). But, don't miss the puffy, hot johny cakes and grill bread (think scallion pancakes) served on a wood board with onion confit and a slab of butter. It's available for lunch and dinner.

Diners will want to share dishes; Wolfert's provides too many interesting and distinctive tastes. So be generous with your fel-

low eaters. Medium and large plates, plus "bowls" define dinner choices, not to mention four salads featuring tuna and papaya, warm bacon, beets and kale or the house special. Torta di spaghetti with pork ragu, a favorite medium plate, combines a smooth, rich pork ragu with piave cheese, but when mixed with the pasta and then high roasted, there's a crunch that defies description. The wild mushroom bruschetta comes topped with melted taleggio cheese and a sunny-side-up egg -- the yolk rich and runny.

Large plates include a seared polenta smothered with wild mushrooms and broccoli – fresh, earthy tastes that complement the corn-rich taste of the lightly grilled, smoky polenta. Korn's "captain's catch" depends upon what is freshest, and is served with seasonal vegetables plus his justly famous quinoa salad. For a once in a lifetime blow-out, try the "dope 'effing steak," a 28-day dry-aged tomahawk steak, roasted with garlic, fresh herbs and a drizzle of olive oil. Two sides come with the order, and it easily serves four- well worth the cost. And, here's a touch of Korn's menu whimsy: "Oh yeah, one last thing – if you ask for anything more than medium, you can't have it." And, he isn't kidding.

Bowls: If you love fried chicken, then forget ordering a half; go for the whole sectioned bird brined in sweet tea, preserved lemon, basil and honey. It will all get eaten, I promise. Spicy mussels get the Thai treatment with coconut, pickled chilies and basil.

Korn suggests you might "want to try it

all" with an omakase offering that lets his chefs put together a grand tasting for you.

"It's a fun place. I want people to have a good time and feel like you're in your own home. We're serious about food but we're having fun too," said Korn. Whimsy plays a big role in his dessert offerings: the toasted coconut birthday cake arrives with a lit candle – birthday or no birthday. Gummy worms infiltrate the chocolate pudding – and it's not just for kids. But, there's nothing funny about the banoffee Sunday, a delirious combination of roasted bananas, Penny Lick banana bread ice cream (made in house), bourbon caramel and graham cracker toffee.

Korn cooks with his brother Will, a partner from the beginning, as well as Jenny Wertz, whom he met at the International Culinary Institute. Jenny teamed up with Jorge Ortiz at Owest, West Side New York's premier restaurant. And, local resident, Will Tamura has been a sous chef for four years, first as an Irvington high school student and then during college. It's one big family, which also includes Korn's 3-month-old Ben, often seen in his arms, and two-year-old Ava, who grew up in the kitchen.

Wolfert's seats 38, including bar seating. Local artist Tony Alvarez's paintings and Eleni LaSenna's prints decorate the walls (Alvarez's son Hugo helped with the design and construction). Wainscoting and 19th century lanterns add a homey feel, as does being able to view much of the cooking while dining.

The original Wolfert's Roost property belonged to Wolfert Acker (hence Irvington's Eckar Street), a Revolutionary War hero whose brother was the first Deacon of Sleepy Hollow's Old Dutch Church. Though Acker's primary residence was burned down by the British in retaliation for a family member shooting at the enemy's boat with a powerful goose-rifle filled with nails, locals are happy that Wolfert's Roost has found new life as the fun, warm and engaging, food-passionate spot chef-owner Korn always envisioned.

If You Go: Good Life Gourmet (goodlifegourmet.com) still hums along, often catering for weddings, corporate and private events (dinner parties for 10-12 up to gatherings for 150), and provides a commissary enhancing Korn's Wolfert Roost kitchen space, located just a few doors up the street at 108 Main Street. 914-478-8080

Learn more about Wolfert Acker in Washington Irving's story collection, *Wolfert's Roost and Miscellanies*.

If You Go

100 Main Street, Irvington
Lunch: 11 a.m.-3 p.m.
Dinner: 5-9:30 p.m. Mon.-Sat
914-231-7576
Facebook: wolfertsroostirv.com

Blue Hill at Stone Barns Named One of Nation's 100 Best Restaurants

Blue Hill at Stone Barns, located on the Pocantico Hills Rockefeller estate, was named one of the nation's top 100 restaurants for 2014 by OpenTable.com.

Chef, Dan Barber's creation is one of 11 New York restaurants chosen as "the best" by the readers of OpenTable, and it is the only one in Westchester County.

This culinary award was earned, not only because of Barber's consummate and creative cooking skills, his attention to excellent service, and charming atmosphere, but also because he has perfected farm to table dining, as the Blue Hill at

Stone Barns website states: "Sourcing ingredients from the surrounding fields and pasture as well as other local farms, Blue Hill at Stone Barns highlights the abundant resources of the Hudson Valley. There are no menus at Blue Hill at Stone Barns; Our Grazing, Pecking and Rooting option is the instant reflection of the day's harvest."

The top 100 were selected "based on an analysis of more than five million reviews of more than 20,000 restaurants across the country — all submitted by verified diners," according to OpenTable.

Higher Field Lights Approved for Hackley School

by Rick Pezullo

The Greenburgh Zoning Board of Appeals approved variances in November to allow Hackley School to increase the height of four lights at Pickert Field.

School officials faced little resistance from

neighbors over its proposal to extend two lights from the permitted 14 feet to 80 feet and two other lights from 14 feet to 90 feet. The closest home to the field is approximately 1,200 feet and is separated by heavy vegetation on the 285-acre campus in Tarrytown.

Hackley Headmaster Walter Johnson told the ZBA the school was hoping to make more use of Pickert Field for soccer, field hockey and lacrosse, in addition to the football and track and field events that now utilize it.

However, he emphasized the lights would stay on no later than 8:30 p.m. on

weekdays and 11 p.m. Friday and Saturday when games or practices are held.

Pickert Field is the main athletic field at Hackley. As part of the school's 2001 Master Plan, a physical education and health facility is being considered south of Pickert Field, along with a new swimming pool.

Congratulations to the winners of Irvington's holiday window decorating contest!

1st prize went to Seasons on the Hudson (45 Main St.), 2nd prize to Sal's Barber Shop (102 Main St.), and 3rd prize to NaturalFit Pharmacy (104 Main St). The Irvington Chamber of Commerce awarded its first place winner with an ad in *The Hudson Independent*!



Teatown's Hudson River EagleFest™ Lands at the Kathryn W. Davis RiverWalk Center in Sleepy Hollow!

FREE Activities at the RWC: 10 am – 3 pm:

10 am—12 pm: Strawtown Art and Garden Studio, Family art—Create a Window to an Eagle's World of Color

Saturday, February 7
(snowdate: Feb. 8)

11 am: Jonathan Kruk – Master Storyteller – Wings of Wind & River of Ice - Eagle Tales

12 pm: Walkabout Clearwater Chorus – Singing for the River

1-3 pm: Scenic Hudson – Eagle spotting and creating art of the river

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- Bus Tours to viewing sites
- Children's activities & storytelling
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Construction of Stormwater Pond to Occur Near Irving Homeowners

by Janie Rosman

A new challenge greeted the Irving neighborhood in November when Tappan Zee Constructors, LLC (TZC) began clearing and grubbing a work zone to prepare for the construction of a stormwater management pond.

The pond will help control the flow of stormwater by collecting and retaining runoff, project officials said. Work on the state-owned property next to the 40-home area is not subject to the village's review or approval.

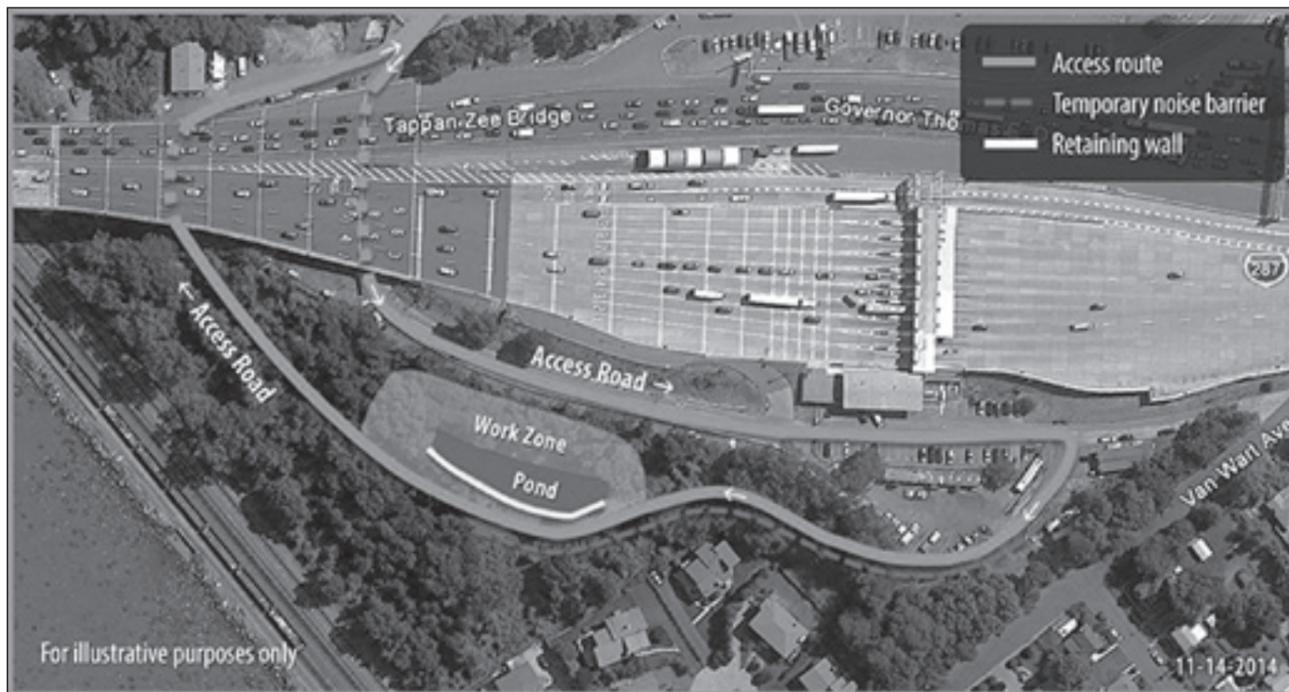
After clearing and grubbing — removing trees, shrubs, stumps and rubbish from a future right-of-way of a transportation corridor — crews will begin excavating. Residents were assured that TZC will continue to implement noise, dust and other mitigation techniques to minimize impacts, including wet suppression via an onsite truck, which will help encapsulate airborne dust particles.

Temporary noise barriers will be installed, and white backup alarms will be on onsite vehicles. Construction vehicles will access the work zone via 333 S. Broadway and will not use Van Wart Avenue.

TZC community outreach manager Carla Julian provided *The Hudson Independent* with additional information.

HI: Is the completion date for excavation, grubbing and installation is spring 2015? Or will retaining wall construction begin then? Where will the precast wall be built?

CJ: Work in the area has begun and will extend in general into the spring. The retention pond area is built in stages, and final completion will be at a later date beyond 2015 by project completion in 2018.



How many trees will be cut?

The area abuts the Hudson Place circle. The trees removed are on New York State Thruway Authority (NYSTA) property along the existing slope of Fisher Drive. The exact number has yet to be determined, but TZC is working to save as many trees as possible.

Will the area where trees are removed be graded to prevent runoff, and if/when will trees that are removed be replaced?

Yes. Landscaping will be completed at the end of the project.

What will be the dimensions of the pond? Will this be a wet pond or a dry pond? How high is the retaining wall?

The dimensions of the pond will be 150' x 30'. Water does enter and leave the pond depending upon rainfall and runoff. The wall is roughly 120' x 12' high.

Was the village Planning Board involved or is it out of village jurisdiction? Will the pond be maintained by the Thruway Authority?

That was not a requirement, as all of the work is on Thruway property. Yes. The pond will be maintained by the Thruway upon final completion of the project.

What other noise can neighbors expect besides chainsaws and white noise backup alarms?

Construction hours for a first shift are

Map indicating location of pond to residences.

7 a.m. to approximately 3:30 p.m. However, TZC is allowed to work beyond these hours as long as we are not exceeding the noise levels set forth in the contract. There may be times where night work is required, and if that is the case, we will notify residents in advance. Residents will experience general construction noise similar to what they have experienced to date.

Can residents contact you directly? Where can they reach you?

Residents can contact Brian Conybear (914-524-5444 or mobile: 845-705-3302) or Carla Julian (914-36-0938) directly as always.

SH Engineering Students Get First-Hand Lesson on TZ Bridge

by Janie Rosman

Neither rain nor sleet nor snow nor whipping winds could keep members of the Sleepy Hollow High School Engineering Club from seeing the new Tappan Zee Bridge project. Last month, several students met special project advisor Brian Conybear and ARUP Senior Infrastructure Manager Martha Gross at the viewing area to learn about the project, engineering careers, and educational basics.

Standing outside during the freezing snow showed them what it's like to work in the elements. Now in its initial year, "the club includes students from a variety of backgrounds in terms of grade level," Science/Technology teacher Kevin Doherty explained. "Everyone's interested in the bridge, and many students want to pursue engineering after high school."

"It was really cool to see an actual piece of the bridge, and I was surprised at how heavy it was," Ilona Zamdmer said. Fellow classmate, Kevon Lewis, learned researchers "wanted to build a bridge that was

unique, something that doesn't exist anywhere else."

ARUP Senior Infrastructure Manager Martha Gross told students about the various opportunities in the field. Gross, a civil engineer, was a Fulbright Scholar and attended the University of Stuttgart in Germany, and holds an MBA and a Ph.D. in civil engineering.

One way to learn about professional choices is to "try many things: engineering and science courses, explore different career majors, read about them, and meet people who are working in areas that intrigue you. Meet your professors, and join clubs and societies that interest you," Gross said.

The project relies heavily on civil engineering, Gross said, explaining the differences. "As cars and trucks get bigger during the next 100 years, the bridge has to be able to handle them," she said. "Today's a good example of wind loads, and we have to take that into consideration, because the steel has to withstand temporary moves."

That impressed Jack Rjeili, who was interested in the intense planning and activ-

ity involved with the project.

"I'm a supporter of engineering education, and it was a thrill to see their eyes light up with 'aha'," Gross said. "I'm trying to inspire them, to show them how even the basics they're studying in school are applicable."

An 'aha' moment came when the kids heard why there are more pilings on the Rockland side than there are on the Westchester side. "The land is less stable, and the soil quality on the Westchester side is much closer to the surface," Gross explained. "You can put more load onto rock."

Like her peers, Marcela Maxi was amazed at how quickly the first pier towers were constructed, "at the same time, I thought construction was taking so long." After Gross explained the procedures and steps to build them, she said, "I realized that they were quickly built."

One important fact Rebecca DiBlasi learned is that different climates, like icicles and snow, affect bridges. Hearing that weather affects the bridge was another 'aha' moment.

The award-winning super crane got their attention, especially when Gross described its size, and that its versabar system can hoist 1,700 metric tons (1928 US tons). "It's sitting prettily in the water, and the fact that it's so far away makes it look smaller than it is."

Even a mega project with high-end equipment includes technical concepts within students' reach. "Math, physics and other sciences provide versatility, and are relevant to engineering projects," Gross said. "Something you're learning now might be applicable five years from now."

Engineering Club students will participate in the Rube Goldberg Machine competition (www.rubegoldberg.com) held at the Lower Hudson Valley Engineering Expo (<http://www.beanengineer.org/>) at White Plains High School on March 22, 2015.

A Rube Goldberg Machine is designed to perform a simple task in a very ornate way. This year's task is to erase a chalkboard. Be prepared to be amazed.

What's Happening

Saturday 3

NATURE IN THE NEW YEAR: At 2 p.m. observe nature in winter at the Greenburgh Nature Center in Scarsdale. Call 723-3470 or visit www.greenburghnaturecenter.org.

WINTER GALA: At 7 p.m. "Boeing-Boeing" will be presented by the Broadway Training Center at the Irvington Town Hall Theater. Call 591-6602 or visit www.IrvingtonTheater.com.

Sunday 4

AMAZING ANIMAL SENSES: At 1 p.m. learn how efficient animals are at what they do because of their sensory arsenal at Teatown Lake Reservation in Ossining. Call 762-2912, ext. 110 or visit www.teatown.org.

WINTER WILDLIFE: At 2 p.m. meet some favorite animals at the Greenburgh Nature Center in Scarsdale. Call 723-3470 or visit www.greenburghnaturecenter.org.

TWELFTH NIGHT CONCERT: The Hudson Harp Consort performs at 4 p.m. at Christ Episcopal Church in Tarrytown. Call 631-2074 or visit www.hudsonharpconsort.com.

BY THE LIGHT OF THE MOON: At 6:30 p.m. experience evening woods and trails as animals do at the Greenburgh Nature Center in Scarsdale. Call 723-3470 or visit www.greenburghnaturecenter.org.

Monday 5

SHAKESPEARE READING GROUP: At 7 p.m. the group will read selections from "Two Gentlemen of Verona" at the Warner Library in Tarrytown. Call 631-7734 or visit www.warnerlibrary.org.

HISTORY BOOK GROUP: Meets at 7 p.m. to discuss "Boss Tweed" by Kenneth D. Ackerman at the Warner Library in Tarrytown. Call 631-7734 or visit www.warnerlibrary.org.

Wednesday 7

"CALVARY": Showing at 2 p.m. at the Warner Library in Tarrytown. Call 631-7734 or visit www.warnerlibrary.org.

Thursday 8

BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP: From 9 a.m. to noon Dana Asher discusses "The Energy Project" at the Purple Crayon in Hastings-on-Hudson. Call 231-9077 or visit www.purplecrayoncenter.org.

SNOWY WEATHER MOVIES: The documentary "Shanghai Ghetto" will be shown at 10 a.m. at JCC on the Hudson in Tarrytown. Call 366-7898 or visit www.jccontheudson.org.

TEEN YOGA CLASS: 5 p.m. at Irvington Public Library. Call 591-7840 or visit www.irvingtonlibrary.org.

WARNER LIBRARY BOOK GROUP: Meets at 7 p.m. to discuss "Daughter of Time" by Josephine Tey.

Call 631-7734 or visit www.warnerlibrary.org.

Friday 9

CONCERT: The Madeleine Peyroux Trio performs at 8 p.m. at the Tarrytown Music Hall. Call 877-840-0457 or visit www.tarrytownmusicall.org.

Saturday 10

ANIMAL ADVENTURES - WHO'S OUT THERE?: At 1:30 p.m. meet a few ambassador animals in this program featuring owls in winter at Teatown Lake Reservation in Ossining. Call 762-2912, ext. 110 or visit www.teatown.org.

BLUEPRINT FOR FINANCIAL SUCCESS: Seminar at 2 p.m. with representatives of New York Life Insurance Co. at the Ossining Public Library. To register call 941-2416, ext. 327.

FOREST MAGIC: At 2 p.m. scout the woods for fairies, trolls and gnomes at the Greenburgh Nature Center in Scarsdale. Call 723-3470 or visit www.greenburghnaturecenter.org.

BALLOON ARTIST: At 2:30 p.m. Christ Fuentes re-creates characters from Dr. Seuss at the Warner Library in Tarrytown. Registration limited. Sign up in the Children's Room.

YEAR OF YOUR BOOK ROUND TABLE: At 4 p.m. join instructors and other authors planning out their manuscripts at Hudson Valley Writers' Center in Sleepy Hollow. Call 332-5953 or visit www.writerscenter.org.

A NIGHT AT HOGWARTS: From 6 p.m. - 9 p.m. ages 8 and up participate in magic activities and enjoy a pizza supper at JCC on the Hudson in Tarrytown. Pre-registration required. Call 366-7898 or visit www.jccontheudson.org.

WINTER BLUES-BEER, BANDS AND BURGERS: 2nd Annual Fundraiser to benefit The Sleepy Hollow High School Performing Arts Boosters 7 p.m. to midnight at the Hudson Harbour Lodge in Tarrytown. For tickets e-mail sleepyhollowperformingarts@gmail.com or call 631-9722 if necessary.

Sunday 11

EPIPHANY PAGEANT: Celebrate the 3 Kings at 10 a.m. at Christ Church in Tarrytown. Call 631-2074 or e-mail Christchurchtntny@aol.com.

ROBERT BURNS: At 2 p.m. Eugene Bender celebrates Burns' life and poetry at the Ossining Public Library. Call 941-2416 or visit www.ossininglibrary.org.

CONCERT: At 4 p.m. the Irvington Public Library presents "Music from Blue Mountain" featuring piano, violin, viola and mezzo-soprano. Call 591-7840 or visit www.irvingtonlibrary.org.

Monday 12

JEWISH NEW YORK: At 10:30 a.m. presentation by Susan and Art Zuckerman at JCC on the Hudson in Tarrytown. Call 366-7898 or visit www.jccontheudson.org.

Irvington Stage Door Series: At 7 p.m. there will be a stage reading of a newly adapted play based on Camus' "The Stranger" at the Irvington Town Hall Theater. Call 591-6602 or visit www.IrvingtonTheater.com.

"PUMP": At 7:30 p.m. documentary on how we can end our reliance on oil-based fuel, followed by Q&A with producer, at Jacob Burns Film Center in Pleasantville. Call 747-5555 or visit www.burnsfilmcenter.org.

Tuesday 13

CYBER SAFETY ACTION WORKSHOP: At 7:30 p.m. for parents of "plugged-in" kids at JCC on the Hudson in Tarrytown. Call 366-7898 or visit www.jccontheudson.org.

Wednesday 14

MOVING BEYOND THE AUTOMOBILE: At 7:30 p.m. a series of short films show how cities are rethinking transportation at the Greenburgh Nature Center in Scarsdale. Program co-sponsored by the Sierra Club Lower Hudson Group. Call 723-3470 or visit www.newyork.sierraclub.org/LHG.

"SIDEWALK STORIES": This moving homage to Chaplin's "The Kid" will be shown at 7:30 p.m., followed by Q&A with filmmaker Charles Lane of Dobbs Ferry, at Jacob Burns Film Center in Pleasantville. Call 747-5555 or visit www.burnsfilmcenter.org.

MOM'S NIGHT OUT AT FLYWHEEL: At 7:30 p.m. the JCC hosts a great Flywheel workout, followed by refreshments, at 828 Scarsdale Ave., Scarsdale. Pre-registration required. Call 366-7898 or visit www.jccontheudson.org.

"THE SKELETON TWINS": This movie filmed in Rockland County is showing at 8 p.m. at the Nyack Center, Broadway at Depew. Call 845-353-2568 or visit www.rivertownfilm.org.

Thursday 15

SNOWY WEATHER MOVIES: "Holy Land Hardball" will be shown at 10 a.m. at JCC on the Hudson in Tarrytown. Call 366-7898 or visit www.jccontheudson.org.

THIRD THURSDAYS: Come meet local authors from 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. at Sunnyside Federal in Irvington. Call 591-8000, ext. 116 or visit www.sunnysidefederal.com.

THURSDAY EVENING BOOK CLUB: Meeting at 7:30 p.m. to discuss "Visitation Street" by Ivy Pochada at the Irvington Public Library. Call 591-7840 or visit www.irvingtonlibrary.org.

AFTER DARK: "Why Don't You Play in Hell?" will be shown at 7:40 p.m. at Jacob Burns Film Center in Pleasantville. Call 747-5555 or visit www.burnsfilmcenter.org.

Friday 16

AUTHOR EVENT: At 7 p.m. Beth Zasloff and Joshua Steckel, co-authors of "Hold Fast to

Dreams, A College Counselor, His Students and the Vision of a Life Beyond Poverty", speak at the Warner Library in Tarrytown. Sponsored by League of Women Voters of the Rivertowns. Call 631-7734 or visit www.warnerlibrary.org.

DAVE MASON'S TRAFFIC JAM: Join Mason at 8 p.m. for an evening of music history at the Tarrytown Music Hall. Call 877-840-0457 or visit www.tarrytownmusicall.org.

Saturday 17

CHESS COMPETITION: At 11 a.m. teens, tweens, adults and children in grades 3-5 can take on Teen Chess Master Joshua at the Irvington Public Library. Pre-register in person or visit www.irvingtonlibrary.org/ya.htm.

NATURE SPIES: At 2 p.m. explore the different signs that animals leave behind at the Greenburgh Nature Center in Scarsdale. Call 723-3470 or visit www.greenburghnaturecenter.org.

ROCK CONCERT: The Psychedelic Furs perform at 8 p.m. at the Tarrytown Music Hall. Call 877-840-0457 or visit www.tarrytownmusicall.org.

Sunday 18

RECYCLED CRAFTS FOR KIDS: At 10 a.m. children ages 6-10 make something new from old at Teatown Lake Reservation in Ossining. Call 762-2912, ext. 110 or visit www.teatown.org.

JAZZ CONCERT: The Roy Assaf Trio performs at 2 p.m. at the Ossining Public Library. Call 941-2416 or visit www.ossininglibrary.org.

FINDING AND FEEDING WINTER BIRDS: At 2 p.m. at the Greenburgh Nature Center in Scarsdale. Call 723-3470 or visit www.greenburghnaturecenter.org.

"BROTHERS OF THE BLACKLIST": Documentary about black students accused of rape will be shown at 2:30 p.m. at the Nyack Public Library. Tickets not required. Call 845-353-2568 or visit www.rivertownfilm.org.

Monday 19

MEET THE ANIMALS: At 2 p.m. at the Greenburgh Nature Center in Scarsdale. Call 723-3470 or visit www.greenburghnaturecenter.org.

Wednesday 21

"MAGIC IN THE MOONLIGHT": Showing at 2 p.m. at the Warner Library in Tarrytown. Call 631-7734 or visit www.warnerlibrary.org.

MYSTERY BOOK GROUP: Meets at 4 p.m. to discuss "The Heist" by Janet Evanovich at the Warner Library in Tarrytown. Call 631-7734 or visit www.warnerlibrary.org.

Thursday 22

SNOWY WEATHER MOVIES: The autobiographical tale "Bubbeh Lee and Me" will be shown at 10 a.m. at JCC on the Hudson in Tarrytown. Call 366-7898 or visit www.jccontheudson.org.

SENIORS

SENIOR BENEFITS INFORMATION CENTER: Senior Benefits Information Center: Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. a representative from the Medicare Rights Center is on hand at the Warner Library in Tarrytown. Sign up at the Reference Desk or call 631-7734. To ask questions outside regular counseling hours call 269-7765.

SENIOR VAN: Beginning at 9 a.m. Monday through Friday, a van is available for seniors who need transportation. Call the Tarrytown Village Hall at 631-7873 or the Sleepy Hollow Recreation Dept. at 366-5109.

HOT LUNCH: Available Monday to Friday 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. for \$2.50 donation at Knights of Columbus Hall in Tarrytown. Call 631-2717.

THE NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE

43 Wildey St., Tarrytown, 631-0205

COMPUTER CLASS: Tuesdays (please call).

YOGA ON THE CHAIR: 11:15 a.m. Wednesdays and Fridays (except Jan. 2).

ART WORKSHOP: 1 p.m. Wednesdays.

TAI CHI: 11 a.m. Thursdays.

SENIOR CANTEEN: informal social group, 1 p.m. Thursdays.

MOVIES: 1 p.m. Fridays.

BRIDGE AND CARD CLUB: 1 p.m. Fridays.

TARRYTOWN SENIOR CENTER

Pierson Park, 631-2304. Annual donation is \$15.

MEETINGS: 1 p.m. Jan. 6 and 20, followed by games.

EXERCISE: 10 a.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

NICKEL BINGO: 12:30 p.m. Jan 5 and 12.

CARDS: 1 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays (3 p.m. on meeting days).

YOGA: 1 p.m. Thursdays.

BOOK CLUB: 1 p.m. Jan 29.

OTHER CLASSES: Check bulletin board.

POOL TABLES: Available any time.

CLOSED: Martin Luther King, Jr. Day,

Jan. 19

JAMES F. GALGANO SENIOR CENTER

55 Elm St., Sleepy Hollow, 631-0390. Annual

donation is \$10, due before March 1.

MEETINGS: 1 p.m. Jan. 5 and 20, followed by bingo.

EXERCISE CLASS: 11:30 a.m. Tuesdays.

NICKEL BINGO: 1 p.m. Tuesdays (except Jan. 20; Jan. 21 instead).

YOGA: 10:30 a.m. Thursdays.

EXERCISE CLASS: 10:15 a.m. Fridays.

KNITTING: 1 p.m. Fridays.

OPEN WEEKDAYS FOR SOCIALIZING, CARD PLAYING, ETC.: 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

CLOSED: Martin Luther King, Jr. Day,

Jan. 19

Irvington Town Hall Theater

85 Main Street, Irvington

We look forward to seeing you in January, 2015 for a fabulous line-up of events:

- Saturday, Jan. 3 at 7:00 pm - Broadway Training Center's Winter Gala: BOEING-BOEING (Snow Date: Jan. 4 at 2 pm).
- Friday, Jan. 9 at 8:00 pm - Best of Film Series: A GIRL WALKS HOME ALONE AT NIGHT, cinema's first Iranian vampire western!
- Monday, Jan. 12 at 7:30 pm - Irvington Stage Door Series: THE STRANGER stage reading (based on the 1942 Albert Camus novel) presented by The Seeing Place Theater Ensemble.
- Friday, Jan. 23 and Sat. Jan. 24 at 7:30 pm - Clocktower Players Jr Teen Troupe: THOROUGHLY MODERN MILLIE (Snow Date: Sunday, Jan. 25 at 2 pm).
- Thursday, Jan. 29 at 7:30 pm: Best of Film Series - SHE'S BEAUTIFUL WHEN SHE'S ANGRY followed by a special Q & A with the film's director, Mary Dore!
- Friday, Jan. 30 at 7:00 pm - Friends of the Irvington Library: Ninth Annual
- Community-wide SPELLING BEE (Snow Date: Saturday, Jan. 31).

To read more about our upcoming events and purchase tickets, please visit: www.irvingtontheater.com



"TREASURE ISLAND": New version of this children's classic broadcast live from London's National Theatre at 2 p.m. at Jacob Burns Film Center in Pleasantville. Call 747-5555 or visit www.burnsfilmcenter.org.

Friday 23

"THOROUGHLY MODERN MILLIE": Presented at 7:30 p.m. by Clocktower Players Jr. Teen Troupe at the Irvington Town Hall Theater. Call 591-6602 or visit www.IrvingtonTheater.com. Also Jan. 24.

Saturday 24

SNUG BENEATH THE SNOW: At 2 p.m. learn the survival strategies of animals and plants that use snow as an insulator at Teatown Lake Reservation in Ossining. Call 762-2912, ext. 110 or visit www.teatown.org.

CONCERT: The Riverwinds Woodwind Quintet performs Baroque works at 2 p.m. at the Irvington Public Library. Call 591-7840 or visit www.irvingtonlibrary.org.

LATIN JAZZ CONCERT: The Folklore Urbano quintet performs at 2 p.m. at the Ossining Public Library. Call 941-2416 or visit www.ossininglibrary.org.

WHOOO'S THERE OWL PROWL: At 6:30 p.m. look and listen for our nocturnal neighbors at the

Greenburgh Nature Center in Scarsdale. Call 723-3470 or visit www.greenburghnaturecenter.org.

"RHYTHMS OF THE NIGHT": Presentation by the Fred Astaire Dance Studio at 7 p.m. at the Tarrytown Music Hall. Call 877-840-0457 or visit www.tarrytownmusichall.org.

DANCE PROGRAM: At 7:30 p.m. choreographer Joel Sherry presents "ThriftStore Talisman" with member of his Teato Local Company at TTUMC Arts Center, 27 N. Washington St., Tarrytown. Call 917-544-3974 or visit www.rivertownartistsworkshop.org. Also Jan. 25 at 3:30 p.m.

"TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD": Presented at 8 p.m. by the National Players at Westchester Community College in Valhalla. Call 606-6262 or visit www.sunywcc.edu/smartsarts.

Sunday 25

THE SCIENCE OF SCAT: At 11 a.m. delve into the world of how an animal makes it way at Teatown Lake Reservation in Ossining. Call 762-2912, ext. 110 or visit www.teatown.org.

BARE BONES: At 2 p.m. discover how to read animal bones at the Greenburgh Nature Center in Scarsdale. Call 723-3470 or visit www.greenburghnaturecenter.org.

CONCERT: Westchester Symphonic Winds present "Warm Sounds of Winter" at 3 p.m. at the Tarrytown Music Hall. Call 877-840-0457 or visit www.tarrytownmusichall.org.

Monday 26

FOLK SONG AND GUITAR MUSIC: Steve Chizmadia performs at 10:30 a.m. at JCC on the Hudson in Tarrytown. Call 366-7898 or visit www.jccontheudson.org.

AFTER DARK: "A Girl Walks Home Alone at Night" will be shown at 7:45 p.m. at Jacob Burns Film Center in Pleasantville. Call 747-5555 or visit www.burnsfilmcenter.org.

Wednesday 28

"THE JUDGE": Showing at 2 p.m. at the Warner Library in Tarrytown. Call 631-7734 or visit www.warnerlibrary.org.

"THE GOAT, OR WHO IS SYLVIA": At 8 p.m. benefit for Rivertown Film at Elmwood Playhouse in Nyack. Call 800-838-3006 or visit www.rivertownfilm.org.

Friday 30

9TH ANNUAL SPELLING BEE: Presented by Friends of the Irvington Library at 7 p.m. at Irvington Town Hall Theater. Call 591-6602 or visit www.IrvingtonTheater.com.

Saturday 31

FEEDING FUN: At 2 p.m. learn how to keep critters healthy at the Greenburgh Nature Center in Scarsdale. Call 723-3470 or visit www.greenburghnaturecenter.org.

CONCERT: The Jubilation Choir performs at 2:30 p.m. at the Warner Library in Tarrytown. Call

631-7734 or visit www.warnerlibrary.org.

Sunday February 1

CONCERT: The Camerata Chamber Players present "Winter Interlude" at 3 p.m. at Westchester Community College in Valhalla. Call 606-6262 or visit www.sunywcc.edu/smartsarts.

DANCEWORKS FOR CHILDREN: Performance at 3 p.m. at Westchester Community College in Valhalla. Call 606-6262 or visit www.sunywcc.edu/smartsarts.

Ongoing

WIRELESS PRINTING: The Warner Library in Tarrytown now has mobile printing capability from tablets, smartphones and laptops. Call 631-7734 or visit www.warnerlibrary.org.

WE GOT GAME: Sports on film Jan. 15 - Feb. 25 at Jacob Burns Film Center in Pleasantville. Call 747-5555 or visit www.burnsfilmcenter.org.

JCC ON THE HUDSON: General registration for the Winter/Spring Semester begins on Jan. 26; members can register on Jan. 20th. Classes begin the first week of Feb. Register online @ www.jccontheudson.org or call 366-7898

"SOUTH PACIFIC": Through Jan. 25 at the Westchester Broadway Theatre in Elmsford. Dinner at 6:15 p.m. & show at 8 p.m. Call 592-2222 or visit www.broadwaytheatre.com.

ENGLISH WRITING HELP @ WARNER LIBRARY: Tuesdays 4:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. become a better writer and reader whether English is your first or second language. Registration requested. Call 631-7734.

PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBIT: "Festive New York During the Holidays" by Hanns G. Kohl at the Irvington Public Library. Call 591-7840 or visit www.irvingtonlibrary.org.

PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBIT: Work by Kevan Full at the Ossining Public Library. Reception Jan. 4 from 2 p.m. - 4 p.m. Call 941-2416 or visit www.ossininglibrary.org.

PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBIT: Monica Marrow's "Creation" through March 8 at the Greenburgh Nature Center in Scarsdale. Opening Jan. 11 from 2 p.m. - 4 p.m. Call 723-3470 or visit www.greenburghnaturecenter.org.

OSSINING DOWN-TO-EARTH FARMERS' MARKET: Open Saturdays from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. all year at Spring and Main Sts. Call 923-4837.

FARM MARKET: Stone Barns Center's produce, meat and eggs are on sale Sundays from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. at 630 Bedford Road, Pocantico Hills. Call 366-6200 or visit www.stonebarnscenter.org.

MAH JONGG: Play Mondays at 1 p.m. at Temple Beth Abraham in Tarrytown. Call 631-1770 or e-mail adulted@tba-ny.org to ensure there are enough players for a game.

MEN'S CLUB: Meets every Wednesday at 9:45 a.m. at JCC on the Hudson in Tarrytown. Meetings have varied speakers and are open to the public free of charge. Call 366-7898 or visit www.jccontheudson.org.

TORAH STUDY: Rabbi Holtz leads a class Wednesdays at 10 a.m. at Temple Beth Abraham in Tarrytown. No previous knowledge required. Call 631-1770 or e-mail adulted@tba-ny.org.

CHESS CLUB: The Warner Library Chess Club meets on the second, third and fourth Thursday of the month from 6:30 p.m. to 8:45 p.m. Call 631-7734 or visit www.warnerlibrary.org.

"WARNER TECH": Sign up for a one-hour individualized session on e-mail, downloading e-books or audiobooks, and using online library resources and databases at the Warner Library in Tarrytown. Call 631-7734 for appointment.

USED BOOKS: Friends of the Irvington Library is partnering with Curious-on-Hudson Bookshop, 145 Palisade St., Dobbs Ferry to offer used books year round. Proceeds go directly to the Library. Call 412-8393 or e-mail friends.irvingtonlibrary@gmail.com.

HOMEBOUND SERVICES @ YOUR LIBRARY: If you are unable to leave your home due to illness or disability, a Warner Library staff member or volunteer will bring library materials to you. Call the Reference Desk at 631-7734.

STONE BARNS' PROGRAMS: A series of produce-related talks and tours are offered on Saturdays and family programs on Sundays at Stone Barns in Pocantico Hills. Call 366-9606 or visit www.stonebarnscenter.org.

HEALTHY LIFE SERIES: Phelps Memorial Hospital Center in Sleepy Hollow offers the community a wide range of programs on health-related subjects as well as health screenings and support groups. Visit www.phelpshospital.org.

FILMS FOR CHILDREN: Weekends at noon at the Jacob Burns Film Center in Pleasantville. Call 747-5555 or visit www.burnsfilmcenter.org.

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS AT THE LIBRARIES: Stories, rhymes, crafts and songs for children of various ages at Tarrytown's Warner Library and Irvington Public Library. For Warner, call 631-7734 or visit www.warnerlibrary.org. For Irvington, call 591-7840 or visit www.irvingtonlibrary.org.

The Village Bookstore



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WEDNESDAY JANUARY 14

"SIDEWALK STORIES": This moving homage to Chaplin's "The Kid" will be shown at 7:30 p.m., followed by Q&A with filmmaker Charles Lane of Dobbs Ferry, at the Jacob Burns Film Center in Pleasantville.

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Our Family Serving Yours

Obituaries

Charles (Pepe) Annicchiarico, 90

Charles (Pepe) Annicchiarico, a longtime Sleepy Hollow resident, died December 17. He was 90.

Mr. Annicchiarico served proudly in the U.S. Navy in both WWII and Korea. On September 7, 1957, he married Lorraine Bellefleur in Immaculate Conception Church in N. Tarrytown. He was retired after having worked for the Village of Sleepy Hollow for 17 years.

He was a lifetime active member of Fire Patrol of the Sleepy Hollow Fire Department. He also served on the SH Ambulance Corps for over 40 years. He was a member of the Sleepy Hollow Seniors and the VFW Post 1939. He will also be remembered for having been the manager of the Irvington High School Football team for 55 years.

Marion Gallagher, 83

Marion F. Gallagher, a longtime Tarrytown resident, died December 15. She was 83.

Mrs. Gallagher was born on November 14, 1931 to Joseph and Nellie Gay Smith in East Irvington. She was a 1950 Graduate of North Tarrytown High School. She worked for many years as a secretary for Phelps Memorial Hospital in Sleepy Hollow. In addition, she volunteered at Phelps Hospital and was a member of the Tarrytown Seniors.

Julius (Pete) Sternfeld,

Julius (Pete) Sternfeld, a longtime resident of Tarrytown, died peacefully December 11.

He served in the U.S. Army during World War II, stationed in Korea as part of the U.S. Army of Occupation. He was an engineer in the Navy Civil Service and later for medical and audio electronic equipment companies. He held several patents and won a Library of Congress competition for the design of headphones for the deaf/blind. He did technical writing and particularly liked the aspect of providing technical explanations in layperson's terms. A 20-year active member of the JCC Men's Club, he also volunteered in the "Conversation Partner" program in Westchester, helping foreign-born students improve their English.

Beatrice 'Betsy' Swanson, 93

Beatrice 'Betsy' Swanson, a lifelong resident of the Tarrytowns, died November 22. She was 93.

She had moved to Fairfield, CT to be near her granddaughter. She was born in Tarrytown on January 2, 1921. She was a graduate of North Tarrytown High School and went on to serve as the Court Clerk of the Village of North Tarrytown for 30 years. She was married to Albert Swanson who predeceased her in 1963. She had been a member of the Sleepy Hollow Seniors and the Tarrycrest Pool Club.

Rosina Tramontelli, 94

Rosina Tramontelli, a 51-year resident of Sleepy Hollow, died November 27. She was 94.

She was born in Vicovaro, Italy on January 21, 1920. She was predeceased by her loving husband of 49 years, Enrico, who passed away on July 17, 1999. She is survived by her children Achille (Christine)

and Anna Maria and grandchildren, Erika and Marina. She was a devout Catholic who loved to cook and take care of her family.

Patricia Lehrburger, 82

Patricia Freeman Lehrburger, a resident of Irvington, died November 28. She was 82.

Raised in Dallas, Texas, she had family roots in West Texas cattle ranchers and merchants. She graduated from Wellesley College in Massachusetts. She was a homemaker and educator, and followed her father's passion for investing. She was known for her strength of spirit, optimism, warmth and generosity. She loved to dance, but her greatest joy was family. During her last years, she enjoyed the support, love and company of close family, a devoted group of caregivers, and dear friends.

Donald Seus, 93

Donald W. Seus, a lifelong resident of Irvington, died December 14. He was 93.

He attended Irvington public schools; at the time kindergarten through 12th grade classes were all held in the Main Street School. He went on to Syracuse University, graduating in 1943. Immediately upon graduation he joined the Army, and, while stationed in Scotland he met his future wife, Netta. They were married in the Irvington Presbyterian Church in April 1947. They continued to live in the house he had grown up in for their entire married life.

Mr. Seus worked for the Atlantic Mutual Insurance company from 1946 - 1979 and for the Home Insurance Company from 1979 - 1984 as an underwriter. He worked for the Village of Irvington as a school crossing guard and parking enforcement official from 1984 - 1988 when he decided it was time to retire and spend more time playing golf.

He and Netta loved spending time in the Catskills and exploring the Hudson Valley. He continued to be an avid Syracuse Orange sports fan his entire life. He was a member of the Irvington Kiwanis Club. He was honored to represent Irvington in the Westchester County Senior Citizen Hall of Fame. He enjoyed taking part in the activities at the Irvington Senior Center and especially enjoyed his high school reunions and getting in touch with his former classmates.

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“What is your New Year’s Resolution?”



James Jaillite, 10
Tarrytown

“I only want 4’s on my Report Card from now on.”



Ian Harbus, 19
Tarrytown

“I want to try and work out every day.”



Evelyn Poy, 50
(with **Samantha Poy,**
almost 9)

Sleepy Hollow

“My New Year’s Resolution is my Year-Round Resolution – to get fit.”



Alberta Jarane
Sleepy Hollow

“To see my son get into the college of his choice, and to spend a lot more time at home with my family.”



Marianna Santana, 10 (left)
Sleepy Hollow

“To be better in school.”

Shelby Fraga, 10
Tarrytown

“To be better in Science.”

Letters

SH Village Counsel Responds to State Grant Allegations

To the Editor,

In response to several individuals who have raised an issue with regard to my application for a state grant administered by the Sleepy Hollow Downtown Revitalization Corporation I would like to respond as follows:

I am Village Counsel to the Village of Sleepy Hollow and am always a target for certain angry persons.

In the late 90’s a partner and I purchased an investment property on Clinton Street. The property is held by a corporation we formed. The property is now and has always been owned by the same corporation. The allegation that the property is not owned by the corporation is unfounded.

In 2012 (4 years after the grant program was commenced) we applied for a matching grant to do roof work and other exterior repairs at the property because we were advised that the property was eligible. We were approved by the State for the grant and completed the work.

Furthermore, I am not Counsel to the Sleepy Hollow Downtown Revitalization Corporation. It is an entity separate and apart from the Village. I am not on its Board of Directors. To argue that I have a conflict with the Corporation would be to argue that I shouldn’t patronize any business in Sleepy Hollow with the name “Sleepy Hollow” in its title.

I have served this community faithfully and with integrity in one capacity or another for almost 30 years. So, this begs the question, why is this grant being questioned by these individuals? I have always believed that the motive behind people’s claims determines its validity. This claim that I did something inappropriate by applying for a grant is brought by 3 individuals who, apparently, have now hooked up with a non-resident with a nefarious agenda. The local names are well-known, Frank Occhipinti and Frank Hrotko (2 disgruntled individuals angry over not being hired and/or promoted by the Board of Trustees), and Cirillo Rodriguez. Rodriguez owns approximately 10 properties in the Village under different corporate entities which collectively owe the Village more than \$700,000 in back taxes. For the last year I have been engaged in an aggressive campaign in federal and state courts to recover this money for the Village. Regarding Mr. Morgenthaler, he appeared on the Sleepy Hollow scene this summer when he disagreed with a Board hiring decision over a police officer candidate, Greg Lobato. He recently emailed a local resident entitled “Lobato” and stated, in substance, that the publicity from his complaint against Trustee Wompa, Ms. Roth and myself should have the “desired effect”. He also asked this resident to pass the email along to “Greg’s” supporters. I am confident that any decent person will find Mr. Morgenthaler’s message as chilling as I did. It is reprehensible that he would try to influence a government vote by using such despicable tactics.

Finally, a cease and desist demand has been sent to Occhipinti, Rodgriguez and Morgenthaler. It is my job to represent the Village of Sleepy Hollow’s best interests and I will continue to do so against persons with their own private agendas.

Janet Gandolfo

GS Alliance

Continued from page 11

tion and the student body. Regardless, all GSAs have continued to pursue a political and/or social agenda. Dobbs Ferry, for example, is currently organizing bake sales to raise funds for LGBT shelters in New York.

However, while the GSA is only comprised of a small percentage of students, the impact it has on its members is often profound and long-lasting. Jamie Honigman, for example, has seriously considered a major in gender and sexuality studies. Rachel Romero of Sleepy Hollow remembers hiding in the art room that hosted the GSA. “I started going in seventh grade, because

middle school was never safe for me. Now, nearly six years later, I’m the president,” she said.

“I hope to always be a part of LGBT activism,” said Sleepy Hollow GSA alum Violet Overn, who recently worked behind the scenes at a Cyndi Lauper benefit concert for homeless LGBT youth. Layla Fassa, another Sleepy Hollow alum, is currently an editor for Boilerplate, an online magazine that focuses on socially conscious and intersectional issues.

“We have to understand who we are before we are equipped to educate others... clubs such as the GSA gives these identities and dialogue a space, and to take up space is a sign of power and makes a difference,” Fassa said.

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Watercooler

Heard Around the Watercooler

SELECTED

Special Olympics Hudson Valley is proud to announce that five athletes, five partners, and three coaches from New York have been named to Special Olympics Team USA. The 491-member delegation will represent the United States at the 2015 Special Olympics World Summer Games, July 25 — August 2, 2015, in Los Angeles. The athletes, partners and coaches are a combination team from Sleepy Hollow High School and Brewster High School who will be competing as a unified basketball team. Team members from Sleepy Hollow High School are Coach Kim Kaczmarek, athletes Felix Veloz and Min Li, and partners Hunter Burnett and Brendan Murphy. The U.S. "home team" will include 304 athletes and 43 unified partners competing in 17 sports, with 102 volunteer coaches and 42 volunteer sports and management team members, representing all fifty states and the District of Columbia. With an anticipated 30,000 volunteers and 500,000 spectators, the 2015 Special Olympics World Games will be the largest sports and humanitarian event anywhere in the world in 2015, and the single biggest event in Los Angeles since the 1984 Olympic Games. To learn more, visit www.LA2015.org.



obtain continuing education units. For more information about ISA and certified arborists, visit www.isa-arbor.com. To promote the importance of arboriculture and help educate the public about the value of proper tree care, ISA also manages a consumer education website: www.treesaregood.org.

VISITED

Healing Autism dogs Josie and Kodiak seemed right at home with students and teachers at the Winfield L. Morse Elementary School in Tarrytown on December 9th. Healing Autism's director Caroline McCabe-Sandler and two of her trainers visited with Communications Needs Class students, teacher Kelly Fischer, teacher's assistant Jennifer Toffoloni and teacher's aide Barbara Bucci. Josie and Kodiak are recent graduates of the Guiding Eyes for the Blind (Yorktown) training program and are ready to join families as therapy companions for children with autism. According to McCabe-Sandler, the canine companions are fostered as puppies until they are 14 months old and ready for their own "schooling." The Morse children interacted with their guests, forming quick friendships with Josie and Kodiak, who seemed to enjoy the visit as much as the students. For more information about Healing Autism dogs and Guiding Eyes for the Blind, visit www.guidingeyes.org/prospective-students/children-with-autism/.

Please send submissions about special distinctions, honors, and awards given to local community members or organizations to: thiwatercooler@thehudsonindependent.com

Heard Around the Watercooler wishes our readers a peaceful, healthy, and happy 2015!

AWARDED

The Warner Library has received a \$1,500 grant from Tompkins Mahopac Bank in Sleepy Hollow in partnership with the Rotary Club of the Tarrytowns. The library will create Story Time Backpacks complete with picture books, a music CD and a puppet or puzzle to provide story times to go for busy parents.

CERTIFIED

Charles King Sadler of King Garden Designs in Irvington earned the ISA Certified Arborist credential by successfully completing an exam administered by the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) and the local chapter of ISA. King Garden Designs is a landscape design/build practice, which also specializes in tree care. The ISA Credentialing Program is a voluntary program designed to test an individual's degree of knowledge in arboriculture, tree care and maintenance. Certification is valid for three years, and certified arborists are required to



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Tarrytown Reaches Agreement for First Continuum

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Our Neighbors

Local Repair Shop Owner a Longtime Village Fixture

by Robert Kimmel

Wedge in between two larger storefronts on Main Street in Tarrytown is a very narrow shop with a window sign reading "C & W Vacuum Cleaner Repair." The "W" stands for Wade; Wade Solomon to be exact. For a good part of six days a week, you'll likely find Solomon in his shop, amidst a line-up of vacuum cleaners, lamps and a wide assortment of electrical parts and pieces of equipment, some of which defy description by anyone other than someone with his experience. He has been at it - repairing vacuum cleaners, lamps and other electrical gadgets - for more than 35 years.

Not one for squandering time, Solomon has also been the "super" of the location his store is in, known as the Mason's building at 54 Main Street. Seemingly fit at 72, he said, "I feel like I'm 21." He has been a well-known figure in the village for decades. It was in the 1950s that Solomon, in his early teens, came from North Carolina to Tarrytown, brought to the village by his maternal grandmother. "She took me under her care and made me the man I am today," Solomon said of his grandmother. She apparently instilled a strong work ethic in her grandson. He has had his hand at landscaping, paper

delivery, building maintenance and cleaning, selling used furniture and a record business, with some of that work overlapping to bring in extra revenue.

Several record albums, dating from the 1960s, decorate a small portion of a shelf in his shop. They are, according to Solomon, symbolic of the record store that he had across Main Street for almost eight years. He explained that it was at that time, as a young man, he was dating Creola, his wife. Creola and Solomon have been married for more than 50 years. The "C" in "C & W Vacuum Cleaner Repair" represents his wife, he explained. Creola has made her own mark in the community as a Deaconess of the New Hope Institutional Baptist Church in Tarrytown, where she has run the food pantry since 1979 and has helped serve hundreds of families. She has also been active as president of the Senior Canteen Program at Neighborhood House. She has been praised by the church pastor, the Reverend Dr. John Gilmore, as a "humble and loving woman," adding that "it is impossible to describe all that she does."

The Solomons' have three daughters and a son, three grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. Solomon noted that his children all live within the area, in Tarrytown,

Sleepy Hollow and Ossining. He described his offspring as a "close knit family; they are all here."

For some 25 years, Solomon's shop was located behind the Mason's building at 17 South Broadway adjacent to an area that held five garages on the Mason's property where he had two pick-up trucks and storage space. However, the village turned most of the area into a municipal parking lot, requiring Solomon to move to his smaller quarters on Main Street. Some still seek him at his old location, he noted. He cited a woman who recently visited his shop to have a lamp repaired, saying she was "glad" to have found him.

Solomon has only good words for five Mason Grand Masters whose tenure coincided with his work at 54 Main Street, describing them as, "all good people," who have "treated me well and denied me nothing." His shop is a convenient short distance from his house, "through his backyard, across a street and the parking lot, and I'm here," he said. As a recognizable figure in Tarrytown, Solomon said that he often gets a greeting from folks whom he knows, and he describes walking along the street, whether day or late night and having local police acknowledge his presence with a brief honk of the horn



Photo by: Robert Kimmel

Wade Solomon has been a business owner in the heart of Tarrytown for more than 35 years.

and a friendly wave.

While he doesn't have many good things to say about the quality of today's vacuum cleaners, Solomon stressed that lately he is doing a great deal of lamp repair, and salvaging some other electrical equipment his clients need repaired. "It is something that I love doing," he added. He emphasized he wants to keep at the job whether it will be on Main Street, or elsewhere, for some time to come.



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