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The Hudson Independent

August 2018

Serving Tarrytown, Sleepy Hollow, Irvington, Scarborough-on-Hudson and Ardsley-on-Hudson

Vol. XIII No. 8

Rivertowns Real Estate Markets Clouded by Tax Uncertainties

by Barrett Seaman

Francis and Erika O'Shea moved to Irvington four years ago, buying their house on Home Place off Main Street for its charm, its proximity to Metro North and for Irvington's schools, where they planned to send their two children. Their real estate agent, said Francis, "was very straight with us in saying that a reassessment was coming." When it did come in 2016, however, and their property tax bill shot from \$13,000 to \$19,000, it was unsettling. "They did tell us it would be more," said Erika, "but they didn't tell us it would be that much more."

Audrey Nguyen Bryant and her husband Clay, a management consultant, closed on their house late last year and are now happily ensconced with their eight-week-old son Graham on Irvington's South Ferris Street. The property tax bill on their house had already gone up—a big factor in the previous owners' decision to put it on the market.



Recent home buyers Clay and Audrey Bryant with son Graham.

But then their taxes went up again—from around \$18,000 to \$22,000, "higher than we expected," said Audrey, who works in the fashion industry in the city.

Lara Skinner and her partner had a better experience buying in Tarrytown, where the reassessment had a more modest impact than it did in Irvington and elsewhere. After years of renting New York apartments, they decided to buy and began searching their way northward, eventually discovering the rivertowns. "We were particularly attracted to Tarrytown because you can walk to the grocery store, great restaurants, Rockefeller State Park and other key necessities," she said. "High annual property taxes were a concern for us, but we also appreciate the important amenities that these taxes support—good schools, public transit, paths along the river and more."

For the O'Sheas, the Bryants, Ms. Skinner and many others moving to the rivertowns, high property taxes are—and long

have been—often seen as a trade-off—particularly for those with kids. Francis O'Shea knew that sending his children to the New York City private school he had attended would cost nearly \$50,000-a-year per child. So, a good, free public school seemed worth absorbing a high tax bill.

Their stories and their route to the rivertowns are familiar to local real estate agents. Coldwell Banker agent Dan Bucci of Tarrytown dubbed the rivertowns in general "Brooklyn North" and uses it as a marketing tool.

But lately, buyers have been taking second and third looks as valuations and property taxes climb and as federal property tax deductibility all but disappears.

New York State law ties property taxes to the real market value of a home—roughly three percent-plus per \$1,000, which would put yearly taxes on a million-dollar house somewhere north of \$30,000. For decades,

Continued on page 10

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Detention Hits Home: A Seizure in Sleepy Hollow and a Community Responds

by Charlene Weigel

Six days a week, the lights come on early in the Sleepy Hollow home of the Paute family. February 23 was no different. At 6 a.m., Cristobal, 35, was about to leave for his job as a house painter when there was a hard knock on the door. "We were afraid," said his wife (name withheld). "They said to open the door because they were going to knock it down and come inside anyway. We waited inside for an hour." It was school break. Cristobal's and his wife's two young sons were away at a sleepover, but their seven-year-old daughter was home.

"I was in a panic and at one point left the room," Cristobal's wife continued. "Somebody opened the door, and ICE erupted violently inside and started arresting my husband."

In 2009, Cristobal pleaded guilty to driving while intoxicated, a serious charge. He paid fines and completed a court-mandated course. Since then, he has lived quietly in Sleepy Hollow, supporting his family, teaching his children to play soccer, and occasionally perform-

Continued on page 5



Photo by: Charlene Weigel

State Senators Shelley Mayer and Andrea Stewart-Cousins (left) with Luis Yumbla, Head of Hudson Valley Community Coalition, and other politicians at a picnic for affected families in Kingsland Point Park.

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JCC Families, Staff Shocked by Summer Counselor's Arrest

by Barrett Seaman

It was not the kind of news any organization wants to hear—let alone one renowned for its children's summer camps. Late last month, investigators from the Westchester County District Attorney's Office came to Tarrytown's Shames Jewish Community Center on the Hudson, asking questions of its camp director about Benjamin Bojenski, 20, a counselor for the past three years at the JCC's River Friends Day Camp for two-to-six-year-olds. Bojenski, of Croton-on-Hudson, had just been arrested on charges of possession and distribution of

child pornography.

Rabbi Andrew Ergas, Executive Director of the JCC on the Hudson, gathered staff members and went about contacting the parents of the 160 children currently in the camps. He organized several group meetings with them and provided them with contact information for the investigators. The reaction was understandable. "Parents were quite emotional, as they should be," said the Rabbi. "The staff was shocked, frustrated and saddened."

Bojenski's arrest was solely based on Internet activity. There was no indication that children from the camp were involved,

though the investigators did ask about his contact with children at the camp. As it turned out, according to Rabbi Ergas, quite a number of JCC families—even one of the camp's division heads—had used him as a babysitter.

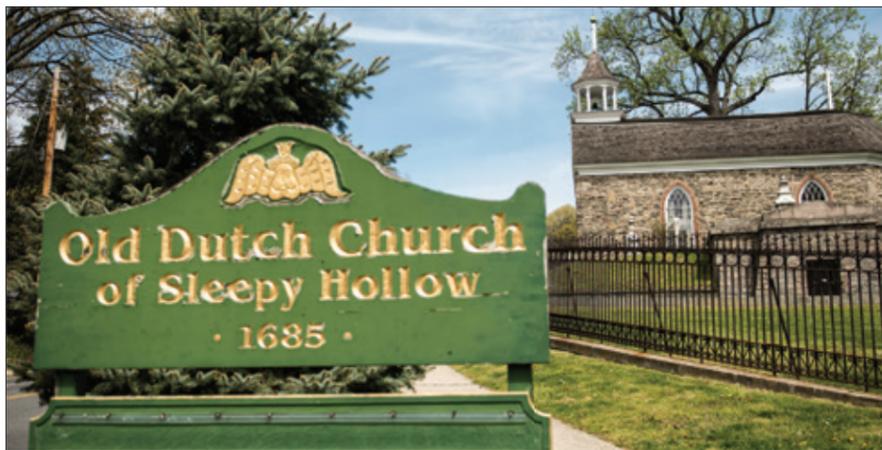
The JCC summer camps follows protocols required by Westchester's Department of Health. Moreover, said the Rabbi, "Our training and structure is such that it is highly unlikely that he was ever alone with any child."

They pulled Bojenski's files and re-read them. Said Ergas, "We're pretty confident that we were doing all the things that we

should be doing." Still, they terminated his employment and de-activated the security fob he used to enter the premises.

For some parents, that wasn't enough. Two families immediately withdrew their children from camp; others kept them home until they could meet with the staff and be assured of their children's safety.

While the Westchester D.A.'s office has no knowledge of crimes beyond Bojenski's pornography possession, they are urging residents concerned about any child's safety to contact their local police or the Westchester County District Attorney's Office Child Abuse Bureau at 914-995-3000.



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Decision Expected Soon on Fire Boat Moored in Hudson in Sleepy Hollow

by Rick Pezullo

A report is expected soon from the Army Corps of Engineers regarding an historic fire boat that has been moored at the end of a pier near Horan's Landing and the River Walk in Sleepy Hollow since late November.

The John D. McKean FDNY fire boat, which was utilized in rescue efforts following the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks in Manhattan and the "Miracle on the Hudson" emergency airplane landing on January 15, 2009, hasn't moved since showing up after Thanksgiving.

Several residents from River Street have publicly complained about the 129 feet long, 50 feet high water craft blocking their scenic views, but village officials have maintained they have no control over the river, only the pier where the boat is docked. The pier falls under Sleepy Hollow's authority since it was part of the site plan that was approved for River House.

"The Board of Trustees of the Village of Sleepy Hollow would be honored to have the John D. McKean, FDNY's historic fire-boat, call Sleepy Hollow its new home. Before that can become a reality, the owners of the McKean must satisfy regulatory issues

raised by the Army Corps of Engineers and the Village of Sleepy Hollow," Mayor Ken Wray and the Board of Trustees posted on the village's website in late February.

"Once that process is completed, we look forward to working with all the stakeholders to find the best place for the McKean to be moored, so she can be enjoyed by our residents and visitors to Sleepy Hollow's riverfront for years to come," they added.

Village Manager Anthony Giaccio, who said a few residents continue to question village officials about the fire boat, explained the Building Department has been working with the owners of the boat regarding modifications made to the pier that were done without approval.

Otherwise, the village's hands are tied until the Army Corps of Engineers issues its decision.

"We do expect them to give us an answer soon," Giaccio said.

One of the owners of the fire boat, Edward Taylor, who purchased it at an auction in March 2016 with Michael Kaphan, told trustees it would not be permanently moored in Sleepy Hollow. He said the fire boat would set sail for educational and social trips.



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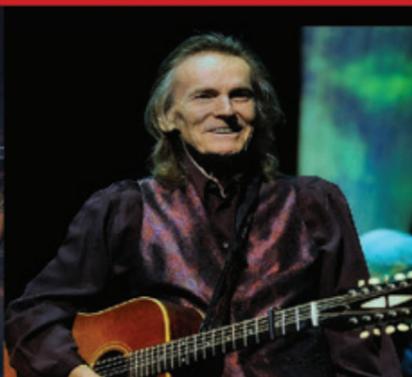
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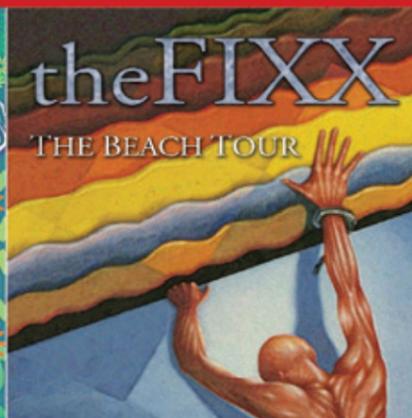
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Pocantico Hills Residents Try to Save an Historic Home

by Elaine Marranzano

Just a few weeks ago, Scott Graves and his family of five downsized from a big, five-bedroom apartment in Brooklyn to a historic house in Pocantico Hills that's half the size. Homes in the hamlet rarely come on the market, so in becoming the owner of the house, Graves pulled off a bit of a coup.

"I told the owner I was just a regular guy. I would have to get a mortgage and couldn't engage in a bidding war," said Graves. What sealed the deal, he said, was the family's appreciation of history.

The previous owner, Jeanne Kostich, literally wrote the book on the history of Pocantico Hills. Kostich's daughter told Graves they were the kind of family her mother would want living in the house.

"We are going to love and respect the history of this house and learn to live with less," he said.

His experience stands in stark contrast to that of Irina and Ross Zeltser, new owners of the house next door to Graves at 43 Willard Ave. The twin houses share a driveway and a garage space. The Zeltzers won a bidding war, eventually paying \$770,000, nearly \$70,000 above asking, for the house. Now they want to demolish it and build a new one, much to the horror of their neighbors.

"They said they loved the whole feel and



Home at issue on 43 Willard Avenue.

character of the area, so the thought that they would tear down the house was a shock," said Deborah Wilens, president of the Pocantico Hills Residents Association.

Commissioned by John D. Rockefeller Jr. around 1930 to house workers on the Kykuit estate, the Graves and Zeltser properties are two of six designed by celebrated architect and urban planner Grosvenor Atterbury. Atterbury designed Stone Barns, parts of Kykuit and numerous other Rockefeller projects. The six houses were recently determined to be eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

"It is not going to happen fast enough to save this house," lamented Wilens. "What

we're hoping is that they'll find it in their hearts to reconsider -- perhaps by putting an addition on it instead of demolishing the whole thing."

The Zeltzers say there was no mention of the home's "historic" status in the listing.

"The sellers, who, we understand had multiple offers, including offers from their neighbors, neither mentioned their intentions to preserve the house nor took care to write them into the house

deed. Had this information been disclosed, our decision process to buy this house might have been different," wrote Irina Zeltser in an email.

The Zeltzers bought the property from the estate of Arthur K. McCormack Sr., who died at the home in 2016 at age 92. He and his wife, Regina, who died in 2013, raised five children there.

The neighbors have started a campaign called Preserve Pocantico and Save #43 to try to prevent the demolition of the house, but little stands in the way. Even listing on the National Register is not enough.

"That and \$1.50 will buy you a cup of coffee," said historic preservationist Mark

Fry. "What is needed are preservation laws at a local level."

The hamlet of Pocantico Hills is a part of the Town of Mount Pleasant, which has no historic preservation laws. The town does have a protected enclave of Frank Lloyd Wright houses called Usonia whose homeowner's association tightly controls what happens to those houses. No such association exists for the six houses in Pocantico, yet these "irreplaceable pieces of Rockefeller history" have survived intact with minor alterations. They surround a common village green, and by all accounts, the neighbors have shared a sense of community and respect for their particular circumstances.

"The six of us in these very special homes are united in a special way, and we are so lucky," said Graves.

But when the location is more desirable than the house, well-funded buyers often decide the house is coming down. Welcome to the era of the "tear-down." One real estate agent said number 43 was so dated that "even the dust was dated." The Zeltzers say they bought their house "as is with numerous environmental and structural issues."

Meanwhile, Graves is pleased as punch with the condition of his home.

"These houses were built like bunkers," he said. "We can't even get a nail in the wall to hang a picture because they were made

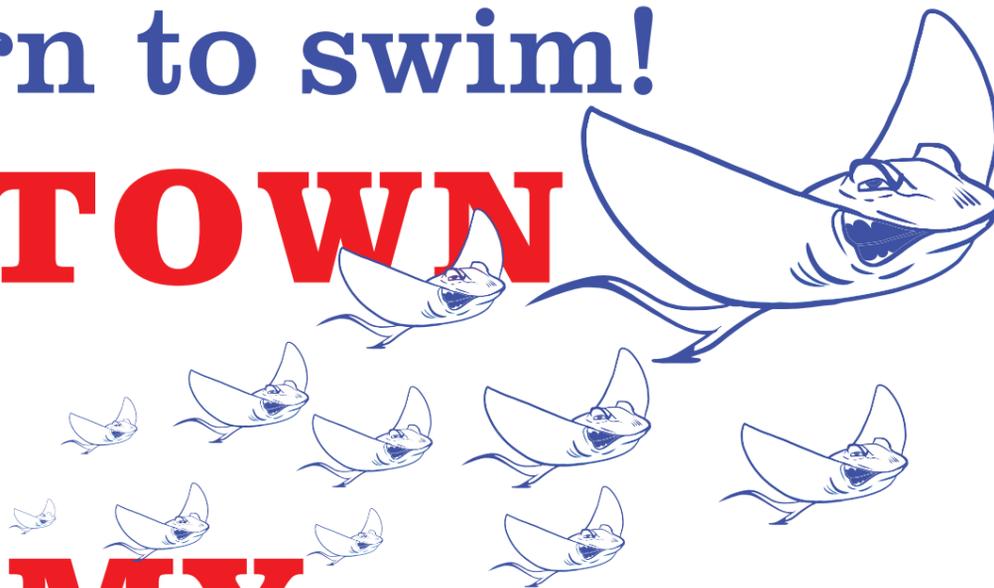
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Seizure in SH

Continued from page 1

ing traditional Ecuadorian dances at church festivals. Although the family was aware of the deepening immigration crisis, Cristobal's sister said there was no new trigger event; it is unclear if or why a nine-year-old DWI would prompt ICE to seize him in 2018.

"This has come so close to us," she said. "To my family, my community, my friends, my neighbors."

Sleepy Hollow is unique in the rivertowns with 52% of residents identified as "Latino or Hispanic." Only Ossining comes close at 48%, while Irvington and Hastings-on-Hudson are at 7%. Sleepy Hollow's Latino population is a dynamic mix of residents born in the United States and those who have immigrated from Ecuador, the Dominican Republic, Guatemala, and many other countries: A diverse, but close-knit community where news of Cristobal's detention traveled rapidly through family, friend, religious and other networks.

St. Teresa of Avila Church in Sleepy Hollow is a hub in many of those networks. Arianna (not her real name), a parishioner, said, "Our priest is always opening the doors of his office to keep the community involved and help us learn about our rights." The Church held a vigil of support for Cristobal and his family, and hosted a bingo game to raise money to help his wife support their three children on her own. Parishioners collected cell phones so that Cristobal and his family could communicate while he is in detention.

These phones are now the only means of connection. Cristobal was detained initially in the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Orange County Correctional Facility where his wife and children were able to visit. He was then moved to a facility in New Jersey, to one in Alabama, and finally to the Jenna/LaSalle Detention Facility in Louisiana. His wife and children have been unable to see him since he was moved from Orange County. ICE did not respond to multiple requests for comment on why he was moved three times and to a location so far from his family.

Cristobal described what it is like to be in a detention facility. "ICE never tells you when, where or what time you will be moved, neither gives you an explanation," he said. "The only way we know we are going to be moved is when you try to purchase food or personal items from our inmate account, [and] the money is not available." His days are regimented. "When I get up in the morning, the first thing I do is check my inmate account to see if it is still available." He continued, "Time passes so slowly. I pray. Talk to other inmates. Share our fears. Comfort one another. I pray that one morning they will call my name and I'm free to go back home with my family."

Cristobal's children are struggling. "They ask me when I'm going to be back home," he said. "Why is it taking so long? We are going to the beach next weekend. Can you be back by then?" Cristobal's sister described the children's reaction to the separation. "One of them is very shy and doesn't talk about it." Another child has some health issues and

is displaying anger. "He cries for no reason," she said. "He believes his father has done something terribly wrong and that is why he is in jail. We explain to him that it is not like that, but he doesn't want to listen."

Some support is available for the children, all of whom are American citizens. A social worker from Open Door Sleepy Hollow meets with the family. The Hudson Valley Community Coalition (HVCC) brings Cristobal's and other affected families together and connects them with legal and advocacy advice. The Sleepy Hollow school system is a key resource as well. "At school, they know he has problems," said Cristobal's sister of her nephew with health issues, adding that the school has been very supportive.

Other members of the community voiced the same sentiment. "The education here in Sleepy Hollow is very good," said Arianna's husband Carlos (not his real name). "But everything also depends on us as parents to teach our kids." Arianna added, "It's fine to have your own cultural traditions, but we have to be integrated into this big country, learning American history, English, everything." Cristobal's sister agreed, "We have to be better. Bring our good thinking to this country. Recycle. Pick up garbage. Bring kids to the library."

Cristobal has lived here for 17 years. Ken Wray, mayor of Sleepy Hollow, believes that Cristobal was bringing his best to the community. "You have a 'productive member of society' to use a cliché," said Wray. "He was working, paying rent, buying food in the community. Now that is taken away. Not to mention the total disaster for his family."

What about the argument that Cristobal was taking a job away from a citizen, Mayor Wray was asked. "My family came (many) years ago and didn't have papers," said Wray. "Show me that other person who doesn't have a job because he got it? I don't buy it. This hard-working young man was building a family in Sleepy Hollow and is exactly the kind of person we want to welcome."

U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand met with Cristobal's family and those of other detained men on June 20 in Washington, D.C. Her office continues to work on Cristobal's case. Her spokesperson, Rocio Cruz, agreed with Wray, "The current system is treating all undocumented immigrants like criminals, and it's hurting New York communities and families." Cruz relayed Gillibrand's belief that resources should focus on "true criminals who are a danger to the community."

Carlos and Arianna fled Ecuador because criminals were not held in check by the government. Arianna described a culture of pervasive corruption. She explained that Ecuador has two main political parties that, rather than serving as a check and balance, are in direct collusion. When she completed her teacher training with high scores, she had to borrow \$500 to pay off the politician in charge of hiring teachers. "I gave him the money and he turned to the guy from the other party and said, 'Okay, half the money is for you and half for me.'" Police corruption was of even more concern. She feared for the safety of her children, saying that criminals and gang members buy off the police and immediately cycle back to the streets.

Continued on page 8

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Obituaries

Bernardo Navarro, 79

Bernardo Navarro, a resident of Tarrytown, died July 2. He was 79.

Born in Cuba in 1939, he was a graduate of the Cuban Naval Academy and a proud officer in the Cuban merchant marine until his opposition to the Castro regime forced him to leave his beloved homeland. He worked tirelessly at an assortment of jobs, saving every dime to secure the passage of his family to the United States. After a two-year separation, he was reunited with his fiancée, Rosa Lopez, and they were married at St. Michael's Church in Manhattan. He and Rosa began their married life in Jackson Heights, before moving to Tarrytown, where they raised three daughters.

Mr. Navarro spent 33 years working as an engineer at General Motors. After his retirement from GM, he worked as a building inspector for the Village of Tarrytown. Through it all he was a devoted husband, dutiful son, loving father, and adoring grandfather, whose first passion was always his family. He was also a kind and generous neighbor, and a proud citizen of his adopted country. He was a man of dignity, courage, conviction, and warmth, who left an indelible mark on those who knew him.

Gaetano Magro, 99

Gaetano L. Magro, a longtime resident of Irvington, died July 7. He was 99.

Raised on East 187th Street in the Bronx, Mr. Gaetano was the youngest of three. He proudly served in the U.S. Army during WW II. Upon returning, he married his beloved Ann and they started their family. He was an avid photographer for Charles Studio in Mt. Vernon. He later became the owner and operator of the Irvington Laundry and Dry Cleaners. He was a strong-willed gentleman who had a deep love for his family and community.

James Paolantonio, 89

James P. Paolantonio, a lifelong resident of Sleepy Hollow, died July 21. He was 89. He had moved to Ashland, PA a few years ago to be near his daughter.

Born on June 29, 1929 in North Tarrytown, he served proudly in the United States Air Force. He then continued his education, earning a Master's Degree from NYU. He had a long career as an officer with the Internal Revenue Service in White Plains.

On October 24, 1959, he married Dorothy F. Galick in Holy Cross Church. He was a Life Active member and past secretary of Columbia Hose of the Sleepy Hollow Fire Department.

Margaret Honan, 96

Margaret Rose Honan, a long-time Irvington resident, died peacefully July 21, surrounded by her loving family. She was 96.

She was born in Brooklyn, and met Joseph Patrick Honan on a Catholic tour. On November 26, 1955, they married at Our Lady Queen of Martyrs in Forest Hills.

She began her career at First National City Bank in Manhattan. She later held several part-time local positions working with the elderly and children while raising her family. For many years she worked in the Irvington School District as a bus monitor and as an aide. However, her most cherished and rewarding opportunity came when she worked with school children in the arts and crafts room at the Irvington Children's Center, a position she loved and held dear until she retired in her mid-80's.

In addition to working with children, Mrs. Honan enjoyed family gatherings, living in the Village of Irvington, walking Main Street and talking with the local residents. She also enjoyed many summers in the Catskills and at the Jersey Shore, particularly, swimming in the Spring Lake salt water pool. She had a beautiful smile many years after winning a local teenage beauty pageant.

She was a devout Catholic and parishioner of Immaculate Conception Church in Irvington. She was a former member of the Altar and Rosary Society and the Irvington Senior Center.

Pocantico Home

Continued from page 4

of brick which stays cool even on the hottest day. I walked into this house and said, "This is historical brilliance."

Number 43 still has its original slate and copper roof and solid beechwood and brass interior, according to the "Preserve Pocantico" Facebook page.

The Zeltsers are "planning a Dutch Colonial house that would recapture the aesthetic of the existing house," but building plans have not been filed with the town nor has a building permit been issued. At

the time this article was filed, the Mount Pleasant Building Department said it only needed a "shut-off" letter from Con Edison before issuing a demolition permit.

But the residents are still hoping for an intervention.

"Look, I haven't met them, but if they want to live here, they must be amazing people," said Graves. "Maybe they haven't been here enough to understand the significance. When you start drinking the water around here and breathing this air, you start to feel the power of it."

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Business News

New Owner Looks to Continue Legacy of SH Animal Hospital

by Anna Young

Sleepy Hollow Animal Hospital is celebrating the next chapter in its long history as a new owner and veterinarian looks to put his stamp on the beloved hospital.

Dr. Peter Romano, a Westchester native who currently resides in Stamford, Connecticut, is taking the next big step in his career as he takes over the reins from veterinarian and hospital owner Dr. Brian Green. While Romano assumed ownership in July, Green, who ran the hospital for 33 years, will remain on staff for the next year before he officially retires.

After working in various hospitals throughout the county, Romano, an 11-year veterinarian, said he was drawn to Sleepy Hollow Animal Hospital because it shared the same philosophy of how pets and their owners should be treated.

"I want the client to have my full attention, and I want to connect with them in some way and make them feel welcome," Romano said. "I always try to make that effort, and part of running a business is finding the time to do that, so instead of having a huge volume I'd rather spend a little bit more time with the clients and get to know them as people and get to know their pets a little better."



Dr. Peter Romano greets visitors during a recent open house event.

their owners, Romano said he also wants his staff to feel the same level of comfort.

"I wanted to be able to see my way of practicing come true because I really think it can benefit not only the clients and the patients but the staff," Romano said. "It's about making a good quality of life for your staff and yourself. You need to enjoy what you do and enjoy going to work every day."

Romano added that he wants to follow in Green's footsteps by providing state-of-the-art medicine and personal attention while upholding the same traditions and values that have been practiced for the last three decades.

"He's already doing all the good stuff right now, and I just want to continue that," Romano said.

Sleepy Hollow Animal Hospital provides

"I wanted to be able to see my way of practicing come true because I really think it can benefit not only the clients and the patients but the staff."

—Dr. Peter Romano

a wide range of services for dogs and cats, including basic internal medicine, preventive care, pain management, X-Rays, neutering/spaying, laser therapy, dental care, and surgery. Romano said the hospital is equipped with state-of-the-art equipment to provide pet owners with immediate results.

While owning a business is a new and overwhelming experience for Romano, he said the transition has been easy due to the supportive and caring staff he inherited from Green.

"The staff here is awesome," Romano said. "They really care about the patients and the clients, and they make my life a lot easier. It's just been great all around."

Sleepy Hollow Animal Hospital is located at 340 N. Broadway in Sleepy Hollow. Hours: Monday to Friday from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., and Saturday from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. For more information, visit www.sleepyhollowanimal-hospital.com or call 914-610-7492.



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State Grant Helps Sleepy Hollow Complete New Walkway

by Rick Pezullo

The Village of Sleepy Hollow was able to complete the construction of a new walkway along Riverside Drive thanks to a \$50,000 grant secured by State Senator Terrence Murphy (R/Yorktown).

The remaining \$300,000 needed for the project was provided earlier as part of Governor Andrew Cuomo's Community Benefit Program in conjunction with the building of the new bridge.

"This walkway will provide a scenic link between two of Sleepy Hollow's larger residential neighborhoods and serve as a conve-



State Senator Terrence Murphy (center) with Village Administrator Anthony Giaccio and Mayor Ken Wray.

has a fantastic view of the Hudson River. In addition to being able to handle heavy foot traffic, the new walkway will add beauty and charm to an already breathtaking part of the village."

The new walkway, which is open to the public, is five feet wide and 1,766 in length and runs from the western side of Riverside Drive near the Metro-North Philipse Manor railway station to Freemont Pond, covering a heavily used

route used by residents commuting into New York City. It is also the primary route to the Philipse Manor Beach Club.

"This walkway will make the daily experience so much nicer for everyone from commuters to dog walkers to families with strollers," Wray said. "It looks great now, but I can't wait for this time next year when the new plantings have matured. This is just going to get better and better with time."

In 2016, Sleepy Hollow adopted a Complete Streets Policy, which recognizes the importance of creating streets that are safe to be traveled by all users, including pedestrians, bicyclists, drivers of various types of vehicles and riders of public transportation.

Seizure in SH

Continued from page 5

Arianna and Carlos tried to apply for asylum. "We spent a lot of money. We spent a lot of time trying to be legal," said Arianna. "We don't want to go against the government, against the law. One lawyer gives us hope ---after 10 years you are going to be legal. Another says after you have a child here, you are going to be legal. Another says after the law changes you are going to be legal. I feel no hope now."

New York State Senator Shelley Mayer commented on cases such as Arianna's, "U.S. immigration law provides opportunities for people to enter this country legally, and one should not presume that simply seeking to enter is an unlawful act. For example, many people have sought to enter seeking asylum, which is authorized under U.S. law." Arianna and Carlos fell into that category, but also into another group: immigrants who were taken advantage of while trying to exercise their rights within the U.S. legal system.

In Latin America, the term "notario" in-

dicates a respected public official with legal training. In English, the Spanish translation of "notary public" is "notario público" or just "notario." Many immigrants spend money they have saved for their asylum application on-- at best untrained, and at worst fraudulent "notarios." Cultural and language barriers make them vulnerable to other scam artists as well, such as Marko Nikac (who was arrested on July 5 by the Westchester County Police General Investigations Unit for selling fake green cards). When Nikac's customers discovered the fraud and asked for their money back, he threatened to turn them in to ICE.

There are two lessons from these stories. One is the need for foreign-born residents to access licensed and legitimate legal services. The other is the value of a trusting relationship between immigrant communities and the police. The Westchester County Police, the Town of Greenburgh Police and many others are adopting best practices encouraging immigrants to report crimes without fear of being asked about their legal status.

"Our police will not ask about someone's

status. That is irrelevant to their work," Wray said. "We want to make sure that everyone who sees a crime happening feels comfortable to report it, including family issues and domestic violence. This makes a safer community for all."

Still, immigrants feel they need to be model citizens. Cristobal's sister said, "There is a lot of pressure to be perfect. We tell them if you are going to drive, make sure your car is in perfect condition. Do your stop signs the way you should. Inform yourself."

Cristobal's sister went through a local school system feeling that pressure even as a child. "I remember when I graduated from high school. When you're young, you feel like you can fly," she said. "I went to a job interview where they said, 'You're perfect. Now we just need your Social Security card and your driver's license.'" Tears formed in her eyes. "So, I wondered what am I going to do from here? I ended up working as a bus girl in a restaurant. But my mom said in this country when one door closes, two more open. I kept studying and, thank you, President Barack Obama, he created DACA.

That was a big, big change in my life. Okay, I cannot do whatever I want, but I can at least fight for what I want." She became a certified nurse assistant.

Given the cloud over DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals), Cristobal's sister faces uncertainty. "My son said, 'Mommy, if you go back, would I have to go with you? I was born here. This is my country.'" Again, the tears filled her eyes. "I told him, 'Baby, you do what you have to do. As a family, we have to be together.'"

New York State Senator Terrence Murphy (R/Yorktown) hopes for an end "to this bad chapter in our nation's history." Rocio Cruz, Senator Gillibrand's spokesperson, relayed her commitment to finding "a way to allow law-abiding families to come out of the shadows and continue being productive members of their communities."

Cristobal's sister, who was brought to this country when she was 13, agreed, "I want to tell people that I am real. We're present. I love this country and I want to support any good thing to make it better. 'Make America Great Again.' In a good way."

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Greystone on Hudson: An Exception to the Rule?

Andy Todd walks briskly up the unfinished front steps, made of Belgian Bluestone that costs \$40-per-square-foot, through a foyer that could easily accommodate a medium-sized diplomatic reception and past a not-quite-finished kitchen destined to house a full array of state-of-the-art appliances. Out back, there's a built-in fire pit for chilly evenings and a large flat-screen TV protected from the weather for al fresco entertainment. The view from the wide veranda encompasses two acres of lawn bordered by majestic old trees—and not a hint of another building in sight. Upstairs, the master suite has his and hers dressing rooms in matching turrets—and, of course, his and hers bathrooms.

Welcome to one of Todd's grand Greystone on Hudson estates, inspired by those Gilded Age mansions that once dotted the Hudson Valley. Off Broadway, just opposite Lyndhurst (once home to railroad tycoon Jay Gould), this 100-acre wood will, with any luck and a good economy, one day hold 21 such estates, available for anywhere from \$5 to \$13 million apiece. "You couldn't get a better piece of land," said Todd, noting the sweeping views of the Hudson from the road above this house.

So far, he has sold only four. This one, which Todd described alternately as "shingle-style" and "Gatsby-style," is on the low

end at about \$6 million. It has 10,000 square feet of living space. Even the basement has 10-ft. ceilings (but no indoor basketball court, like the \$13 million house down the road). Who are his buyers? "Finance people, for the most part," he said—hedge fund managers, investment bankers. He sometimes hints that one or two big-time pro athletes are interested, but there is no evidence so far of an Eli Manning or a Derek Jeter in the neighborhood.

Whoever buys here will face a six-figure property tax bill. One of the houses, with 20,000 square feet of space, now occupied, has been assessed by Greenburgh at just over \$9 million. Property taxes total \$283,138.67-per-year.

Why would anyone buy here, rather than Greenwich, Connecticut with a fraction of the taxes? Why here and not Villa Nuits and other classic old mansions that sit idle on the market? Because those old houses, however once grand they were, don't have family rooms and the other accoutrements of modern suburban life, says Todd. He's looking for buyers with hefty cash flows who won't balk at big assessments and are already in income brackets immune to the SALT deduction cap. Plus, he's betting, they are willing to pay for modern conveniences—and their own private view of the Hudson.

—Barrett Seaman

United Way 2-1-1 Service Provides Valuable Help to Those in Need

by Rick Pezzullo

Most people are familiar with the 911 Emergency System, but many may not be aware of the 2-1-1 service provided by the United Way.

Launched in 2005, 2-1-1 is a free, confidential referral and information helpline and website that connects people from all communities and of all ages in seven counties in the Hudson Valley region to essential health and human services, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

"Our mission is to be that primary entry point for those looking for help in human services in different communities," explained Lini Jacob, Senior Vice President of 2-1-1. "We're not going to turn anyone away."

With 250 languages spoken, 2-1-1 offers assistance on food, housing, abuse prevention, government services, senior services, veteran's needs, health and mental health, youth programs, child care, job assistance and substance abuse, plus many emergency situations.

"We do play a major role during disas-



ter time," Jacob said. "We don't ask for names. All we need is their zip code. We want people to make use of it."

In 2017 in Westchester, which ranks first in calls received on the 2-1-1 helpline in the region, more than 22,000 individuals were referred for services. Jacob said the helpline handles 200 to 250 calls a day.

"There are a lot of needs in the community," she said.

Jacob emphasized the 2-1-1 service is effective because of the cooperation of numerous agencies that share information.

"2-1-1 is here because of different partnerships," she said. "We wouldn't have the database without the help and collective work of others."

For more information, visit www.uwvp.org.



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Irvington Schools Reduce Waste with Expanded Program

When Irvington Union Free School District students return to school in the fall, they will have a renewed sense of commitment and deeper responsibility to care for their environment, thanks to an expanded districtwide recycling and waste reduction program.

"This is a simple, inexpensive program that the Irvington schools have embraced partly to improve recycling rates, but even more importantly, to encourage further student involvement and education about the benefits of waste reduction, composting,

the economics of recycling and environmental issues in general," said Jessica Munzel, a parent volunteer who is supporting the District's efforts. "A program like this highlights that even our small, day-to-day decisions can have a big impact, especially when we work together as a community."

The program, which was first launched at Main Street School (MSS) as a pilot, has already been highly successful at the school. During the first year of the waste reduction program, the students, who have been working with their principal Joyce Chap-

nick, community members and school members, successfully accomplished their goal of reducing waste by 10-20 percent in their classrooms, hallways and cafeteria. In each classroom, hallway and office, there are three recycling bins — one for paper recycling, one for commingled recycling and another one for trash. Meanwhile, there are four bins in the cafeteria: liquid, commingled, trash and compost.

As a way to introduce the expanded program and encourage greater student participation, rising fourth- and fifth-graders

at MSS will be educated about waste reduction through assemblies and lunchtime presentations. At Dows Lane, parent volunteers will give in-class presentations to all the children during the second week of school and help them properly sort items during lunchtime in the cafeteria during the first two weeks. At the middle and high schools, students and faculty will also be educated about the program and will be encouraged to further get involved in the efforts throughout the year.

Rivertowns Real Estate Uncertainty

Continued from page 1

few area residents quibbled with that, since the last formal assessment was in the mid-1950s, keeping valuations low. Then in 2016, the Town of Greenburgh executed a full reassessment that hit villages like Irvington, Hastings and Dobbs Ferry hardest. In some cases, homeowners saw their tax bills more than double. Thousands "grieved" their assessments, challenging the new values and pleading for relief. Only a fraction were successful, but the town did adopt a three-year graduated payment system for those whose taxes had gone up by more than 25%.

As of this year, that step-up is over, and everyone is paying full freight. Many longtime residents have been driven to sell. Some were empty nesters that would likely have downsized anyway—just not so soon. Others, including many in downtown neighborhoods that traditionally housed working-class families, sold not because they wanted to but because they couldn't afford to stay. As long as there were young families willing to pay top dollar, however, they were able to escape.

That formula now shows signs of strain. Many homeowners are dismayed by the new federal tax law that limits deductions of state and local taxes (SALT) to the first \$10,000, a figure topped by four out of five Westchester homeowners. Separately, twice since the original reassessment, the town has notified homeowners that, because the gaps between selling prices and assessed values were continuing to widen in various micro-markets, assessments, hence taxes, were being adjusted—yet again. For many, it felt like an aftershock in a market still jittery from the original reassessment earthquake.

Then in mid-July, Bloomberg.com ran a story reporting that purchases in Westchester, already home of the highest property taxes in the nation, had "plunged" 18 percent, citing the limit on SALT deductions as a proximate cause. To Coldwell Banker's president for Connecticut and Westchester, Joe Valvano, "it was a perfect storm."

Extracting 2018 first half numbers for the rivertowns and adjacent markets, Valvano observed that while the overall downward trend is clear, the data varies according to specific markets and price points. In Greenburgh, Ardsley, Dobbs Ferry, Hastings and Irvington combined, houses selling at between \$1 and \$2 million dropped from 160 in 2017 to 110 this year, and their dollar volume dropped 35%. Sales in the \$2-

to-\$4 million range fell from 20 down to six. In those same markets plus Tarrytown and Pocantico Hills, however, houses selling for under a million rose modestly.

"The market is very location-specific," said Andrea Martone of Houlihan Lawrence. At one point last month, the Irvington school district had 62 houses for sale, while larger neighboring Tarrytown, where prices were lower, had only 14.

Sales vary according to age and style as well. Irvington in particular has a large stock of old homes—well-built and gracefully designed for their era but often not conducive to the open architecture and state-of-the-art kitchen/family room designs that attract many young families. "Buyers in the \$1-to-\$2 million range are not in the market for a DIY (Do It Yourself) project," said Compass broker and attorney Michael Bryant, who also represents owners filing grievances.

Most everyone in the business agrees that older homes worth \$4 million or more—even ones with historic value—simply aren't selling. So far unable to find a buyer for Irvington's 14,000 sq. ft. Villa Nuits, built in 1852 and assessed at \$8.9 million, its owner feels that the only way he can offset his \$224,000-a-year property tax bill is to rent his mansion out through Airbnb and VRBO, and to filmmakers such as Netflix.

Pause, Correction or Worse?

Most area brokers are uncertain whether today's flat markets are just a pause in what has been a long upward climb, a Wall Street-like "correction" or a sign of permanent trouble. Taxes are now at "the forefront of buyers' thinking," said Francie Malina, a Compass realtor. Adds Hillary Levy, a Coldwell broker, "They understand that if a house (the house they love) is assessed at \$1 million and they pay \$1.6 million, their taxes will rise by about \$18,000." That kind of sobering calculation is dampening the urgency that only recently sparked bidding wars.

"What we have to realize," said an agent who wished not to be identified, "is that buyers have choices. They could look in New Jersey, where prices and taxes are lower, or in Connecticut, where prices may be higher but taxes are a lot lower."

Lynn Leahey, who sold her home in the Barney Park section of Irvington, wanting to return to her childhood home in New Jersey, was at least partly motivated by the reassessment. "When I moved in, my

taxes were around \$21,000; when I left, they were around \$25,000. I'm now paying \$12,000 (in New Jersey). True, the recycling is collected only every other week instead of each week, but services, schools, are all just as good."

How to Fix the Problem?

When the SALT deduction was capped at \$10,000, New York Governor Andrew Cuomo, along with several other Democrat governors, charged the Trump Administration with political discrimination. His first proposed solution was to change state law to allow property taxes to be treated as a charitable deduction. That would require each taxing entity in the state to approve it, and some are considering doing so. But most officials and tax lawyers have concluded that the IRS is unlikely to approve such a deduction, leaving those who try at risk of penalties.

Cuomo and other governors are given better (though not great) odds of winning a lawsuit claiming that the SALT provision disproportionately penalizes their residents and violates states' rights. But area realtors and tax experts point out that the SALT provision affects only a portion of Westchester taxpayers, since owners of homes over \$1 million in value are likely to be in income brackets subject to the Alternative Minimum Tax (AMT) that obviates the property tax deduction.

On the village level, Irvington's recent Comprehensive Plan recommended steps that would loosen restrictions on home use. The board is adopting legislation that allows short-term rentals, Airbnbs and home offices as ways to offset high property taxes. Says Mayor Brian Smith: "Any reasonable suggestion we're willing to pursue."

Dropping one of the four layers of government to which Westchesterites pay taxes has long had appeal. Some think town government services could be absorbed either by the county or the villages. Naturally, Town Supervisor Paul Feiner believes it's the county that needs to go and cites New England town governments as a model.

Many single-family homeowners have long resented the beneficial tax rates afforded condominium and co-op owners. A number of municipalities upstate have opted to eliminate the distinction, but not Greenburgh, where Supervisor Feiner fears that leveling tax rates—not just for condo and co-ops but for commercial properties, which he says would be required—would

drive many businesses out of town. This spring, residents of The Landing, a community of 103 attached houses near the Hudson, took matters into their own hands by registering with the county as a condo, looking to reduce their assessed values by anywhere from 25% to 50%. But the town has so far chosen to ignore that, a de facto rejection that residents are currently challenging.

There are other, more arcane schemes to mitigate the effects of the SALT provision: using broader payroll tax withholding, or shifting the counties' share of Medicaid costs entirely to the state, for example. But the solution that is likely to gain more consideration over the long haul is finding ways to reduce the cost of local governments, services and schools—the basis for property taxes in the first place.

Westchester County Executive George Latimer is championing the Shared Services initiative that was launched by the state last year but only modestly pursued by his Republican predecessor, Rob Astorino. The program encourages governmental entities at every level to seek economies of scale through sharing services or manpower, hence costs. As an incentive the state is offering a dollar-for-dollar match for documented savings. Mt. Kisco, for example, reached an agreement with the county to take on policing duties for the village, saving \$2.4 million. Smaller savings can be achieved by sharing IT and other administrative costs.

The big nut, of course, is schools, which eat up roughly two-thirds of Westchester's property tax revenue. More residents, especially since taxes have risen, are questioning whether each of the rivertowns can afford its own autonomous school system. The biggest obstacle has traditionally been a reluctance to give up local identity—school spirit, the Sleepy Hollow Horsemen, the Dobbs Ferry Eagles—and all the other emotional ties. To date, local identity has held sway, but the growing pressure of property taxes may soon bring that debate to the forefront.

Brokers, buyers and sellers are all quick to say that the intrinsic benefits of living in the rivertowns are unchanged. Schools are good; the villages are charming and intimate, and the river is utterly captivating. But affordability is in that mix as well and somehow, at some point, must be given its due.

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RESIDENTIAL BROKERAGE

Viewfinder

1. Mayor Ken Wray and Trustee Glenn Rosenblum joined Philipse Manor Improvement Assn. and Sleepy Hollow Manor Assn. at annual July 4 picnic.
2. More than 100 children participated in annual Bicycle Parade on July 4.
3. Open Door Family Medical Centers launched their "SantaCause" initiative in Sleepy Hollow and Tarrytown, reminding residents help is needed throughout the year.

— Photos by: Sunny Maclean



Watercooler

Heard Around the Watercooler

by Maria Ann Roglieri

New Culture Pass for Library Card Holders

If you have a library card for Tarrytown's Warner Library or Irvington's, you can access Culture Pass, a pass that will allow you to visit many museums and cultural institutions around New York City for free. You can apply online at www.culturepass.nyc for free entry for either two or four people. The pass must be activated, however, in person at either library.

New Kendal on Hudson Executive Director

Kendal on Hudson in Sleepy Hollow has named James A. Antonucci Jr. as new Executive Director. Antonucci brings with him 17 years of experience in the aging services industry, most recently as Executive Director of Heron's Key in Gig Harbor, Washington. Prior to that, he held a similar position at The Villages, a Santa Fe Senior Living

rental company in Gainesville, Florida. Kendal on Hudson opened in 2005. It has 220 apartments in multi-story buildings on a riverside campus adjacent to Phelps Memorial Hospital. It offers an assisted living program, a memory support program based on the open household model for people living with dementia, a health care center providing short- and long-term nursing care and an array of community amenities.



James Antonucci

Rockefeller State Park Preserve Hosts Volunteers

Rockefeller State Park Preserve is looking for volunteers to help preserve the environment in the park on Wednesday, August 29 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Volunteers will be working digging up invasive species and/or

planting native trees. Volunteers will learn about how to help combat the major threats to our environment, as well as ask questions about local plants and wildlife, or best practices for ecological management. No experience is necessary. To register for the event, call Julia at (914) 631-1470 ext. 107.

Thanks to Irvington Recycle Squad

Special thanks to the volunteers of Green Policy Task Force (GPTF) and the Irvington Recycle Squad. They spent the July 4 holiday in Matthiessen Park teaching residents about the importance of and how to do recycling.

Congratulations to Irvington Students

Congresswoman Nita Lowey awarded Irvington High School student Anna Grace Nimmo and Irvington Middle School student Tess Davidowitz a Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition for Community Service. Congratulations to both

students and thanks for their service.

Rivertown Runners Donate to the Community

Rivertown Runners and the RTR Outreach Fund Board donated \$40,000 to the community from funds raised at the Sleepy Hollow Halloween 10K in the Sleepy Hollow Half Marathon in 2017-2018.

Tarrytown Fire Department Parade

The Tarrytown Fire Department will be holding a parade on Saturday, August 11 at 3 p.m.

Tarrytown Teachers Band to Perform

Losing Our Faculties, a band made up of teachers of the Public Schools of the Tarrytowns, will be playing an eclectic mix of rock, country, and metal on August 2 in Pierson Park by the RiverWalk from 7 to 9 p.m.

Local Teens Gain Valuable Experience with Summer Jobs

by Tom Pedulla

For teenagers facing an array of summer options, life can become complicated.

For every lifeguard, there may be someone traveling with peers domestically or abroad on a Teen Tour. For every camp counselor sweating beneath the mid-day sun, there may be someone working an unpaid internship or perhaps doing little at all.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the percentage of those ages 16-19 in the summer workforce dipped to 41.3 percent in 2017, compared to a high of 57.9 percent in 1979.

The reasons for that are debatable, and the merits of the decisions made are for individuals and perhaps their parents to determine. A sampling of local youngsters who are working, though, pointed to job satisfaction despite modest wages and lost time with non-working friends.

Emma Hickey, 18, views her hours as a lifeguard at Halston House in Tarrytown as a way to prepare for full-time employment after she graduates from Catholic University.

"The summer is about relaxing and stuff," she said. "But when I'm older, a real job doesn't end in summer. Honestly, when I'm not working, I sometimes run out of things to do. It's definitely good for me to keep busy."

Hickey noted that her parents, Lisa and Tim, strongly influenced her decision to work as they did with her brother, Dillon, 19. He is employed at a bicycle store and earns additional income as a handyman. She believes parents play a key role in this area.

"The summer is about relaxing and stuff," she said. "But when I'm older, a real job doesn't end in summer. Honestly, when I'm not working, I sometimes run out of things to do. It's definitely good for me to keep busy."

—Emma Hickey, 18

"The people I know who don't have jobs," Hickey said, "it's because their parents give them money, so they don't feel the need to."



"You go around and you have so much fun with the kids that you lose track of time."

— Ben Oshins, 18

Kim Chase, 15, of Irvington, seriously considered enjoying a Teen Tour that would have taken her to California, Colorado and other scenic states out West. She decided against it after a conversation with her mother, Suzanne, and gained employment

as a day camp counselor at the Shames Jewish Community Center in Tarrytown.

"I wanted to get that work experience," she said, "so I would know what I could be expecting later in life."

Others do not view it that way.

"Many of my friends do not have summer jobs. Instead, they are traveling or just hanging out," Chase said. "We're still young, and they want to have fun while they can before they have to start worrying about working."

Ben Oshins, 18, and Jillian Cusick, 17, expressed great satisfaction with their weekday work from 7:45 a.m. until 4 p.m. as camp counselors at the Shames Jewish Community Center.

"You go around and you have so much fun with the kids that you lose track of time," Oshins said. His experience is so good that he will use his time at the State University of New York at Oneonta to explore careers that would allow him to work with young people.

According to Cusick, she eagerly awaits each day with her campers.

"There is nothing like waking up in the morning and seeing the next crazy thing they say or do. It's wonderful to see, at the beginning of camp, a kid who is shy and not so adventurous, and, by the end, he is playing with everyone and saying hello."

— Jillian Cusick, 17



"I wanted to get that work experience," she said, "so I would know what I could be expecting later in life."

— Kim Chase, 15

"There is nothing like waking up in the morning and seeing the next crazy thing they say or do," she said. "It's wonderful to see, at the beginning of camp, a kid who is shy and not so adventurous, and, by the end, he is playing with everyone and saying hello."

Then there is Rebecca DiBlasi, 17, a recent graduate of Sleepy Hollow High School. In a small way, she already is doing something to benefit the environment by working for a second consecutive summer as a paid lab assistant at the Yonkers Joint Wastewater Treatment Plant. She tests wastewater samples taken throughout the tri-state area.

"It really shows me a lot of issues being faced in the environment now," she said.

DiBlasi's untraditional summer job should prove invaluable. She plans to study environmental engineering at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.



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Sports

Irvington Soccer Standout Excited About Starting Career at Brown

by Tom Pedulla

Zoe Maxwell serves as a prime example of the profound impact sports can have on the development of a girl or boy.

She described herself as shy and a bit unsure in her early years before her father, Max, encouraged her to play soccer when she was five years old. She did not care for the sport at first, but she stayed with it.

"I think that's how I gained some confidence and made new friends," she said. "Soccer definitely changed my life. Not to sound cheesy, but it did."

The 5-6, 123-pound Maxwell is going on to Brown after enjoying unprecedented success at Irvington. She closed her career with 116 goals -- more than any girl or boy in school history -- with 40 assists.

Her four-year varsity career culminated in All-State accolades to go with Section 1 Class B Player of the Year honors. She gained All-League distinction every season and was All-Section three times while excelling in the classroom as a National Honor Society and high honor roll student.

Maxwell gained the attention of college recruiters as a freshman and eventually narrowed her choices to Brown, Georgetown,



Zoe Maxwell

Princeton and Boston University. She said her visit to Brown, located in Providence, Rhode Island, was decisive.

"The coaching staff and players really drew me in," she said, "because they were all very welcoming and they want what's best

for you."

She may be interested in a career in public health and found Brown's open curriculum appealing. "It makes you choose more your direction," she said, "and I really like that."

Brown Coach Kia McNeill welcomed Maxwell to a strong team that competed for the Ivy League title last year until a 1-0 loss at Yale in its season finale.

"Zoe will see time in the midfield or up top. She's extremely gifted with the ball at her feet and makes difficult plays look effortless," McNeill said. "She has the skill set and pace to take players on, but also has the vision, awareness and technique to set up others to score. Her work ethic is second to none, and she has a deep desire to succeed which fits well with our team mentality."

Maxwell has been preparing for Brown throughout the summer with conditioning drills and weightlifting. She is getting acclimated to the college level by competing with the New York Surf.

McNeill puts all of her players through a conditioning test the day after they arrive on campus. That is not likely to pose a problem for Maxwell, who won sectional track and field titles indoors at 300 meters and 55 meters and outdoors at 400 meters. She

captured the triple jump in the winter and spring.

Pat DiBenedetto, Irvington's soccer coach, described Maxwell as a "total athlete."

"She has all the components you look for," he said. "She has the focus. She has the drive. She has, obviously, the athleticism."

Irvington finished with a stellar 17-2-1 record last season, reaching the final of the Section 1 Class B Tournament. Maxwell led the way, especially at critical moments such as penalty kicks.

"She has ice in her veins. She is able to keep her composure and handle the pressure in those situations," DiBenedetto said. "She is able to rise to the occasion when called upon."

Maxwell, self-assured without being cocky, is keenly aware that the college level will challenge her as never before.

"I think it's going to be completely different from what I'm used to," she said. "I know the game is a lot quicker in college, and it's definitely more physical. I need to get stronger."

Maxwell makes her collegiate debut August 24 at Pepperdine. She could not be more excited to begin a new chapter in her young life.

Summer League Helps Irvington Hoops Players Hone Their Skills

by Tom Pedulla

As the sun sets over the glistening Hudson River, enthusiastic young players develop their skills before appreciative fans without the pressure of winning. A better setting than the O'Hara Summer Basketball League at Scenic Hudson Park in Irvington may be impossible to find.

"It's fantastic. It's such a beautiful facility," said Chris Starace, varsity basketball coach at Sleepy Hollow High School. "Thank you so much to Irvington for putting this together every year."

Other coaches and players from nearby schools would undoubtedly echo his gratitude, for the seeds of winter success are sown in this idyllic summer setting.

"I always tell kids our season and our

team starts to get formed in July," said Scott Brennen, Irvington's varsity coach. "Each year there is a different group of kids, different team chemistry, different personalities that have to jell and combine."

The summer league is especially useful this year because local teams face especially stiff challenges. The Irvington girls, after reaching the state championship game, have the stern task of replacing four senior starters. The boys must find offense after guard Colby Martins, a prolific scorer, transferred out of the area. Starace has only three players -- Saeed Alonzo, Manny Perez and Danny Williams -- returning. The Sleepy Hollow girls are something of an unknown since they do not field a team in the O'Hara League.

For the Irvington girls, they are keenly

aware of the work they must do to approach the lofty standards set by their predecessors.

"We had such a great team last year. We're worried about how it's going to turn out," said guard Miranda Farman, entering her senior season. "Seeing everyone playing together in summer league, it's really reassuring."

For Irvington's Mia Mascone, another player who will be a senior, being on any court is big. She tore the lateral collateral ligament in her knee in the opening quarter of the opening game in 2017.

"It's not weird being out here. It feels just like it did a year ago," she said of her return to the lineup. "It's a fun way to get back into the game."

Sydney Thybulle, an imposing center, views the summer league as a chance to

show that Irvington can remain a force without the dynamic Martins.

"We definitely want to establish ourselves as contenders in our section," he said. "We want to establish some kind of control of our league and definitely show what we have."

Luke McCarthy, about to be a junior at Sleepy Hollow, is encouraged by what he sees this summer and has high hopes.

"I want a good season for our team, to make it far. That's pretty much our goal," he said. "I think this is really helpful. We get an early start."

Starace welcomes that early start as he begins to evaluate players after high turnover.

"It really gives coaches an opportunity to kind of see what's going on and players an

Continued on page 15

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TARRYTOWN

Sleepy Hollow Football Club Captures Five Division Titles

by Michael Weitzen
SHFC Vice President

Building on close to 40 years of an AYSO (American Youth Soccer Organization) recreational soccer tradition in Tarrytown and Sleepy Hollow, a new era in local youth soccer began with the formation of the Sleepy Hollow Football Club (SHFC) in 2014. As a part of Rivertowns United, this new club joined the ranks of the Westchester Youth Soccer League (WYSL), New York's largest regional soccer organization, with 17,000 players and more than 650 teams. SHFC fields boys and girls U9 (under 9) through varsity teams, with all players registered within the American Youth Soccer Organization and coached by trained AYSO volunteers. SHFC is the competitive travel program of AYSO Sleepy Hollow/Tarrytown and has grown from 11 teams in 2014, to 20 teams in 2018, boasting close to 300 youth engaged in competitive club soccer.

This spring season was exciting for the club with five teams winning division championships. The Legends accomplished a first in SHFC history by winning the top division in its age group and thus holding the honor of the top U13 travel team for Westchester County. Twenty-six teams have won their division in club history but only the Legends have won the top division. They ran away with Division 1 going 8-1-1 and leading the league in scoring and defense. "Nikhil Weltig scored nine out of 28 goals for our offense while Robert Disney and Randall Nugra marshaled an excellent defense conceding only eight goals," said Coach Fergus O'Sullivan. Coach Herbert Weltig added, "Rotating holding midfielders Hernan Quinde, Andy Pulla, and Bray-an Jarama provided support for and linked



(Top:) Thirty girls from SHFC participated in a camp at West Point. SHFC fielded 20 teams in 2018 with close to 300 youths; (Left:) The girls Blaze won the inaugural Westchester Cup.

the offense to the defense enabling their dominating productivity."

Other division winners were the under age 9 boys - Red Lions; the under age 10 boys - River Sharks; under age 11 boys - Dutchmen; and the under age 11 boys - Dynamo. The Red Lions' "impressive offense," according to Coach Brad Sheller, "averaged six goals a game led by Ralfy Rodriguez." The Dutchmen season's pivotal moment was against top-rated Yonkers when "Nico Mayor hooked up with Conner Slattery to break a 3-3 tie with a rocket

shot from 24 yards out," stated proud Coach Gary Fairley. Dynamo Coach Howard Allen noted, "While all Dynamo players gave 100%, the success of the season can be largely attributed to the outstanding goal-keeping of Jack McCarthy. His fearless attitude kept the Dynamo in every game." Meanwhile Coach Ed Greenberg found it difficult to single out any one team-member. "Each game a different player would make a surprising burst of athleticism and spark up the team to play harder."

In another first, the division 1 under age 11 girls - Blaze won the Westchester Cup. Usually all-star premier teams compete in this tournament and not local travel teams. This is a yearlong tournament with matches starting in September, and only high performing teams advance to an elimination tournament at the SUNY Purchase cam-

pus. The Blaze defeated the premier Eastchester Dragons 2-0 in the finals with goals scored by Ellie Fox and Gabriel Disney. "Ellie and Gabby put us ahead while [keeper] Emily [Aridas] and the defense kept Eastchester scoreless," said Coach John Sutherland. The Blaze beat four all-star teams and a rival from Rye to win the Cup. They only allowed three goals and scored eleven.

With another successful season on the field, continued growth and strong community support, SHFC was just approved to become an independent club in the Westchester Youth Soccer League. "SHFC is excited to stand on its own, and we will always be grateful for the support from Rivertowns United," said Club President Matt Evans. "We're thankful to the schools of the Tarrytowns, Pocantico Hills, and Hackley, as well as the villages of Tarrytown and Sleepy Hollow for the access of great fields. We also appreciate our talented players of all ages, their supportive families, and the numerous volunteers who coach and manage the club. SHFC is looking forward to serving the community for many years to come."

Summer League

Continued from page 14

opportunity to play and have fun," he said.

Players work to develop certain aspects of their game. McCarthy is intent on improving offensively. Teammate Ben Good, who will be a sophomore, knows playing in the heat of summer will benefit his conditioning. Dylan Seymour, who will be a senior

for the Bulldogs, works on becoming a tenacious defender. Farman aims at improving her shooting percentage.

Beyond that, summer competition helps players develop bonds with teammates they will always treasure, and even opponents.

"They get in the game and play hard; one wants to beat the other," said Irvington girls coach Gina Maher. "And then the game's over and they go for ice cream."

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Lyndhurst Landscape Restoration to Enhance Visitor Experience



L to R: c.1870 Rodgers view of rockery upper bench; Current design concept.



Treehouse simulation circa 2018.

by Linda Viertel

“This property was not a museum; neighbors called, came by and expressed their neighborliness, they strolled through the greenhouses, the public walked the grounds multiple times throughout the year,” said Lyndhurst’s executive director Howard Zar, describing the legacy of railroad baron Jay Gould’s fabled Tarrytown estate. Well before air-conditioning, landscapes were designed to be enjoyed during the spring and summer in uniquely varied natural settings. Now, with a million dollars in grants and matching state funds from the New York State Office of Parks Recreation and Historic Preservation (NYSOPRHP), together with experienced guidance from landscape architect Peter J. Viteretto of Heritage Landscape LLC., restoration will begin in August to recapture Lyndhurst’s west lawn and welcome the public back to experience the grounds as they would have long ago.

Originally designed in 1836 by architect Alexander Jackson Davis for William Paulding, situated high atop a knoll well away from the fronting road and with sweeping views of the Hudson River, “The Knoll,” as it was called, was surrounded by picturesque grounds in the English landscape gardening tradition. Luckily, Paulding’s master gardener, German immigrant Ferdinand Mangold, managed the property for 30 years, adding orchards, a greenhouse, curvilinear roads, wooded areas and multiple spaces within the landscape for shade.

When Jay Gould purchased the property in 1880, he embellished the house and landscape and constructed an elaborate tree house for his daughters. When Helen Gould inherited the house from her father after his death in 1892, she used the property more than just as an estate but as an institution: she supplemented the mansion’s grounds with a sewing school, a recreation center and bowling alley, and opened up the greenhouse as an asset to the local community. But she maintained the property’s style, as did her sister, Anna Gould from 1938-1961. Unfortunately, by the time Lyndhurst was donated to the National Trust for

Historic Preservation in 1961, invasive species began to dominate the landscape, trees had developed diseases, the greenhouse was lost, rockeries were a jumble of stones, and pathways had been removed.

So, this restoration project, based on a 1996 Treatment and Analysis Plan, was designed to recapture Lyndhurst’s western property, the historic walks, plantings and trails in order to elevate the visitor’s experiences and encourage visitors to bask in the Hudson River viewshed landscape. The 1996 treatment plan looks to cautiously preserve and sustain the infrastructure that already exists while suggesting reinstatement of the rockeries, trails, the tree house, and garden enclosure.

On June 13 at Lyndhurst’s carriage house, landscape architect Viteretto presented an extensive overview of the projected site improvements, complete with archival photos, design illustrations, and maps. He explained, “We are informed by historical knowledge; we have the basic footprint to understand the social habits that created these landscapes. We are not guessing, but using archival resources, maps, written accounts, newspaper articles, photos, and on-ground proofing.” For instance, an 1870 photo shows the western perimeter walk - removed in the 1980’s, which will be reconstructed with accommodations, adding steps in order to deal with the slope grade.

The rockeries, secluded little shaded gardens with benches – originally designed to create quiet places to get away from the heat, were destinations along the walkways in a pastoral landscape. Lushly planted, they were cool, energizing spaces angled toward the house, but there is no hint of their beauty today. Now they have been lost to vegetative cover in a highly altered historic condition. So, Viteretto asks, “How do you start to think about it? The work is to make the character of the place known to the contractor to create something new but also that has been there since the 19th century.”

The rockeries’ spatial organizations and connective path alignments have been retained through ground proofing and a few archival drawings. The challenge will be to

take apart, lay out and put the stones back together while retaining their character and without damaging them. Viteretto’s message is simple: “Do the work for posterity.”

A 1905 photograph of the tree house shows restorationists an elaborate wood structure with steps leading up to a cedar platform nestled around a massive multi-trunked birch tree. Mapping has located footings for the lower stair, and some archaeological finds have furthered the construction’s possible direction.

Paths between the two rockeries and down to the bowling alley, connecting to the River-Walk, will help visitors understand the property and its landscape viewshed better. Recreating the west lawn’s paths will authenticate visits to Lyndhurst by creating different sensibilities for the participant who will be able to start to follow various paths, directing the visitor to multiple views – to the river, back to the mansion- and into the rockeries. When complete, Lyndhurst’s west lawn restoration will enable the visitor to look at and experience the grounds as if in the 19th century – the lost experience of going on foot to stop and look will now be found.

Other restoration projects include enhanced plantings following along the recreated pathways and within the rockeries, and, in the future, planting orchards and

shrubs to restore the property’s understory. Executive Director Zar is really looking at a decade of future projects, but soon, the restored west lawn will make Lyndhurst a more accessible and valuable site to encounter. Being able to experience the property as a full public amenity, and as the seasons change, will give everyone who visits this National Historic Trust site many more reasons to keep coming back.

“We are informed by historical knowledge; we have the basic footprint to understand the social habits that created these landscapes. We are not guessing, but using archival resources, maps, written accounts, newspaper articles, photos, and on-ground proofing.”

— Peter J. Viteretto,
Heritage Landscape

MusicWorks Program Gives All Students Chance to Learn

by Elaine Marranzano

Ten years ago, while watching their daughters perform, Judy Kass and Alison Paul noticed the Sleepy Hollow High School Jazz band was, well, very white.

"We were both really taken by the fact that the ensemble did not reflect the community's diversity," said Paul.

They wanted to know why.

"The school did a good job recruiting kids to start an instrument in elementary school, but by high school, all the brown and black kids dropped out," said Kass.

Their observation led them to establish MusicWorks, a program that offers free private music lessons to children in the district who show musical aptitude, qualify for free or reduced lunch and are willing to practice. A decade after MusicWorks was established, the results are in.

"Participation in our programs is up by 40 percent since I arrived," said Micha Sprague, Performing Arts Department Chair, Public Schools of the Tarrytowns. "MusicWorks is a contributing factor, helping a large part of our student population gain access to performance arts."

"We realized that music needs one-on-one instruction to master, and the inability to pay for private lessons was a barrier," said Kass.

A collaboration between the Shames Jewish Community Center (JCC) on the Hudson and The Public Schools of the Tarrytowns, the goal is to support and nurture the musical abilities of low-income students. Thanks to the initial or ongoing support of the Foundation for the Public Schools of the Tarrytowns, the Rotary Club of the Tarrytowns and others, plus a \$20,000 grant from the JCC, 15 students now benefit.

"Music enriches their lives," said Paul. "When kids of color see kids of color in the ensemble, they think: 'I belong there! I can do this too.'"

Teachers nominate prospective students and the JCC performing arts program matches private music teachers to stu-

dents. To reduce the barriers of transportation and lack of practice space, lessons take place at the school.

"In school, we offer wonderful instruction, but one-on-one instruction gives students a huge leg up – for students who couldn't otherwise afford it," said Sprague.

The principal clarinet in the Sleepy Hollow High School (SHHS) wind ensemble is a MusicWorks student, and six others have been accepted into Westchester All-County Ensembles.

"These groups are very hard to get into, so that's a great number," said Sprague.

Rising senior and MusicWorks student, Suniya Warren, played the lead this year in the musical *Beauty and the Beast* at SHHS.

"When I told my friends, I was taking private lessons; they said: 'but you can already sing,'" said Warren. "But I've become a better singer, and I was able to go to the *Beauty and the Beast* audition with a stronger technique, and I knew more what I was doing."

MusicWorks coaches families and students on the importance of not missing lessons.

Lessons come first, even if that means other teenage pursuits have to wait.

"Every Thursday my friends would wait for 45 minutes outside the school until I finished my lesson," said Warren. "Then I could go hang out."

The focus of the program is not to produce professional musicians, but to use music to enhance lives.

"Music fires up the different dopamine receptors in the brain and makes more neural connections, and the discipline of regular practice helps kids focus," said Paul.

Some MusicWorks students like Francis Pace-Nunez have gone on to study music in college. Currently a student in the acting conservatory at SUNY College, Purchase, Pace-Nunez said he "had no musical knowledge, but a great ear."

"MusicWorks took me another level that was vital. It gave me the opportunity to work professionally with vocalists." His teacher also told him about summer stock.

"I didn't even know that was a thing."

Taking families to live performances each year is another way MusicWorks integrates music into the lives of students and parents. For many, it's their first experience with a live concert.

"Last weekend, I was so moved by seeing the faces of the parents watching their chil-

dren perform," said Kass. "They knew they were in a situation that was transformative for their children."

To sustain the program for the next decade, MusicWorks is seeking people who would like to join its advisory board. For more information, contact the Shames JCC at 914-366-7898.



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Arts & Entertainment

Cole Porter Wit and Sophistication – Center Stage at *Anything Goes*

by Morey Storck

Early in 1934, a well-known creative and production team had been working on a new and promising Broadway-bound musical. The plot was based around an explosion on board a luxury liner and the comic antics that might happen aboard ship before they were rescued. However, at about the same time, an actual explosion did really happen on a steamship within coordinates not far from where their new Broadway show was taking shape. This would be a public relations catastrophe of major proportions and not what a 1934 Depression

audience was yearning for.

Anything Goes was the show, and with only a week before opening night, a rewrite was needed to change the main basis of the show but keep the essentials of clever, sophisticated, tune-filled songs, a madcap story and bright, imaginative tap-dance routines. That's what a Depression audience needed to replace their troubles with a lifestyle that most could never enjoy or afford.

They got it. *Anything Goes* opened with excellent reviews and ran for 420 performances, a remarkable showing for that time. Was this at least one small indication

that the country was beginning to smile again? Cole Porter did not believe that his songs had enough appeal to the broader social-minded audience. "Sophisticated allusions are good for about six weeks...more is fun, but only for myself and about 18 other people all of whom are first-nighters anyway," Porter said.

Yet, this 1934 Depression-era Broadway show has a showstopper song list of envious proportions: "You're the Top," "Anything Goes," "I Get a Kick Out of You," "It's De-Lovely," "Blow, Gabriel, Blow," "Friendship," and "All Through The Night"... all standards still sung today by America's

popular performers and recorders.

The performance of *Anything Goes* at Westchester Broadway Theatre in Elmsford is headed by a very fine cast starring: Stacia Fernandez (Reno Sweeney), and featuring: Jon J Peterson (Moonface Martin), Zach Trimmer (Billy Crocker), Kevin Pariseau (Lord Evelyn Oakleigh), Tina Johnson (Mrs. Harcourt), Jackie Raye (Hope Harcourt), Mychal Phillips (Erma), and Bob Walton (Elisha Whitney).

Directed and choreographed by Richard Stafford, performances run through September 9.

Eileen Fisher Institute Partners with Self-Love Non-Profit

by Joe Rickles

The Eileen Fisher Leadership Institute has partnered with The Love Group, a non-profit organization that aims to inspire young women and girls to be their best selves. The Institute planned two summer seminars led by The Love Group: one on July 18 and a second on August 8.

The Love Group, founded by Long Island native Kim Weiler, is a New York-based speaking agency that travels nationwide to high schools, rehabilitation centers and other venues. The organization has more than 30 speakers (all women) whose backgrounds range from those of professional athletes to stylists to lawyers.

According to Weiler, The Love Group was founded in order to keep today's youth from experiencing the shame that she felt during her childhood. "I kind of lived a lot of my life feeling shame, and if it wasn't at home it was in all different aspects of my life. There's experiences we have to have, and I get that, but I just feel like the journey of our youth could be much easier."

Though there are no specific dates set for future seminars with the Leadership Institute, Weiler is preparing for the future of The Love Group. Weiler noted that she plans on beginning seminars for young men as well, saying "boys need [self-love] as much as girls." She also expressed a desire to have conferences and summits run by

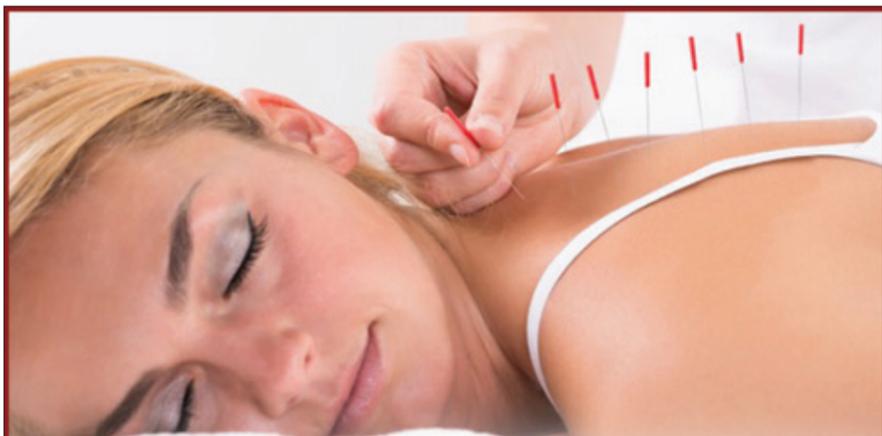


Kim Weiler founder of The Love Group

The Love Group that would further spread the message of self-love.

As for the partnership between The Love Group and the Eileen Fisher Leadership Institute, the summer program seminars will not be the last time these two groups link. "We've already talked about how we really want to work together more often... It's really a beautiful relationship that we're building right now," she noted.

"There's so many amazing organizations out there doing stuff like this. We're doing the same thing," Weiler said. "There's no competition here, and there shouldn't be. It should be us all working together to make a bigger impact. We all have the same mission, really."



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A Farmers' Market Summer Harvest: Three Easy Recipes

by Linda Viertel

When produce is at its peak, the simplest preparations are often the best way to highlight those fresh, crisp tastes that an August farmers' market delivers. Corn on the cob should stay in its husk and be grilled on the barbecue for 15 to 20 minutes, turning as needed. Fresh herbs, flaky salt and a dash of good virgin olive oil complement any chicken or fish preparation; just-picked vegetables give the perfect crunch to your favorite dip or chopped into salad. Mix together your own favorites for a tangy salsa: raw tomatillos, corn kernels, cilantro, jalapeno, chopped tomatoes - in lime juice and olive oil, spiced to your taste. Be creative with what you find at the market, and you'll be surprised at how your culinary inventiveness will reap glorious seasonal tastes.

Goat Cheese/ Sun-Dried Tomato Appetizer



One jar sun-dried tomatoes or approximately one cup. (I make my own by splitting 12-15 small (not cherry) or plum tomatoes, salting them and drying them in a 250-degree oven for about six hours. Make sure they are still plump and not totally desiccated and rubbery. The sugar condenses into the sweet, juicy smaller half tomato).

- 12-15 peeled garlic cloves
- Rosemary sprigs
- Thyme sprigs
- Sage leaves
- Olive oil (approximately one cup)
- One log goat cheese

Several days before serving, layer sun or oven-dried tomatoes, peeled garlic cloves, lots of thyme, rosemary and sage sprigs in a screw-top or Weck jar, then fill to the top with olive oil. Let sit to "cure" and when ready to prepare appetizer, slice the goat cheese into 1/3 inch wide rounds and place on platter with raised sides (so the olive oil doesn't flow over). Slice the garlic cloves from the preserved herb/tomato mixture into slivers and scatter over goat cheese. Then strip rosemary, thyme and sage leaves from fresh herb sprigs and sprinkle over the top. Pour the marinating olive oil over all and add any more extra virgin olive if needed. Lastly, top with a bit of freshly cracked black pepper.

Serve with plenty of crusty country-style bread. Guests will want to spoon up the deliciously flavored olive oil with the goat cheese, tomatoes and herbs.



Tabbouleh

Tabbouleh, a popular Middle Eastern bulghur wheat salad made with freshly chopped parsley, mint, onion, and tomatoes, can be complemented with other favorite ingredients: cucumbers, radishes, green onion, cilantro, garlic or shallots. Parsley is the key to this preparation, so make sure you have the freshest on hand (either curly or flat), and, if so, include the finely chopped stems for added flavor. Amounts and ingredients in this recipe should vary according to your taste:

- 1 cup medium cracked wheat (bulghur). If using finer bulghur, soak less.
- Boiling water to cover
- 1 bunch chopped parsley
- 1 cup chopped tomatoes
- 1 cup chopped cucumbers
- 1 cup chopped green onions
- 1/2 cup chopped mint leaves
- 1/3 cup lemon juice
- 1/2 cup extra virgin olive oil
- Salt and fresh ground black pepper to taste

Wash bulghur in a bowl, changing the water a few times. Cover with boiling water and let sit for about 30 minutes until barely softened. Drain through strainer, then take handfuls of bulghur and squeeze out excess water if necessary (either in cheesecloth or by hand). Add olive oil, lemon juice, salt and pepper, and stir.

Chop all vegetables and herbs finely and carefully so they keep their shape and don't turn to mush. Mix together and add the flavored bulghur. Once ingredients are all combined, taste for salt, pepper, olive oil and lemon juice amounts. Adjust, then let sit in refrigerator at least one hour before serving to meld the flavors.

Serve with plenty of warmed pita bread or pita chips.



Blender Mint Julep

This is simple to do, and so effortless to keep a supply in the refrigerator, that it's easy for this mint julep to become your go-to hot weather cocktail. You can vary the amount of sugar to your taste and add soda water to the finished product or not. Traditionally it is served with crushed ice, but your drink gets awfully melted if you do. Like everything else about cocktails - it's your call!

- 1 bottle of Jack Daniels Tennessee whiskey or any decent bourbon such as Elijah Craig

1/3 cup of sugar

1 large handful of mint, stems and all

Place ingredients in a blender. If all of the bourbon won't fit, leave some of it in the bottle.

Blend for one minute on high speed.

Put a funnel in the mouth of the bourbon bottle and a layer of cheesecloth in the funnel. Do this in the sink in case of spillage. Gradually empty the contents of the blender back into the bottle. You will probably have to stop halfway through to squeeze the cheesecloth with your hands and discard the solids. If there's a little extra in the blender at the end, strain it into a glass and save it (or drink it!) The bottle can stay in the refrigerator, but shake it up each time you want to pour a drink. Add club soda (optional) and a fresh sprig of mint per cocktail.

Some people prefer to serve mint juleps in chilled silver cups because the drink's green color is not necessarily perceived as particularly attractive. On the other hand, the aroma and taste more than make up for it.

Cheers!



Wednesday 1
 Alex Katz Exhibit: "Brand-New & Terrific: Alex Katz in the 1950s" is being held from July 1 through Oct. 14 at the Neuberger Museum of Art, 735 Anderson Hill Rd., on the campus of Purchase College. Info: 251-6100 or www.neuberger.org.



Saturday 4
 Teatown programs: Summer Saturday Adventures – Beaver Dams and Lodges will be held on Aug. 4 from 10 to 11:30 a.m. The program is free to members and \$8 for non-members.



Sunday 5
 Tomato Workshops: Nick Storrs will offer hands-on horticultural workshops focused on cultivating heirloom tomatoes for adults at Lyndhurst's greenhouse from 2 to 5 p.m. Info: www.lyndhurst.org.

What's Happening

Check out the complete directory for August at www.thehudsonindependent.com

Wednesday 1

ALEX KATZ EXHIBIT: "Brand-New & Terrific: Alex Katz in the 1950s" is being held from July 1 through Oct. 14 at the Neuberger Museum of Art, 735 Anderson Hill Rd., on the campus of Purchase College. Info: 251-6100 or www.neuberger.org.

LYNDHURST ART EXHIBIT: "Becoming Tiffany: From Hudson Valley Painter to Gilded Age Tastemaker," featuring more than 50 rarely seen works including early paintings and glasswork created by Louis Comfort Tiffany, is on view in the Lyndhurst gallery and mansion through Sept. 24. Info: www.lyndhurst.org.

MARY POPPINS JR.: Random Farms Kids' Theater presents *Mary Poppins Jr.* through Aug. 4 at the Tarrytown Music Hall, 13 Main St. Info: <http://tarrytownmusichall.org>.

Thursday 2

SUNSET JAZZ AT LYNDHURST: The John Marshall Quintet will perform at 6:30 p.m. at Lyndhurst as part of the Sunset Jazz Concert series. Though the concert is free, there is a \$5 per person grounds fee. Info: www.lyndhurst.org.

Saturday 4

TEATOWN PROGRAMS: A series of programs have been scheduled for August at Teatown Lake Reservation, 1600 Spring Valley Rd., Ossining. Pre-registration is required for all programs, unless otherwise noted. Online registration is available through www.teatown.org until noon the day before a program or by calling 762-2912 Ext. 110. Summer Saturday Adventures: Beaver Dams and Lodges will be held on Aug. 4 from 10 to 11:30 a.m. The program is free to members and \$8 for non-members.

Sunday 5

TOMATO WORKSHOPS: Nick Storrs will offer hands-on horticultural workshops focused on cultivating heirloom tomatoes for adults at Lyndhurst's greenhouse from 2 to 5 p.m. Individual workshops are \$20. Info: www.lyndhurst.org.

Monday 7

CREATIVE THINKERS: RiverArts will present "Alexander Technique for Creative Thinkers" on Aug. 7 and 9 from at the First Reformed Church, 18

Farragut Ave., Hastings-on-Hudson. Info: <https://riverarts.org/alexander-technique>.

RANDY RAINBOW: Randy Rainbow will perform at the Tarrytown Music Hall, 13 Main St. Info: <http://tarrytownmusichall.org>.

Thursday 9

SUNSET JAZZ CONCERT: The Rodney Green Quartet will perform at 6:30 p.m. at Lyndhurst as part of the Sunset Jazz Concert series. Though the concert is free, there is a \$5 per person grounds fee. Info: www.lyndhurst.org.

Saturday 11

TEATOWN PROGRAMS: The free Wildflower Island Open Gate Day program will be held on Aug. 11 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Teatown, 1600 Spring Valley Road, Teatown. No registration is required.

THE GREAT HUDSON ESTUARY FISH COUNT: with Teatown, a free program, will be held on Aug. 11 from 2 to 4 p.m. Meet at the Kathryn W. Davis RiverWalk Center: 299 Palmer Ave., Sleepy Hollow.

EAGLEMANIA: *Eaglemania*, the world's greatest Eagles tribute band will be presented at the Tarrytown Music Hall, 13 Main St. Info: <http://tarrytownmusichall.org>.

Sunday 12

JUSTIN HAYWARD PERFORMS: Justin Hayward and special guest Michael Dawes will perform at the Tarrytown Music Hall, 13 Main St. Info: <http://tarrytownmusichall.org>.

Thursday 16

SUNSET JAZZ CONCERT: The Marianne Solivan Quartet will perform at 6:30 p.m. at Lyndhurst as part of the Sunset Jazz Concert series. Though the concert is free, there is a \$5 per person grounds fee. Info: www.lyndhurst.org.

Friday 17

KANSAS CONCERT: Kansas will perform at the Tarrytown Music Hall, 13 Main St. Info: <http://tarrytownmusichall.org>.

Thursday 23

SUNSET JAZZ CONCERT: Brian Q. Torff & New Duke will perform at 6:30 p.m. at Lyndhurst as

part of the Sunset Jazz Concert series. Though the concert is free, there is a \$5 per person grounds fee. Info: www.lyndhurst.org.

Sunday 26

MELISSA ETHERIDGE PERFORMANCE: Melissa Etheridge will perform at the Tarrytown Music Hall, 13 Main St. Info: <http://tarrytownmusichall.org>.

Ongoing

FREE TAI CHI: Drop-in Sundays from 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m., Mondays from 10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. and Thursdays from 5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. at Shames JCC on the Hudson in Tarrytown. Call 366-7898 or visit www.ShamesJCC.org.

JAZZ FORUM CLUB: Shows Fridays and Saturdays at 7 p.m. and 9:30 p.m., Sundays at 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. at One Dixon Lane in Tarrytown. Call 631-1000 or visit <http://jazzforumarts.org/>.

PIRATE QUEST: On Saturdays and Sundays from

9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. children ages 5-8 hunt through the grounds to load precious cargo onto their digital pirate ships at Philipsburg Manor in Sleepy Hollow. Call 366-6900 or visit www.hudsonvalley.org.

'DROP YOUR PANTS' DENIM RECYCLING INITIATIVE: Bring your worn denim clothes to the Tarrytown Music Hall lobby collection box for recycling into insulation and keep textile waste out of landfills. Visit <http://bluejeansgogreen.org>.

WINE AND JAZZ WEDNESDAYS: From 6 p.m. – 8 p.m. featuring bassist John Lang at La Chinita Poblana in Irvington. Visit www.chinitapoblanany.com.

OSSINING FARMERS' MARKET: Open Saturdays from 8:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. through Dec. 17 at Spring & Main Sts. Call 923-4837 or visit www.downtoearthmarkets.com.

TARRYTOWN AND SLEEPY HOLLOW FARMERS MARKETS: Host to both weekly and rotating vendors,

SENIORS:

SENIOR BENEFITS INFORMATION CENTER (SBIC): Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. a trained counselor from SBIC 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 231-3260.

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: Plus other activities Monday to Friday 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Neighborhood House in Tarrytown. Suggested contribution \$3. Call 330-3855.

THE NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE:

43 Wildey St., Tarrytown, 631-0205

GREENBURGH NUTRITION PROGRAM: See Hot Lunch above.

COMPUTER CLASS: 11a.m. Tuesdays (please call).

YOGA ON THE CHAIR: 11:15 a.m. Wednesdays

and Fridays.

TAI CHI: 11 a.m. Thursdays.

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

MOVIES: 1 p.m. Fridays.

MAH JONGG: 1 p.m. Fridays

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

TARRYTOWN SENIOR CENTER:

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

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

NICKEL BINGO: 12:30 p.m. Mondays.

BOOK CLUB: Mondays 3 to 5 p.m.

ONGOING:

IT TAKES A VILLAGE 10591: Seniors meet on the second Tuesday of each month from 1 to 2:30 p.m. at The Reformed Church of the Tarrytowns, 42 N. Broadway. The program includes a speaker, conversation, and refreshments. All are welcome. Call 914-222-5116 or visit www.itav10591.org.



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Monday 7
Randy Rainbow will perform at the Tarrytown Music Hall, 13 Main St. Info: <http://tarrytown-musichall.org>.



Saturday 11
Eaglemania will be presented at the Tarrytown Music Hall, 13 Main St. Info: <http://tarrytownmusichall.org>.

totaling more than 50 throughout the season. It is held every Saturday from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. through Thanksgiving at Patriots Park in Tarrytown. Free parking at John Paulding School. Info: tashfarmersmarket.org.

IRVINGTON FARMERS MARKET: Open Sundays from 9 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. at Main St. School.

IRVINGTON RUNNING MEETUP: Group meets multiple times per week to keep fit, keep in touch and have fun. Beginning runners always welcome. Visit www.meetup.com/Irvington-running-Meetup/.

MAH JONGG: 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.ShamesJCC.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.

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.

TORAH STUDY: Torah Study is held on Wednesdays from 10 to 11 a.m. at Temple Beth Abraham, 25 Leroy Ave., Tarrytown. Classes are also conducted on Saturdays at 9 a.m. for a discussion of this week's Torah reading during conservative services. Info: 631-1770.

In Our Libraries

Adult Events at the Irvington Public Library

The following events will be held at the Irvington Public Library, 12 South Astor St. Info: call 591-7840 or e-mail irrvref@wlsmail.org.

August 3

COLOR AND LIGHT: A new collection of paintings by Irvington artist Daniel Rush Schwartz, "A Celebration of Color and Light," will be on exhibit from Aug. 3 to 30 in the Martucci Gallery. Telephone ahead at 591-7840 when planning your visit because the Martucci Gallery is a multi-purpose room. An opening reception will be held on Aug. 9 from 5 to 9 p.m.

August 4

MEMOIR WRITING WORKSHOP: Explore ways to tell your story in your own voice and bring narratives to life with the help of published author Catherine Wald. She will lead you through a four-hour, intensive memoir writing workshop from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Registration is required. Register at 591-7840 or <http://irvingtonlibrary.evanced.info/>.

Children's Program at the Irvington Public Library

August 11

ROCK THE LIBRARY: The theme for the Irvington Public Library's summer reading game is Libraries Rock! From 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. the library will host Heartfelt, an a cappella quartet that will sing a medley of rock tunes. Admission is free.

Events at the Warner Library

The following events have been scheduled for July at the Warner Library, 121 N. Broadway in Tarrytown. For more information call 631-7734 or visit warnerlibrary.org.

August 1

AFTERNOON MOVIES: Afternoon movies will be screened every Wednesday in August at 2 p.m. The schedule is Aug. 1, *Finding Your Feet*; Aug. 8, *American Made*; Aug. 15, *The Party*; Aug. 22, *Isle of Dogs*; and Aug. 29, *The Rider*.

August 2

ARCHFORKIDS: "Adventures in Architecture" with ArchForKids will be held on Aug. 2, 9 and 16 at 4 p.m. Sign up now for one or more family workshops focusing on architecture and design: build a headquarters for a superhero, a tabletop garden, and more.

BUSINESS BOOK CLUB: At 7 p.m., the Business Book Club will discuss *Tribes: We Need You to Lead Us* by Seth Godin. Books are available at the Circulation Desk. Sign up at the Reference Desk or call 631-7734.

August 9

TEEN GAME NIGHTS: Teens can play video and board games and have snacks on Aug. 9 and 23 at 7 p.m.

THURSDAY BOOK GROUP: At 7 p.m. the Second Thursday Book Group will discuss *Manhattan Beach* by Jennifer Egan.

August 10

AUDIO ADVENTURES: The radio programs *Aboard the Steamship Amazon* and *Murders in Wax*, both

starring Orson Welles and Margot Stevenson, will be presented at 2 p.m. Call 631-7734 or visit Reference to sign up.

FAMILY CONCERT: A Family Concert with *Hopalong Andrew* will be held at 3 p.m. Coming to us from Brooklyn, Andrew's cowboy songs about city life are infectious fun.

POWERPOINT: Introduction to PowerPoint will be held at 7 p.m. Create a presentation for your next meeting, make beautiful advertisements or create a slideshow of memories. Call 631-7734.

August 14

HENNA ART FOR TEENS: Learn about the history of henna art at 1 p.m. Every attendee will go home with their own henna tattoo. The program is intended for youths 12 and older and space is limited. All minors must have a signed parental consent form. Sign up at the Information Desk, where you can obtain a form.

August 21

MYSTERY BOOK GROUP: The Mystery Book Group will discuss *The Plot is Murder* by V.M. Burns at 11 a.m. Bring a snack and share your thoughts with fellow mystery lovers. Meet in Room R by the Reference desk.

Event at the Dobbs Ferry Public Library

August 14

DUNGEONS & DRAGONS: The teen program Dungeons & Dragons will be held on Aug. 14, 21 and 28 from 2:30 to 5 p.m. Please contact the library at 693-6614 for more information or to register for a program.

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Where We Worship

Foster Memorial African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church

by Donald H. Whitely

Amanda and Henry Foster (married in 1845) founded Foster Memorial A.M.E. Zion Church in 1860. It's the oldest black church in Westchester County, and some say it may be the oldest black church in the state of New York. However, before construction, the Tarrytown congregation

would meet in the Foster confectionary store, as well as in other business establishments. Funds provided by the local Dutch Reformed and Methodist congregations helped construct the church, completed in 1865. During the Civil War, members of Foster provided food and shelter to fugitive slaves who were escaping the perils of slavery and migrating north to Canada.

Those who decided to settle in Tarrytown would seek refuge under the floorboards in the church's foyer. If you visit the church today, you will experience the very same location where fugitive slaves would hide.

Over the years, the Foster congregation would grow to capacity, with a new addition to the church in the 1960's built by former pastor, the Rev. Madison McRae.

Rev. McRae built a choir loft and office space that established Foster as having one of the most beautiful sanctuaries in the area. In addition, the first-floor renovation included an industrial kitchen, meeting space and updated restrooms.

The original church builder and local architect, James Bird, contributed to its design, and the cornerstone was laid in 1864. When Henry Foster died in 1865, he asked Amanda to continue the church's assisting freed slaves from the south after the Civil War. Amanda followed her husband's request, and is looked upon today as the "Mother of the Church."

Amanda Foster died in 1904 at the age of 98, and during the "Great Migration," the church served as a community center for new arrivals in the Tarrytown area. Over the years the church has made many visual improvements, such as the renovation of the foyer and stairs leading to the second-floor sanctuary. A grant, and assistance from a local contractor and church parishioners, helped with this huge project. In 1982, the church was included in the esteemed National Register of Historic Places.



HVWC Student Showcase: Eric Odynocki

Another round of a new series from the Hudson Valley Writers Center (HVWC) showcasing excerpts from students in various genres and across ages and backgrounds. For more information on classes and events at the HVWC, visit writerscenter.org.

by Eric Odynocki

(An excerpt of "The Date.")

Robert's stomach growled. He realized he hadn't eaten since 11 o'clock. The idea of heating up some instant noodles for dinner

for the fifth time that week was less than appealing. Washing dishes even less so. Then it dawned on Robert that he could eat out, instead. It was payday, after all. So he decided to head over to his favorite Mexican restaurant, El Mariachi Enamorado.

Red balloons nearly swallowed the doorway and pummeled Robert as he walked in. *Must be a party.*

"Hello and welcome to El Mariachi Enamorado," the hostess greeted with a red-lipsticked smile.

"Hi, table for one, please," Robert said.

The smile appeared to slacken. "Just one?"

"Yes."

"Right this way." The hostess sat Robert down at a table near the bathrooms and handed him a menu. Robert perused the list of dishes and settled on enchiladas verdes. The waiters did not come over immediately and so, in order to convey the illusion of a busy social life despite

being alone at present, Robert pulled out his cell phone and began to absent-mindedly text his mother. She chastised him for not calling more often and working too hard. When the texts began to veer in the direction as to why she did not have any grandchildren yet, Robert turned his phone face down. Robert tapped his fingers with one hand and rested his face in another. The restaurant was not entirely full except for a few couples who sat in intimate corners or occupied tables by the windows. Some were well-dressed, others not so much. Some were already eating. Realizing he had been waiting a while, Robert looked around and saw a group of waiters standing vigilant by the kitchen doors. They appeared like stuffed penguins, wearing crisp white shirts, red ties, and black vests and pants. Robert called one over.

"Ready to order, sir?" the waiter asked with a slightly noticeable tone of doubt.

"Yes. I would like—"

"You sure you don't wanna wait a little longer?"

Robert's brow furrowed. "Yes, I'm sure. I'll have the enchiladas verdes. With a coke and a piece of lemon."

"Very well, sir," the waiter said. He took the menu and walked away.



While Robert waited for his food and longingly thought about getting in his sweatpants at home, an audible gasp, seemingly of joy, interrupted his reverie. At one of the couples' tables, a woman cupped her beaming face in her hands. Her glittering eyes swallowed her partner who had gotten down on one knee with a small, open black box in raised hand. "Yes!" the

woman cried, the volume of which pierced all social norms. "Yes I will marry you!" The couple then stood up, embraced, and kissed while the other customers applauded, Robert amongst them.

A mariachi band began playing. Oh no, I hope they don't come over here. The musicians went from couple to couple, taking requests. As Robert was about to finish his dish, he felt the eyes of the lead singer fall on him. No, no, no. Out of the corner of his eye he saw how the musicians pointed in his direction and talked amongst themselves. Robert let out a sigh of frustration when the ensemble made its way towards his table, bulbous sombreros swaying, brass instruments clinking and glinting, stringed instruments humming hollowly.

Eric Odynocki is a teacher and writer from New York. He is a first generation American of Mexican, Ukrainian, and Jewish descent. Eric's work has been published or is forthcoming in Acentos Review, In Layman's Terms, Obra/Artifact, and The Westchester Review. Eric could not have embarked on his literary journey without the wonderful guidance of the teachers and mentors at the Hudson Valley Writers Center. He wrote this piece in Beth Hahn's fiction class.

The Hudson Independent

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BLEEDING GUMS?

- Teeth Feel Loose?
- Partial Denture Loose?
- Gum Disease can cause serious Health Issues!

FREE GUM EVALUATION!



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