



GARNET ROCK

Madeline Eck, who scored 14 points, drives to the hoop in Rye's first-round playoff win over Beacon. Both the girls and boys basketball teams won their postseason openers handily this week. For coverage, see page 16.
Photo/Mike Smith

Hidden Spring Lane mulled as historic district

By JAMES PERO
Staff Writer

After a recommendation from Rye's Landmarks Advisory Committee, Hidden Spring Lane—one of the city's many sequestered hamlets—will be eyed for designation as an official historic district.

If designated, according to George "Jack" Zahringer, chairman of the Landmarks Advisory Committee, it would mark the city's first-ever residential historic district. Currently, the downtown business district is also designated as a historic zone.

According to Zahringer, the designation may include incentives for homeowners on Hidden Spring Lane to keep the original character of their homes by offering tax breaks for renovating structures in such a way that they still retain the home's originality.

According to Rye City Councilwoman Emily Hurd, a Democrat, this program would allow a more gradual property tax increase on properties where owners provide renovations in line with the historic character.

Specifically, she said, it may look something like a 10-year tax break, wherein the homes' reassessed value is slowly taken into account, meaning that if a homeowner were to undergo renovations on their property, they wouldn't be paying taxes on the fully reassessed value for a decade.

Just what constitutes a renovation that falls in line with those stipulations would be determined by both the Landmarks

Advisory Committee and the Board of Architectural Review, according to Zahringer.

Currently, the five remaining houses on the private roadway—which were built between 1920 and 1924—are all very similar in style and acreage, and are constructed mostly from the same materials. This homogeneity, according to the committee, is no coincidence; rather, a result of the homes' origins.

While the original house was built in 1855 by Jared Valentine Peck—a local entrepreneur and elected official who served both in Rye and in the U.S. Congress—the rest of the homes, as well as a roadway, were constructed to house Peck's five children.

Of these original houses—which are sandwiched between Loudon Woods, Boston Post Road and Midland and Peck avenues—most of them, despite numerous renovations, have retained much of their original architecture.

That is, aside from the original Peck house.

According to the committee, the character of homes on Hidden Spring Lane has come into danger before, particularly during 2011 when a developer—who bought the 1.62 acre Peck house property—knocked the historic structure down in hopes of erecting three new homes.

The project, however, came to a halt after residents protested its development due to concerns regarding traffic, storm runoff and its impact on the

Proposed school district budget to use \$2.5M in reserves

By SARAH VARNEY
Education Reporter

Despite the essentially flat tax cap for the 2016-2017 budget year, the Rye City School District superintendent presented a proposed budget on Feb. 9 that is balanced, thanks to the use of \$2.5 million from the reserve fund.

Under this year's state tax cap, schools are limited to increasing upcoming budgets by 0.12 percent. Statewide, school districts are struggling to accommodate the tax cap, which is tied to the inflation rate and not 2 percent.

The tax cap law mandates either a 2 percent tax cap on either the allowable tax levy for municipal and school budgets or the rate of inflation, whichever is lower. This year, the rate of inflation is just 0.07 percent.

The draft budget calls for \$85 million in spending, compared to the current budget, which is \$83 million. The estimated tax levy increase is 1 percent.

The reserve fund currently stands at approximately \$10.2 million, which is 12 percent of the 2015-2016 total \$82.8 million budget. With the use of \$2.5 million for the 2016-2017

budget, the fund reserve would decrease to \$7.7 million, about 9 percent of the total \$85 million proposed budget. Generally, in order to qualify for an AAA bond rating, a district reserve is supposed to be at least 4 percent of a district's total budget.

The proposed budget will preserve the current school program, add both a part-time math teacher and a part-time Spanish teacher and will continue the writing mentor program for grades 10 through 12. It will also add a full-time Project Lead the Way instructor for the high school science, technology,

engineering and math, STEM, curriculum.

Project Lead The Way provides a standardized curriculum for some STEM classes. Both STEM and Project Lead The Way are programs under the umbrella of the federal Race to the Top initiative, which was funded as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

The goal of the STEM program is to add classes in math, science and computer technology to high school curricula and

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Rye mayor takes stance against illegal guns

By JAMES PERO
Staff Writer

While Rye may be among the smallest cities in New York state, with a population of just roughly 15,000, its stance—or at least its mayor's stance—in the national and increasingly fervent debate over the regulation of guns crystallized during a recent City Council meeting.

During the meeting, Mayor Joe Sack, a Republican, signed onto a national statement of principles from the organization Everytown for Gun Safety, specifically a coalition called Mayors Against Illegal Guns, which advocates for stricter gun laws and policies to end gun violence.

"The principles seemed to resonate with me," Sack said at the Feb. 10 council meeting. "Most of these principles, if not all of them, are extremely broad, but they do lay out what seems to be a fair approach."

According to the coalition's website, among the general principles outlined in the pledge is a commitment to progressing stricter background checks, punishing those who possess illegal guns to the full extent of the law, and expanding efforts to track and trace the dissemination of illegal guns.

Since its genesis in 2006, when only 15 mayors signed onto the pledge, more than

1,000 former and current mayors have now joined the movement, according to a statement from the group.

Sack said that it has been his general practice as mayor not to involve the city in issues outside of the city's scope; and in many ways, the debate over illegal guns and regulation is just that.

According to data from the New York state division of Criminal Justice, there have been zero murders in the city of Rye over the last four years, and violent crimes hardly clocks in on the radar, with just more than a dozen instances have been recorded by the Rye Police Department within the same timeframe.

However, Sack said, despite the issue being of national relevance, the impact may not be so meta.

"I've made this exception, mainly because maybe this isn't such an exception. How can any of us not remember the horrible tragedy of Sandy Hook," said Sack, regarding the mass school shooting, which killed 26 people, mostly schoolchildren, in Newtown, Connecticut, in 2012.

The mayor, who told the Review that he sees the discussion of gun regulation as an issue of public safety, bolstered his support for the coalition with a few statistics derived from a recent column in the New York Times by Nicholas Kristof.

Among the excerpts from Kristof's op-ed that the mayor chose to highlight were correlative statistics regarding how states with stricter gun safety laws have seen less gun deaths, including suicides.

"I don't think it's as simplistic as that," Sack said. "But as a mayor, it's a public health issue and if I can do something as small as signing onto a statement of principles, I'll do it."

While the mayor may have made the final decision on signing onto the coalition, it was Rye residents who put him in that position.

Kathleen Riegelhaupt, who, along with Cynthia Howard, introduced Sack to the pledge, said their interest in the issue and the coalition came from a sense of community.

"Cynthia and I have had many conversations with local friends and neighbors on the issue," Riegelhaupt said. "I think we both realize it is one that is dealt with in large part on a local level."

What the result of Rye's involvement in the coalition still remains to be seen, but Riegelhaupt said she's just happy to see the positive response.

"At minimum, we're glad that Rye can be a part of a nonpartisan coalition on what is often a divisive issue," she said.

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Jazz brunches at Wainwright House continue

Jazz rang through the air once again at the musical brunch on Sunday, Jan. 31 from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Wainwright House, located at 260 Stuyvesant Ave. in Rye.

The event featured John Dentato and the Jazzmania Trio. Dentato's vast musical background includes playing saxophone, clarinet and piano with jazz ensembles and big bands. He is a composer, producer and songwriter, and has been an accompanist for recordings by Frankie Laine, Pearl Bailey, Dean Martin, Joni James, Nat "King" Cole and other greats.

The Jazzmania Trio also includes Kuni Mikami, a pianist from Japan with the great Lionel Hampton Orchestra, and Dave Hofstra on bass, who has years of experience on Broadway and in concert jazz and world tours.

The jazz brunches feature a



More than 100 jazz lovers enjoyed the first Jazz Brunch of the season at Wainwright House in Rye on Jan. 17. From left, pianist Victor LaGamma, of Yonkers, board member Annie Gaillard, of Pelham, board president Bill Guyre, of Mamaroneck, and board member Deborah Walker, of Greenwich. Photo/Mary de Barros

delicious meal, champagne and a chance to meet new people and share a good time. They will also be held on Feb. 28 and April 3. The next act will be the Joe Corsetto Trio. Tickets are \$35 for

Wainwright members and \$45 for non-members. Walk-ins are welcome. For more information or for reservations, call 967-6080 or visit wainwright.org. (Submitted)

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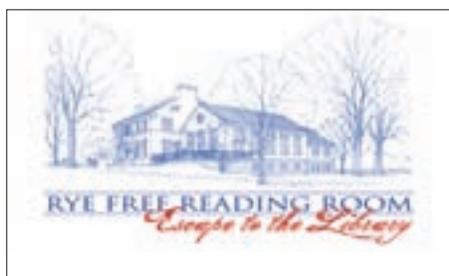
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WHAT'S GOING ON...

Rye Free Reading Room events



I-Read-A-Latte Tween Book Club

Tweens in grades five and six who love to read are invited to this program on Saturday, Feb. 20 at 3 p.m. for the library's monthly book club. This month's book will be "Moon Over Manifest" by Clare Vanderpool. The book is available to be checked out in the Children's Room or the Teen's Room. Registration for the book club is recommended. Participants can sign up online or in person.

Current Events Book Group

Join the Current Events Book Group on Tuesday, Feb. 23 from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. in the Ogden Nash Room. The book discussed will be "One Nation Under God: How Corporate America Invented Christian America" by Kevin Kruse. The book group will be moderated by John Dolan and will offer diverse opinions about timely concerns. The book club is free and open to the public. Registration is not required.

Rye Meeting House

California Dreamin' concert

The California Dreamin' concert that was supposed to take place on Saturday, Jan. 23 was rescheduled for Saturday, Feb. 27, with one performance at 6 p.m. and another at 8 p.m. at the Meeting House located at 624 Milton Road in Rye. Musician Gary Adamson will give two performances of his new show, accompanied by percussionist Fred Wolcott. Come warm up with songs by The Beach Boys, The Mamas and The Papas, Buffalo Springfield, the Byrds, Crosby, Stills, and Nash, Joni Mitchell, Jackson Browne and The Eagles. The event is free and open to the public with a suggested donation of \$10 per person at the door. No

advance reservation is required. For more information, email birdhomestead.meetinghouse@gmail.com or call 967-0099.

Rye Arts Center

'Winter White: The Absence of Color' exhibition

This new exhibition by artist Katharine Dufault will be on view in the gallery through March 5. The exhibition will present the work of more than a dozen contemporary artists whose use of white defines and unifies their work. By complementing January's winter white, the work on display will set forth a binary relationship between interior and exterior, artificial and organic, manmade and natural. The artists work in different media, including paint, print, photography, glass, encaustic, fiber and mixed media. The exhibition is free and open to the public. For more information, visit ryeartscenter.org or call 967-4495.



Rotary Club of Rye

Crazy Legs

Join the Rye Rotary for an event on Wednesday, March 2 at 6:30 p.m. at the Rye Grill and Bar located at 1 Station Plaza in Rye. Participants will judge which gentlemen contestants will be the winner of the crazy legs competition. Proceeds from this event will benefit Rye's community grants and need-based scholarships. For more information and to make reservations for the event, call 967-1679 or email ryerotaryevents@gmail.com.

Wainwright House



Native American spirituality series

On Saturday, Feb. 20, the four-part Native American spirituality series continues at Wainwright House. The second part is called "Honor-

ing the Creatures of the Water" with Evan Pritchard, a professor of Native American studies. There are two workshops. Each workshop is \$35 for Wainwright members, \$40 for non-members; for both workshops, \$60 for members, \$70 for non-members.

The first workshop, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., will focus on the importance of fish, the cetaceans (whales, porpoises, dolphins, etc.), shellfish, eels, snakes and the sacred manta rays. Pritchard will describe the unique place of honor each sea creature holds on the great Medicine Wheel of life, and how water connects us to the Great Mother and to Her heart. He will also share traditional stories about the fish and other sea creatures, and mention some of the dangers they face today. The second workshop, from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., will feature Pritchard leading a tobacco ceremony in which you will name more than 100 species of sea creatures. You will also make a small mountain of tobacco which will later be offered directly to Mother Earth through her four elements, thanking and blessing them and praying for their well-being, while singing traditional songs created in the moment. Note: Please bring a drum and some tobacco.

Rye Recreation

Rye youth soccer spring 2016 registration

Online registration is open at ryeyouthsoccer.org for spring intramural soccer for boys and girls in grades K-5. The season will begin Saturday, April 30 and end Saturday, June 18. Complete details on dates and times of the program can be found on the website. If you have any questions, contact Patti Adimari, registrar, at pattirys@optonline.net or 967-5273. Scholarships are available upon request. Please note that coaches should also register to coach in their online account.



Summer camp registration

Rye Recreation summer camp registration for residents will open soon. Registration for Kiddy Camp is ongoing; registration for Lower Camp and Upper Camp will open on Thursday, March 3 at 10 a.m. and registration for Camp 78 will open on Tuesday, March 15 at 10 a.m. There will be a lottery for Lower Camp swim lessons which will close on Sunday, March 6 at 11:30 p.m. Anyone registering for swim after that date will be placed on a waiting list. All required paperwork must be

received in the Recreation Office by that date in order to be considered complete. Parents requesting financial assistance or a special payment plan must register in person. Registration for non-residents opens on May 5 at 10 a.m. For more information, call 967-2535 or email registration@ryeny.gov.

Marshlands Conservancy

Marshlands Conservancy Volunteer work project

The Marshlands Conservancy, located on Route 1 off of Boston Post Road in Rye, will be hosting a volunteer work project on Saturday, Feb. 20 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. The day's work will consist of removing invasive vines from along the marshlands' trails. Participants should bring work gloves. Other materials, including hand tools, will be provided. For more information, call 835-4466.

Winter Adventure Series

The Winter Adventure Series will continue on Sunday, Feb. 21 from 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Marshlands Conservancy with a bluebird box making craft. Participants will be able to make their own bluebird boxes to hang up in their yards or neighborhoods. For more information, call 835-4466.

Damiano Recreation Center

Rye seniors needed

The Damiano Recreation Center, located at 281 Midland Ave. in Rye, is a favorite meeting place for Rye seniors. Wednesday meetings are the time for seniors to meet, socialize, list topics of discussion (i.e. Medicare, identify theft, health issues, scams, etc.) and enjoy a cup of coffee and snacks. Trips are planned and can include trips to New York City, the theater and other local attractions. Weekly exercise classes, breakfast and bingo, movies, knitting, Wii bowling, painting, arts and crafts, a men's club and more bring friends together. Whether you are 60 or 94, why sit at home when you are invited to join in the fun? Membership is \$10 yearly. Classes and activities have nominal fees and require registration. Come join the fun today. For more information, please call 967-2535.

Deadline for our What's Going On section is every Thursday at noon. Though space is not guaranteed, we will do our best to accommodate your listing. Please send all items to news@hometwn.com.

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Heart health beating strong at Milton School



Milton School fifth-graders Harry, left, 11, and Dalton, 10, hold balls representing high blood pressure and smoking during a break in the Heart Health dodgeball game.

This is the ninth year that physical education teacher Becky Ward has conducted a weeklong heart health program during gym classes for Milton School students in kindergarten through fifth grade.

This year, the focus was on strokes and heart attacks, specifically how to prevent them and recognize their warning signs. The F.A.S.T. acronym, which stands for Facial droop, Arm weakness, Speech difficulty and Time to call 911, was taught as a method to help identify a stroke while or immediately after it happens. Ward also focused on the causes of heart disease, the connection between sugar and diabetes and the bad habits that can cause health risks.

“The kids really like it. And it gets them thinking,” Ward said. “That’s the goal—to teach them to take care of themselves and to understand the effects that certain things can have on their health.”

—Reporting by Sarah Varney



Physical education teacher Becky Ward talks to fifth-graders about the F.A.S.T. protocol, a mnemonic device used to help identify a stroke victim either during or after an incident. Photos/Sarah Varney

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MR. WHOODINI PRESERVES THE MAGIC IN LEARNING

By SARAH VARNEY
Education Reporter

Ask a 7-year-old to name a clown and chances are he or she will say “Ronald McDonald,” but back in the 1960s and 1970s, Bozo was king.

“Bozo’s Big Top,” a TV show that ran seven days a week, starred Bozo and his sidekick, Mr. Whoodini. Only the youngest baby boomers remember Bozo the Clown today, and even fewer remember Mr. Whoodini.

Mr. Whoodini was played by Larry Johnson, an educator who taught in Livonia, Michigan. He’d gotten his start as a magician with his own show filmed at local station CKLW, based in Windsor, Michigan.

After his two-year run as Mr. Whoodini on his solo show “The Magic Shop,” station producers



Larry Johnson today, in his office at his company’s headquarters in Redford, Michigan. He jokes that “one of these days I’ll find the time to retire.”

suggested he team up with Bozo, played by Larry Harmon, to become his sidekick. Johnson agreed and the two actors teamed up for “Bozo’s Big Top.”

“Bozo’s Big Top” ran for eight or nine years, and as their show went on, Bozo became big business. Harmon franchised the Bozo name in the mid-1960s, and for a while, nearly every city had its own Bozo. At its height, Johnson said there were at least 43 Bozos, with each city having their own local show.

While Johnson says he didn’t make “a ton of money” during his Mr. Whoodini years, he did make enough to get a business off the ground.

Larry Johnson, founder of Mobile Ed Productions, performing as Mr. Whoodini, Bozo the Clown’s sidekick, circa 1960.



“The Amazing World of Light” used black light to wow students. Today, the same show includes laser lights. Photos courtesy Mobile Ed Productions

Offstage, Johnson worked at Whittier High School as the “activities administrator” where he sought out extracurricular presenters to give assemblies to the student body on a topic related to the curriculum. Finding quality “acts” was challenging.

“I was kind of unhappy with some of the programs that the school was bringing in. I figured I could do a better job,” Johnson said. So he created a school assembly program called “The Amazing World of Light,” which demonstrated different types of light, including lasers and holograms. At the end of the program, he would roll out a “black art cabin”—a black light diorama with special effects—all with a flare.

It was a hit. “Within the state of Michigan, I sold 60 programs that first year,” Johnson recalled.

Its success proved his theory that children learn better when they’re having fun. “The best way to teach children is when they don’t know they’re learning,” he said.

“The Amazing World of Light” kindled the inspiration for Mobile Ed Productions, which formally started in 1979.

Today, the small Michigan-based company employs approximately 32 people and offers 28 different programs for schools. Mobile Ed “performers” give about 10,000 performances a year in approximately 3,500 schools across the country, Johnson said.

Johnson, who refers to the programs as “acts” and the presenters

as “performers,” said the company tries to schedule appearances five days a week.

Keeping up with changing school curriculums is always a priority.

“Every year, we expand our programs and we add new effects,” Johnson said. “We try to provide things that schools can’t do on their own.”

The program offers a living planetarium at a cost of \$35,000 and robots for their STEM Science Fair, which cost \$10,000 each. Although the shows are expensive, Johnson said the program tries to make them affordable for schools without resources.

Most performers have been with the company for many years, Johnson said. Sometimes a costumed presenter or a live prop pops up at headquarters. Working at Mobile Ed is a lot of fun, he said.

“Some days we’ll have someone dressed as Benjamin Franklin running around saying ‘hi’ to everyone,” he recounts with a chuckle.

Performer Dick Buchholz has worked for Mobile Ed for 16 years. Based in Chicago, his animal act once featured an alligator. “Sometimes he’d come in and put an alligator on the floor,” Johnson said. “There’s nothing like having a 6-foot alligator wander into your office.”

At 73, Johnson said he’s way overdue for retirement. His son Ryan, 29, is the only of his four sons involved in the business.

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'Always... Patsy Cline' performs at WBT



Erin McCracken croons away as Patsy Cline while The Bodacious Bobcat Band plays on behind her.



Susann Fletcher as Louise Seger, front, and Erin McCracken as Patsy Cline in "Always... Patsy Cline."



From left, Erin McCracken stars as Patsy Cline and Susann Fletcher is Louise Seger in the Westchester Broadway Theatre production of "Always... Patsy Cline." Photos/John Vecchiolla

By MICHELLE JACOBY
Contributor

Little did the world know that Virginia Patterson Hensley—best known as Patsy Cline—born in 1932 from Winchester, Virginia, would become a legendary female country singer. Cline took waitressing jobs as a teen and started to sing at local clubs. Her first record contract came in 1954 and she was noticed after singing "Walkin' After Midnight" on the "Arthur Godfrey's Talent Scouts" TV show.

Cline died at the age of 30 in a plane crash along with Opry Stars Cowboy Copas and Hawkshaw Hawkins. Millions of records have sold since her death. She has reached many milestones and accomplishments with her music, including having the No. 1 Jukebox Hit of All Time for "Crazy." Although her true fans know her music, there is always a story behind it. "Always... Patsy Cline" is playing now through Sunday, Feb. 28 at the Westchester Broadway Theatre in Elmsford.

This is a true story about a unique friendship that developed out of pure love and respect. It happened at an unusual place and it is a story you will never forget. The tale begins with the narrator, Louise Seger, played brilliantly by Susann Fletcher. Seger is the friend who Patsy Cline meets at a Houston Honky Tonk in 1961. She happens to be the fan who calls into the radio station to request Patsy Cline's songs over and over again. After meeting Cline, played beautifully by Erin McCracken, Seger excitedly invites her over to her table of beer-drinking friends. No one would have dreamed the friendship would have lasted more than a couple of drinks, but Seger became a manager for

the evening; bacon, eggs, coffee in the morning; and letters from Cline until her untimely death in 1963.

While Fletcher carries the story with her wide-eyed excitable personality, tellin' her tale in her best honky-tonk accent, McCracken takes the story to the next level with her voice. These two have a lot of fun on and offstage as they engage with the audience. No need to know all of Cline's music, some of her mainstream hits are "Walkin' after Midnight," "I Fall To Pieces," "Your Cheatin' Heart" and Neil Sedaka's "Stupid Cupid."

The Bodacious Bobcat Band keeps up with the stars on stage, laughing and hootin' with the ladies. The band is comprised of musical director, Ken Lundie; drums, Ken Ross; bass, Geoff Marrow; steel guitar/fiddle, Guy Fischetti; and musical contractor, Von Ann Stutler.

The show is directed by Amiee Turner; set design by Steve Loftus; costume coordinator by Heidi Giarlo; and lighting design by Andrew Gmoser.

The last scene with cigarettes on the table, coffee, bacon and eggs, laughter, tears, and a stack



Erin McCracken as Patsy Cline as she performs in the musical "Always... Patsy Cline."

of letters will forever connect two people together.

This Bill Stutler and Bob Funking production of "Always... Patsy Cline" will be

playing now through Feb. 28. For more information, please

contact the Westchester Broadway Theatre at 592-2222 or visit broadwaytheatre.com.

Former testing scandal attorney runs for state office

Arthur Schwartz, who served as the attorney to one of the Osborn Elementary School teachers in the city of Rye during an "improper coaching" scandal in 2013, is running for New York state Assembly, his home district, which includes Tribeca, Soho and parts of Greenwich Village in Manhattan.

Schwartz said in a released

statement that he was inspired to run partially due to his time serving as legal counsel for presidential candidate Bernie Sanders in New York.

In Rye, Schwartz is best known for representing Carin Mehler, who was accused by the school district of "improperly coaching" her fourth-grade students during state exams three years ago. He

has also been an outspoken critic of the corruption in Albany, particularly in relation to the conviction of former Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver, a Manhattan Democrat, on corruption charges.

Schwartz is challenging Assemblywoman Deborah Glick. He officially launched his campaign on Feb. 9.

—Reporting by Angela Jordan

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Judge John Carey



In the gloomy chill of February, we yearn for inspiration. We need, for example, to be reminded of the hardships endured by the American Continental Army at Valley Forge, led by Gen. George Washington.

This is no time to suppress Washington's name. Yet that is exactly what has been done by persons unknown who deleted the name of Washington and Lincoln, in order to give us a nameless Presidents Day. For shame!

The shoddy motivation for this desecration was apparently to free the date from any attachment to either president's actual birthday and turn it loose for attachment to whatever February weekend is most likely

to appeal to shoppers.

The only disadvantage, apart from commercial inconvenience, with observing the two heroes' actual birthdays—Feb. 22 for Washington and Feb. 12 for Lincoln—was the former uneven treatment of the two days. The 22nd was usually an official holiday while the 12th was barely noticed. This uneven treatment was unfortunate, but I think there is a solution.

Let us celebrate both presidents' birthdays together while keeping their names, as in "Washington-Lincoln Day." If that seems like a lot of syllables, just think of the long-standing celebration of Jefferson-Jackson Day among Democrats. As to when the day should occur, let us alternate between Feb. 12 and Feb. 22. This, of course, will not satisfy department stores, but where were they at the time of Valley Forge and Bull Run?

One national hero whose date

of birth has been manipulated like those of Washington and Lincoln is Martin Luther King Jr. He was born on Jan. 15. This year, the 15th came on a Friday, and you would think that actual date, being hitched onto a weekend, would satisfy the hucksters. But no, the actual date was not good enough. Whoever decides these things evidently determined that a Friday would not generate enough big box business.

So Dr. King's birthday became, this year, not Friday, Jan. 15, his actual anniversary, but instead it became Monday, Jan. 18. Those of us who actually stood before him at the Lincoln Memorial and heard his ringing dream oration are bound to feel that his memory is being used shamelessly for purposes unrelated to what he lived for and died for.

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Town of Mamaroneck halts residential development



Like a recent moratorium on residential developments in the village of Larchmont, the town of Mamaroneck put a similar pause on tear-downs of single-family homes until the town board takes a hard look at land use laws. Photo/Andrew Dapolite

The town of Mamaroneck, like many communities in Westchester, is struggling with development. On Monday, Feb. 8—after a residential moratorium was put in place as of December 2015—the town's governing board held a special meeting to further the discussion of large scale residential developments.

According to Town Administrator Steve Altieri, the three-month moratorium came as a response to a growing concern from residents who feel that larger homes are threatening the character of their neighborhood. "There seems to be a demand for larger homes, for more up-

to-date floor plans," Altieri said. "We're seeing people tearing down existing homes and building new homes."

Prior to the moratorium, Altieri said the only site plan ordinance that existed in the town's code related to commercial developments, not residential ones.

As a result, many tear downs of single family homes that resulted in site plans calling for the regrading of property and intrusive rock chipping—construction-related digging that breaks ground and causes loud noise disturbances—were being carried out without the town

board's say.

A similar moratorium passed in the village of Larchmont in January after concerned residents flocked to a village board meeting in droves to protest the demolition of an iconic home at 40 Ocean Ave.

How the board plans to address the perceived problems with the town code and development trends remains to be seen, but will materialize in the months to coming, according to Altieri.

"Now we can take the time to look and change the law appropriately," Altieri said.

-Reporting by James Pero

BUDGET from page 1

to encourage students to pursue careers in these fields.

Superintendent Dr. Frank Alvarez said the proposed budget is solid. "My main assumption was to have no cuts and that we keep to our promise not to go over the [tax] cap," he said.

Board of Education President Katy Keohane Glassberg characterized the proposed budget as an attempt to maintain the program and make improvements with very little additional money.

While the community is likely to meet news of the balanced budget with some relief, the use of a higher amount of reserve funds is just as likely to cause consternation for some Rye residents.

Jim Culyer, a longtime resident and former school board president, expressed disappointment at news of the higher reserve fund figure for the proposed budget. "In my opinion, the Board of Education is going in the wrong direction," he said. "Fund balance needs to be preserved not used to balance the operating budget. I really believe that the current tax cap legislation is just wrong."

Other board members had more sobering news.

Board members Karen Be-

langer and Chris Repetto brought up the possibility of another override vote for the 2017-2018 school budget.

On May 19, 2015, the Rye community passed the current budget that exceeded the 2 percent tax cap, totaling a 4.43 percent override, with support totaling 70 percent of the vote. An override requires a 60 percent majority of the voting public.

"We need to start talking openly about an override for next year," Belanger said. "We're getting to the point where the reserves are at a much more worrisome level."

But it's possible that the funding situation might change for the better in the next few years as well, district officials said. Gov. Andrew Cuomo, a Democrat, has hinted at increasing state aid over the next few years. There is also talk of adjusting the 2 percent tax cap to a true 2 percent cap without the current formula that decreases it to less than that level in nearly every district.

There also may be more state aid on the way if the throttle on Gap Elimination Adjustment, GEA, funds either eases or is released. Passed in 2011, the "emergency" one-year formula decreases aid using a formula that decreases funding for all districts. Some

AT A GLANCE

Rye's 2016-2017 school budget is being proposed at \$85M

The budget utilizes \$2.5M in reserve funding

Board of Education members say an override of the tax cap is likely for the 2017-2018 budget

Since 2010-2011, state aid to Rye has decreased by \$2.3M

districts are "owed" as much as \$3 million in GEA funds. The adjustment has been in place for five years.

"Right now, there are a lot of ifs," said Sarah Derman, the school district's chief information officer. "Things could get better. It's too soon to tell."

On March 8, the school board will host an open topics forum for the community; budget adoption is set for the April 12 meeting and the public vote is scheduled for May 17.

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Legislators Latimer and Otis to hold budget forum

New York state Sen. George Latimer, and Assemblyman Steve Otis, both Rye Democrats, recently announced that they will be holding a joint forum to get public input on the proposed 2016-2017 New York state budget.

The event is open to the community and any person or organization that wishes to present is invited to participate. The forum will be held on Tuesday, Feb. 23 at the Port Chester Senior Center, located at 222 Grace Church St. in Port Chester, from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.

"The next step in passing a state budget is analysis and review by the state Legislature, and

I want to make sure that we hear what our constituents want and need," Latimer said.

No RSVP is required to attend the forum. The public is invited to speak, and will be heard on a first-come, first-served basis. Written testimony can be provided at the hearing, or sent in advance to Sen. Latimer or Assemblyman Otis by email to latimer@nysenate.gov or OtisS@assembly.state.ny.us. Remarks are limited to four minutes of presentation per person.

"This forum is yet another opportunity for us to hear directly from Westchester residents and organizations about the issues

they care most about in the state budget. The more we know about your concerns and priorities, the more effectively we can advocate on your behalf in the budget process," Otis said.

Proposed last month by the governor, The "Executive Budget" is the first step in adopting a spending plan for New York's next fiscal year, which runs from April 1, 2016 to March 31, 2017. The governor's proposal would provide \$145 billion in funds to fund state programs and services. The largest areas included in the spending plan are education, public protection and health care, including Medicaid. (Submitted)

STAY CONNECTED

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Saying farewell to an icon

THE COUNCIL CORNER
Mayor Joe Sack



Many years ago, the D'Onofrios used to be open seven days a week. Then supermarkets started to carry the Sunday Times, so it didn't make sense anymore. Perhaps that was the first tremor hinting at bigger changes to come.

In today's digital and health-conscious age, it might seem like an anachronism for a small storefront retail business to survive plying print journalism, tobacco and sweets. The gambling remains a big draw, what with billion dollar Powerball jackpots. But if T.D.'s Smoke Shop outlasted shifting tastes and more this long, it was because the main offering inside its authentic swinging doors was a timeless commodity, not for sale—a chance to touch base and check in.

Through the repetition of small transactions over many decades, Peggy and her husband Tony—and their son, Tony Jr.—developed familiar and lasting connections with their patrons. Brief and forgettable exchanges

about the weather or the latest game or local gossip accumulated greater meaning over time. Rye residents, both young and old, have always gravitated to the corner of Purchase and Elm for more than just its central downtown location.

A high water mark for the smoke shop may have been 1994, when the Rangers hoisted their Stanley Cup in triumph down at the store—where else than at the center of the Rye universe? Now the hockey club is long gone from practicing at the Rye Playland Ice Casino. But taped to the partition above the counter, there remains a faded snapshot of Eddie Olczyk and a dark-bearded and beaming Tony D.

The store proudly displays an array of sports memorabilia—Peggy's collection of Mets bobble heads ought to make its way to the Smithsonian—and personally inscribed celebrity head shots. There's Eli Manning, courtesy of the nearby Mara family members. And there's Joe Torre, a Harrison resident who is a bit of a regular. As a testament to his down-to-earth reputation—and his clear ability to charm Peg—Joe is the only Yankee to warrant inclusion on

the smoke shop wall of heroes.

But the most prominent section of photos is devoted to Rye customers, who hand deliver their annual Christmas cards bearing the family portrait. Each holiday season, a new batch of these smiling faces gets Scotch-taped overhead. The wall tracks children as they grow up, until one day, these kids are adults with kids of their own.

Packed away in a back corner of the store is an endless stack of thick manila envelopes. Each envelope contains the cards from one Christmas gone by. Peggy—"Mom" to Tony, and to the rest of us—has saved those cards with love. And now, we will carry forward in our hearts memories of the iconic green building facade, and—most importantly—the kind proprietors who kept shop inside for generations.

Joe Sack is the mayor of Rye. In 2014, he passed legislation to incentivize Peggy and Tony's landlord to extend the smoke shop's lease. Unfortunately, despite indications otherwise, the landlord went in a different direction.

'Concert for Carver' takes the Capitol stage

If you still haven't found what you're looking for this winter, then head over to the Capitol Theatre on Saturday, March 5 at 6:30 p.m. when Joshua Tree, a U2 tribute band, performs at the "Concert for Carver" fundraiser. The Southern California band is well known for its U2 tributes and get up and rock tunes. The annual concert will benefit the Carver Center, a community center in Port Chester long dedicated to providing education, meals and social services to underserved local residents.

Chairing the annual gala are Maureen Gomez, Jennifer Amantea, Mandy Brooks and Clare Butler. They hope to raise \$260,000 at the event to support much-needed programs such as Carver's food pantry, afterschool programs and the only public swimming pool in the community.

Gomez explains, "The Carver Center serves young, old, and everyone in between. It's a true community center that welcomes everyone. We want to make sure



and the U2 music will be great." Tickets to the event range from \$250 to \$1,000 per person and include live music, an open bar, heavy hors d'oeuvres and a paddle auction. Visit carvercenter.org or call 305-6014 for tickets. Event sponsors include Silverpeak, O'Connor Capital Partners, Vanbarton Group, Whole Foods Market and Serendipity.

The Capitol Theatre is located at 149 Westchester Ave. in Port Chester. For a preview music video of the Joshua Tree, see u2jt.com.

The Carver Center is a full service community center that seeks to provide support and opportunities to enrich and improve the lives of residents in the village of Port Chester. It is dedicated to providing a caring and compassionate environment where every individual is treated with respect and dignity. The center is located at 400 Westchester Ave. in Port Chester. For more information, visit carvercenter.org. (Submitted)

Capitol Theatre to honor Harrison hero

By ANGELA JORDAN
Staff Writer

A benefit concert will take place on Thursday, Feb. 25 at Port Chester's Capitol Theatre in honor of fallen NYPD detective and Air National Guard Reserve, Tech Sgt. Joseph Lemm.

Lemm, of West Harrison, left behind a wife, Christine, and two children, Brooke and Ryan. He was in the New York Air National Guard's 105th Airlift Wing when he was killed in action along with five other Airmen on Dec. 21, 2015.

Lemm and his fellow team member, Staff Sgt. Louis Bonasca, have been posthumously awarded the Bronze



Star Medal for his bravery during the attack. According to the award citation, both Lemm and Bonasca put themselves between a suicide bomber and their team members in an attempt to shield the other Airmen from the explosion, which prevented some of them from being killed.

The Stephen Siller Tunnel to Towers Foundation, a nonprofit organization whose mission is to "honor and support first responders and military," has organized the fundraiser on behalf of Lemm's family.

"When we heard what happened to him, we contacted the NYPD immediately to find out how we could help his family," said John Hodge, the chief operating officer for Tunnel to Towers.

The organization decided to call the show the "NYPD Superman Benefit Concert" because Lemm's nickname among his fellow officers was "Superman."

"We hope the community comes out big for him," Hodge said.

A representative for the Capitol Theatre, located at 149 Westchester Ave., said that they expect a great turnout for the concert and that "the community is definitely coming together to celebrate a hero."

The concert will be featuring performances by the New York Tenors, Clyde McPhatter's Drifters, comedian Joe Piscopo and American Idol finalist Jax. Lemm's teenage daughter, Brooke, will also be singing in her father's honor.

The concert will also feature

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**Thursday,
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**THE CAPITOL
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149 Westchester Ave.
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a live painting performance by artist Scott Lobaido, whose work is largely influenced by patriotic themes.

"I am honored to be performing at the fundraiser for Tech. Sgt. Joseph Lemm," Lobaido said. "As the great New York tenor Danny Rodriguez sings 'America the Beautiful,' I will be painting a rendition of the stars and stripes. Takes just three minutes to speed paint it to Danny's song," Lobaido said, describing the piece as "exciting."

Ticket prices for the concert range between \$60 and \$300. The doors will open at 6 p.m. and the show will start at 8 p.m. For those who cannot attend the concert but would like to contribute, donations can also be made to the fundraiser online at NYPDSuperman.com. All proceeds and donations benefit Lemm's family directly.

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HISTORIC from page 1

historic nature of the lane.

This incident, according to Zahringer, has been a major impetus for the push to designate the street as a historic district.

Now, the property—which is owned by a resident in a neighboring community in Loudon Woods and is being kept as parkland—has been rezoned to only allow for the construction of two homes.

Hurd said that this designation is important for not only retaining Rye's historic culture, but also important for allowing residents the economic ability to do so.

"It does require a massive effort



to bring these houses in line with 21st century living if it hasn't been done over time," she said. "This would allow people to fix

those homes up instead of letting them slowly decline."

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RYE CITY HOME SALES

Listings provided by the office of Westchester County Clerk Timothy C. Itoni
Photos courtesy Zillow.com, Trulia.com, Hotpads.com, Spotproperty.com & Maps.google.com



29 Locust Avenue
\$900,000
Sale date: 1/15/16



4 Oakwood Avenue
\$1,655,000
Sale date: 12/15/15



446 Park Avenue
\$3,300,000
Sale date: 12/15/16



55 Grace Church Street
\$1,530,000
Sale date: 12/1/15



5 Thistle Lane
\$2,475,000
Sale date: 1/6/16



65-67 Palisade Road
\$1,050,000
Sale date: 12/14/15



68 Allendale Drive
\$2,292,500
Sale date: 12/18/15



96 Forest Avenue
\$5,000,000
Sale date: 1/8/16



54 Drake Avenue
\$3,250,000
Sale date: 9/21/15



3 Harding Drive
\$2,740,920
Sale date: 9/22/15



71 Brevoort Lane
\$2,340,000
Sale date: 10/9/15



70 Park Drive North
\$2,300,000
Sale date: 11/9/15



20 Chamberlain Street
\$1,355,000
Sale date: 10/7/15



2 Glen Oaks Drive
\$1,150,000
Sale date: 11/9/15



55 Meadow Place
\$1,330,000
Sale date: 12/3/15



2 Polly Park Road
\$1,100,000
Sale date: 12/19/15

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Weichert sales associate named REALTOR of the Year

Nick Davis, manager of Weichert, Realtors' Ridgefield office, is pleased to announce that sales associate Geoff Harrington was selected as the 2015 REALTOR® of the Year by the Ridgefield Board of REALTORS®, RBOR. By accepting this award, Harrington is honored for his commitment to humanitarian service, his involvement in the RBOR and its committees and projects, and his contributions to the real estate profession as a whole.

"This distinction recognizes Geoff's dedication to the real estate industry and his desire to best serve the evolving needs of his clients and the surrounding community of Ridgefield," Davis said. "Geoff epitomizes all the traits that are important in our work as realtors. In particular, his diligence, customer loyalty and integrity have led to his success as one of the top producing sales associates in our Weichert office this year."

The annual REALTOR® of the Year award recognizes one member of the RBOR who demonstrates a commitment to the board and its activities, who proudly shows educational and business-related accomplishments, who implements good real estate practices among fellow real estate licensees and the general public, and who dedicates time to performing charitable work in the community.

An active member in the industry and in the RBOR for 16 years, Harrington is also member of the Connecticut REALTORS® board of directors, and is chairman of the REALTORS® Political Action Committee. Additionally, Harrington has been a longtime contributor to the Ridgefield community through charity and volunteer work. He is an annual Ridgefield Visiting Nurse Association volunteer, a member of the Ridgefield Board of Ethics, is on the board of directors for the Historic District Commission as the real estate liaison, and is currently the Sergeant-at-Arms and Sergeant of the Honor Guard for the American Legion Post 78.

Invite Harrington in to learn about the real estate services that Weichert, Realtors has to offer. He can be reached at Weichert's Ridgefield office, located at 388 Main St., or by phone at 203-431-1400.

Since 1969, Weichert, Realtors has grown from a single office into one of the nation's leading providers of homeownership services by putting its customers first. A family of full-service real estate and financial services companies, Weichert helps customers buy and sell both residential and commercial real estate, and streamlines the delivery of mortgages and home and title insurance. Weichert leverages its customer website, weichert.com, one

of the most visited real estate websites in the nation, to help families and individuals realize the dream of homeownership through quick and easy access to listing information and the services of its real estate professionals nationwide. For more information, Weichert's customer service center can be reached at 1-800-USA-SOLD. Weichert franchised offices are independently owned and operated.

BCW enhances job training efforts for county youth

Continuing its ongoing efforts to enhance workforce job training for Westchester youth, The Business Council of Westchester, BCW, was recently awarded a grant through the Westchester-Putnam Workforce Development Board to help train youth and provide them with the tangible skills necessary for being productive in the workforce.

The BCW will work directly with employers and job seekers to ensure that youth in the Workforce Development Academy for Youth have access to a variety of work experiences as required under the new workforce legislation, WIOA. Work experiences include summer and year-round employment opportunities, mentoring, pre-apprenticeship programs, internships, job shadowing and on-the-job training.

"The BCW is committed to helping young people gain the skills they need to compete in a global economy. It makes economic sense to give every young person an opportunity to thrive," said Marsha Gordon, president and CEO of The BCW. "Our direct connection with major industry leaders in the region makes us uniquely qualified to match employers with young people who are hungry to learn and ready to work. We are so pleased to be working with The Westchester-Putnam Workforce Development Board on this important goal."

The grant is an outgrowth of BCW's previous work with the Workforce Investment Board, including the Private Sector Summer Jobs Program and the Annual Youth Summit. The BCW also developed The Westchester Putnam Internship Connex website, a one-stop portal connecting locally enrolled college and university students with local internship opportunities at area employers in Westchester and Putnam counties.

For more information about BCW's workforce job training programs for youth, contact Ebony White, workforce development coordinator, at 948-2110 or ewhite@thebcw.org.

The county's largest and most influential business membership organization, The Business Council of Westchester is committed to helping businesses market, learn, advocate and grow. In addition, The BCW is actively involved in reviewing federal, state and county legislation and regulations in order to assess the potential impact on the business community and to influence the outcomes through advocacy when the business community's interests may be affected. It also acts as an information resource for the business community and government leaders at all levels.

Applause Westchester reopens as Artistree Performing Arts in Mamaroneck

Heather and Peter Capelle, of Mamaroneck, are now the proud owners of Artistree Performing Arts, formerly known as Applause Westches-

ter. The two have been managing the Applause site in Westchester since its opening in 2008 and are now thrilled to share their love of performing and teaching as it mirrors their mission statement to celebrate the performing arts and cultivate confidence in their students.

"We couldn't be more thrilled to continue with the same great curriculum, same great teachers but with a modern spin and a more personal touch as we will be teaching and directing most classes," says Heather Capelle, Artistree owner and artistic director. "Our staff's dedication and talent, together with their experience in the industry auditioning, working, performing and directing, offers our students the direction they need to create cutting-edge performances."

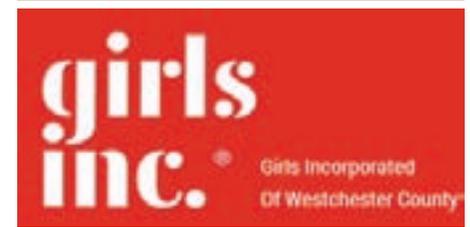
In January 2008, Applause began offering classes for students just two days a week. It expanded over the years and began to host a wide range of classes for all ages. Now as Artistree Performing Arts, the studio will continue to offer musical theater, pop star, hip hop and singing classes, cabaret and acting workshops for preteens and teens, as well as its newest offering: on-camera classes for ages 5 to 18.

In addition to private lessons in voices, piano and acting, Artistree will host birthday parties and other major events at its beautiful, newly renovated space that overlooks Harbor Island Park.

"Heather and Peter Capelle, with whom I've been working over the past two years, provide the most disciplined and properly structured pathway to success for youngsters that I've ever encountered," said Martin Charmin, Tony Award winner and renowned director and lyricist of—among other musicals—the Broadway smash, "Annie." "They cross all the theatrical t's, and dot all the professional i's as they prepare the children they guide."

"As a working professional actor myself, I learned so much from Heather and Peter," says Sammy Pignalosa, longtime student of the Capelles and featured actor in the upcoming "The Great Gilly Hopkins" with Glenn Close and Kathy Bates. "Of course, I am excited because they've been such great inspirations and role models in my life. I am very pleased that I can continue to work with and learn even more from them."

Artistree Performing Arts creates a community where the performing arts are explored and celebrated, friendships are made, and confidence is built through the backdrop of theater, music, dance and film. Artistree strives to create a safe space for young people to build a framework, not only for a career in the arts, but a lifelong appreciation of them. For more information, contact Denise Capuano at 261-1567.

Girls Inc. Westchester welcomes new executive director

The Girls Inc. Westchester board of directors is delighted to announce that after an extensive search, it has selected Catherine Lepone to be its new executive director.

Lepone has been working in the nonprofit sector for more than 22 years in a number of leadership capacities. She comes to Girls Inc. directly from the Making Headway Foundation, where she served as executive director. During her tenure there, the organization garnered the nonprofit GuideStar Silver Seal and the Great Nonprofits top ranked status for three consecutive years. Under her leadership, Making Headway Foundation was also voted 2013 Nonprofit of the Year by the Chappaqua-Millwood Chamber of Commerce.

In addition, Lepone is a past recipient of the Distinguished Service Award from the Los Angeles Junior Chamber of Commerce, the highest award presented by their past Officers Association, which is given to a member who exemplifies the highest principles and leadership skills aspired to in community service work. She also serves on the board of directors for the Association of Fundraising Professionals Westchester Chapter.

Lepone is passionate about the Girls Inc. mission and thrilled with the opportunity to bring our incredibly impactful programming to many more Westchester girls. She is eager to begin meeting the extraordinary community of supporters who make our exciting work possible. Girls Inc. introduced Lepone to all after she officially began on Jan. 19, and will be reintroduced at the Girls Inc. Westchester benefit gala scheduled for Wednesday, May 4 at the Mamaroneck Beach and Yacht Club. Thank you, as always, for your continued support. It makes all the difference. For more information, visit girlsincwestchester.org.

The next Business Briefs section will run in March. Please send any submission for our March edition to news@hometwn.com, with "Business" in the subject line of your email. Each submission may include one picture. If you have any questions, email us at news@hometwn.com.

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LEGAL NOTICES

Notice of Formation of 403A LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 1/7/2016. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: The LLC, 2 Green Acres Drive, Rye, NY 10580. Purpose: any lawful activity.

Notice of Formation of J Black Advisory, LLC. Arts of Org. filed with NY Secy of State (SSNY) on 11/30/15. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY is designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 534 Harrison Ave., Harrison, NY 10528. Purpose: any lawful activity.

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Sidewalk slowpokes and walking lanes

**RHYMES
WITH CRAZY**
Lenore Skenazy



In New York, our lives overlap on many fronts. Your car alarm goes off, your street wakes up. You overcook your fish, your neighbors gag. You hold the subway door open, you have saved the job of the person behind you. We are densely, intensely interconnected, but no place is more connected than on the sidewalk, and no time is it more connected than after a snowstorm.

As I waited my turn to traipse single-file through the Kilimanjaro of snow at my corner a few weeks ago, my teeth gritted in fury even as I attempted a cheery “We’re all in this together!” grin. The truth is, we ARE all in this together, but our sidewalks are like the freeways of Los Angeles: A place we’d all love to gun past everyone else if we could—or a place we curse the tailgaters.

“I hate slow people,” says substitute teacher Elizabeth Atkinson Cuccia. Her strategy for avoiding them on the sidewalk is the same strategy used by NASCAR drivers. “My eyes are always scanning for a potential opening so I can scoot around them. I’m good at finding holes that I can worm my way through.”

It’s not that Cuccia, of College Point, feels no empathy for the slow. Her mother uses a walker and she herself broke her foot a few years back, hobbling so pitifully that strangers

stopped to offer her a ride. (See? We may be impatient but we’re not heartless.)

Now, however, Cuccia is back to fighting trim, and when those in front of her are busy gaping at tall buildings, or wearing headphones, ambling in time with Adele, her sympathy gets displaced—as do those in front of her. *Whoosh!* She’s on her way. Then, unable to stop herself, she turns around to see just how far behind they are.

I’ve done that, too.

We all have our favorite techniques for passing people. “On the street, I usually walk along the curb to go around the slow people. Or I huff and squeeze past them, sometimes with a little extra shoulder check action,” says Kate Schliebin, a Brooklyn mom not to be messed with.

“There are times when I will sneeze a big sneeze so they get grossed out and move out of the way,” reports resourceful Freddy S. Zalta, an author.

Another guy I know walks as loudly as possible. Me? I whistle, somewhat aggressively.

About five years ago, the group Improv Everywhere went down to the Flatiron district and painted a line down the middle of the sidewalk. They labeled one lane “Tourists” and the other “New Yorkers.” Then, wearing official-looking vests, they queried pedestrians, “Are you a tourist or New Yorker?” directing the amazingly compliant folks to the right lane or left. (You can watch it on YouTube. Search “Tourist Lane.”)

“Excuse me, ma’am,” one of

the actors said, “Are you just going to stand there? Stand in the tourist lane. That’s for slow people.” A woman directed to the fast lane said, “As a New Yorker, I appreciate this!”

The Improv folks told her to thank the mayor—Bloomberg at the time, who later declared the project “a nice thing to do.”

Another Improv Everywhere participant held a clipboard as she explained to passersby, deadpan, “There are a lot of pedestrian accidents between New Yorkers and tourists.” This lane initiative, she said, was just one possible way to keep everyone a little safer.

The lanes remained on the sidewalk for four days before they were removed. One wise-acre on the group’s website suggested that next time, they should create a smartphone lane to make for a “safe, obstacle-less continuous walk.” But I guess it’s no surprise that the Improv folks had already tackled that problem: In another project they provided “Seeing Eye People” to help folks text and walk safely, holding on to them with leashes and yelling, “Watch out! Texter coming through!”

It’s all really funny—except when I’m texting. Or gawking, or gaping, or I’ve twisted my ankle and am limping along. Then I’m the speed bump and you’re the impatient New Yorker who can’t spare one single second for me to get my bearings.

And I go home and overcook my fish.

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Affordable housing application deadline approaches

Six new affordable one- and two-family homes and condominiums are now available in Westchester to income eligible homebuyers, County Executive Rob Astorino recently announced. The deadline to submit applications to purchase the homes is Monday, Feb. 29, and all applications received by the deadline will be placed in a lottery to be held in early March. Applications are available in both English and Spanish, and information including the income requirements and additional details on the properties, such as floor plans, local schools, parks and public transportation are posted online on the county’s homeseeeker web pages.

The purchase prices on these six affordable homes or condominiums are subsidized by the county, range in price from \$133,000 to \$235,000 and are available to families earning up to 80 percent of the county’s median income. Current maximum eligible annual household income ranges from \$59,200 for a one-person household to \$98,100 for a six-person household.

The homes are in the town/village of Harrison, town of Lewisboro and village of Rye Brook.

- 2 Spruce Road, town of Lewisboro: This is a 2,300-square-foot, three-bedroom, single-family house that will be completely renovated in the coming months, and will also include a one-bedroom, income-generating accessory apartment in another building on the property. The house includes a master bedroom with fireplace, one-and-a-half bathrooms and a two-car detached garage. It has cathedral ceilings, a family room, laundry room and deck. It is located in the Katonah-Lewisboro school district and approximately 7 miles of Bee-Line bus route No. 19, which stops near to the Metro-North Harlem line train station in Katonah, and in Mount Kisco

and Ossining. The unit is part of the Lake Kitchawan Association and has lake access. The purchase price for this two-story home is \$235,325.

- 106 Lake Kitchawan, town of Lewisboro: This is a 1,000-square-foot, single-family house with three bedrooms, one bathroom, a laundry area, unfinished basement, front deck and open rear porch that will see some renovations in the coming months. It is located in the Katonah-Lewisboro school district and is approximately 7 miles from Bee-Line bus route No. 19, which stops near to the Metro-North Harlem line train station in Katonah, and in Mount Kisco and Ossining. The unit is part of the Lake Kitchawan Association and has lake access. The purchase price for this home is \$207,840.

- 491 Franklin St., village of Rye Brook: a 1,400-square-foot, two-family house with three bedrooms and two bathrooms, and an unfinished basement and attic. Metro-North train stations in Rye and Port Chester are within driving distance from the home and connect to Grand Central Station and Stamford, Connecticut. The house is four blocks from the route No. 13 Bee-Line bus stop which connects to Port Chester and White Plains. It has an income-generating accessory apartment. The purchase price for this home is \$161,700.

- 240 Halstead Ave., town/village of Harrison: A unit in the Marion Court complex is a two-bedroom, one-bathroom, 850-square-foot condominium with an eat-in kitchen, dining room, living room, ceiling fans and hardwood floors. It is served by the Harrison school district, is near a Bee-Line bus stop and within walking distance of shops, restaurants, places of worship and the Harrison Metro-North railroad station. The purchase price for the two-

bedroom unit is \$160,000.

- 70 West St., town/village of Harrison: A unit in the Harrison House complex is a two-bedroom, one-bathroom, 800-square-foot condominium with a kitchen, dining and living room, a private balcony and hardwood floors. The kitchen features maple cabinets, granite countertops, stainless steel appliances and glass mosaic backsplash. The condominium complex includes a barbeque area, storage area and a shared laundry room. It is served by the Harrison school district, is near a Bee-Line bus stop and within walking distance of shops, restaurants, places of worship and the Harrison Metro-North railroad station. The purchase price for the two-bedroom condominium is \$175,000.

- 17 Broadway, 2C, Harrison: A unit in The Broadway complex is a 700-square-foot, one-bedroom, one-bathroom condominium. Its updated kitchen has stainless steel appliances. The condominium has hardwood floors, a private balcony, garage parking and a storage cage. It is served by the Harrison school district, is near a Bee-Line bus stop and within walking distance of shops, restaurants, places of worship and the Harrison Metro-North railroad station. The sale price for the one-bedroom condominium is \$132,601.

Westchester County’s housing marketing consultant, the Housing Action Council, will host an affordable housing information session at the Ossining Public Library on Wednesday, Feb. 24 at 6 p.m.

For more information on the homes, other information sessions and the income guidelines, visit homes.westchester.gov.com/homeseeeker-housing or contact the Housing Action Council by email at hac@affordablehomes.org, or by calling 332-4144. (Submitted)

Once, kids played like their lives depended on it.
If only kids still did.

Chunky. Hefty. Big-boned. For parents of overweight children, it's all too easy to minimize reality. But the consequences of a heavy childhood may actually result in a generation of children with shorter life spans than their parents.

Encourage physical activity and better nutrition. Do whatever it takes to get your kids as active as kids once were. Activity and weight bearing exercise will help your child live stronger, and live longer. For more advice and information, visit orthoinfo.org, aap.org/obesity and gonna.org.



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RYE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT'S

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Regarding Jenrry

LIVE MIKE
Mike Smith



Nobody ever said that being able to fire a 97-mph fastball was a prerequisite for Mensa membership, but every so often, a professional athlete manages to floor me with their absolutely unbridled stupidity.

On Feb. 12, New York Mets relief pitcher Jenrry Mejia became the front-runner for Knucklehead of the Year, failing a third drug test to become the first MLB player ever to incur a lifetime ban for repeated violations of the league's performance-enhancing drug policy.

This, dear reader, is just about as dumb as it gets.

As far as baseball goes, numbskulls are never in short supply. Some of my favorite historical anecdotes prove that common sense clearly takes a backseat to ERA, RBIs and whatever other

advanced metrics you want to use when it comes to judging our stars of the diamond.

John Smoltz once injured himself trying to iron a dress shirt while he was still wearing it. Carl Everett famously denied the existence of dinosaurs, simply because he had never seen a T-Rex in the wild. Rickey Henderson once told Mets teammate John Olerud that he used to play with a guy in Toronto who also wore a batting helmet in the field, apparently forgetting that the player he was referring to was, in fact, Olerud himself.

In the grand scheme of things, these are fun, harmless stories; the kind of tales, apocryphal or not, that lend some color to the game.

But Mejia's latest suspension? That's just a bridge too far.

Let's recap: Early last season, Mejia was suspended for 80 games for testing positive for Stanazolol, an anabolic steroid used by humans and horses alike. He returned from his sus-

pension in July, played for about a week and was then hit with another suspension—this one for 162 games—for having Stanazolol in his system once again.

Two weeks after the Mets resigned him in January—a puzzling move for the Amazin's given Mejia's history—he failed his third PED test, and was banned from MLB for life.

"A Beautiful Mind," this ain't.

I've never been one of those pearl-clutching anti-steroid guys. I get why people use it. I don't condone it, per se, but I can understand the draw. If a few more miles per hour is going to be the difference between a multi-million dollar contract and throwing pregame batting practice in Peoria, Illinois, I can sympathize with ballplayers who think they need that little extra edge, and I'm willing to forgive a mistake. Or two. But three failed tests in less than a calendar year? That is some next-level bonehead stuff right there.

I've never met Mejia. He may be a fine human being for all I know. But his decision-making leaves a lot to be desired. Whether he's gotten some bad advice from family and friends or simply took it upon himself to cook up a few horse steroid cocktails is irrelevant. He got a second chance and boy, did he blow it.

If Mejia ever plays another major league game—he's eligible to apply for reinstatement next year and could be back on the field as early as 2018—it's going to be because someone in the league office feels bad for him and because he can still throw a baseball at superhuman speeds.

But I wonder how many teams will be lining up to give the much-maligned closer another shot at greatness. I'm sure he'll say the right things, he'll profess to be a changed man, and he'll say that he's put this childish and irresponsible behavior behind him.

But if there's one thing I've learned, it's this: you can't fix stupid.

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On Feb. 12, New York Mets reliever Jenrry Mejia was busted for PEDs for the third time in a calendar year. Mejia's positive test means he will join Pete Rose as one of two living people banned from Major League Baseball. Photo courtesy Wikipedia.com



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Rye Athlete of the Week

Caroline Neave

By LAUREN DEMPSEY
Contributor

Undefeated this season, Caroline Neave has led the Rye High School girls' squash team all the way to the High School National Championships. As few public high schools have squash teams, most of their competition is from private schools. The Garnets are 9-0 so far in the Fairwest Squash League with wins over traditional squash powers from New York and Connecticut. Neave, only a junior and one of the team's captains, has led the Garnets to their third straight League Championship.

Last year, Neave was named an All-American. She is ranked eighth in the country in the

Under 19 Division.

Coach Tony Campbell and Neave's teammates are impressed by what she means to the team, not only from her prowess on the court but also by her leadership skills.

"Caroline competes in the No. 1 spot and is undefeated with dominant wins," Campbell said. "She has not lost a game, and very few points for that matter, all year. Caroline is the inspirational dedicated leader on the team. When she is not playing, she is circulating the courts coaching and giving feedback to her teammates."

Neave's teammates say the junior leads by example.

"Caroline is so determined," teammate Caroline Baldwin



said. "It always amazes me to watch her play better opponents because she seems to always pull it out."

Neave is on the High Honor Roll, and in the spring, she is a member of the Garnets Varsity Lacrosse team where she was All-League in her freshman and sophomore seasons. She also competes in squash throughout the year.

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Rye readies for postseason

By MIKE SMITH
Sports Editor

Heading into the Division 2 seeding meeting this week, the Rye hockey team isn't expecting too many last-minute surprises. With a strong showing down the stretch, the Garnets are beginning to find their groove on the ice and hope that their recent success will translate into a postseason push.

Despite a 7-1 loss to Clarkstown in the regular season finale on Feb. 15, the Garnets come into the playoffs having won seven of their last eight games to finish with a 12-7 record, which should net them a No. 4 seed when the postseason brackets are announced on Feb. 17, after press time.

If the standings hold, the Garnets will take on No. 13 seed Horace Greeley in first-round

action on Sunday, Feb. 19.

Rye coach Peter Thomas has been pleased with the way his team played over the last few weeks, as the Garnets have picked up wins against tough in-section foes like Scarsdale and non-section opponents like Iona Prep, whom Rye bested in an 8-6 barnburner last week.

"I've been very happy, with the exception of [the Clarkstown game], which I'm hoping is just an outlier," Thomas said. "The kids have really been playing as a team, buying into the system, playing our D-zone coverage, playing our forecheck and doing all the things that make us tough to beat."

Against the Gaels on Feb. 10, Rye battled back from a 4-3 deficit early in the second period thanks to three unanswered goals from Nick Berger, Theo Bresolin and Tommy O'Brien en route to a Senior Night win. According to Thomas, that kind of resolve has been the calling card of this Garnet team ever since a Jan. 19 loss to Pelham.

"It's really been our M.O. all season long, they don't give up no matter the situation," he said. "When we came back against Pelham, even though we didn't win that game, it gave them a lot of confidence in knowing that we can play with anyone."

With five days between the team's finale against Clarkstown and the beginning of the first round, Thomas said he expects the team to get back to basics in its next few practices.

"We're going to be fine-tuning, focusing on making sure we know exactly what we're doing on our assignments," the coach said. "We want that stuff committed to memory so it becomes their default."

As far as the Garnets' likely opponent in the first round, Thomas admitted he would have to make some calls to learn a little more about the Quakers.

"They didn't play much outside of their league in Brewster, so I'm going to have to reach out to some coaches," Thomas said. "I think they're somewhat young, but the important thing is that we are focused on this next game, not anything down the road."



Mac McGovern fights for a puck along the boards on Feb. 10. Photos/Mike Smith



John Barber controls the puck against Iona Prep at the Playland Ice Casino.



Owen Beyer looks for an open teammate. The Garnets head into the playoffs having won seven of their last eight games.



Owen Beyer scores on a backhand against Iona Prep on Feb. 10. The Garnets topped the Gaels 8-6 in their Senior Night game.

CONTACT: sports@hometown.com

Garnet girls bounce Bulldogs

By MIKE SMITH
Sports Editor

After establishing themselves as one of the top teams in Class A this year, the Garnets played to form in their playoff opener, downing visiting Beacon 58-25 on Feb. 16. With one win under their belt, Rye is hoping to keep its momentum rolling as it gears up for its quarterfinal matchup and a possible trip to the Westchester County Center.

No. 3 Rye showed flashes of the defensive brilliance they are known for on Tuesday, holding the No. 14 Bulldogs to three points in the first quarter and just seven after the half. According to head coach Dennis Hurlie, if there's one thing Rye can count on each game, it's their ability to limit the opposition's offensive chances.

"We always defend, it's something that the girls take a lot of pride in," Hurlie

said. "We wanted to focus on their center, and I think we were able to make life tough for her."

The Bulldogs were able to put together a small rally toward the end of the first half, pulling to within seven points with 1:30 to play before Rye called a timeout and regrouped. The Garnets scored on their three final possessions to head into the half with a 33-18 lead.

"Sometimes, when things are going too easy early on, you tend to play a bit loose," Hurlie said following the win. "We had a few trips up and down the court where we weren't waiting for good shots, so we took a timeout."

Katie Popp, who had 10 points at the break, finished with a game-high 17, while teammate Madeline Eck scored 14. Point guard Taylor Maurer, who had 11 points on the day, also played a big role

in the decisive victory.

According to the coach, Maurer's contributions are integral to the team's continued postseason success.

"Taylor had a great game," Hurlie said. "When she plays like that, it really helps us a lot."

With the first-round win in the books, the Garnets now eye a quarterfinal matchup with Brewster, who pulled out a 51-41 victory over Pelham on Tuesday night. The Bears trailed the Pelicans 28-25 at the half, but were dominant in the final two quarters of the game. The two teams will play on Feb. 19, after press time.

"We've seen film on them, we know they have a good inside player, a good shooter and they've had a nice year," Hurlie said. "We're both 17-4... but I'm glad we're going to be playing this one at home."

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Taylor Maurer brings the ball upcourt against Beacon on Feb. 16. Maurer had 11 points in Rye's 58-25 first-round playoff win. Photo/Mike Smith

Garnet boys coast to victory

By MIKE SMITH
Sports Editor

After a grueling regular season schedule in which they played against some of the best competition in Section I, Rye's boys basketball team had a brief moment of respite on Tuesday night. Hosting No. 21 Pearl River in the opening round of the Class A tournament, the No. 5 Garnets scored a one-sided victory, downing the Pirates 59-38 to advance to the quarterfinals.

Rye saw its league title hopes dashed with a loss to Byram Hills in the regular season finale, and a victory over the Pirates was a huge confidence boost as the post-season kicked off.

"It's great, especially coming off a really tough loss," Garnets coach John Aguilar said. "Our entire league, I think, is the most competitive in Section I, so we've definitely been battle-tested all year."

The Pirates had no answer

for Rye's versatile offense, as a number of players chipped in to propel the Garnets to the quarterfinals. Charlie Nagle led the team with 16 points, George Kirby added 14, and Michael Carty finished with eight points, 10 rebounds and five assists on the night.

"We knew coming into the season that we had guys like Nagle and Kirby, guys who could go off at any time," Aguilar said. "But as teams start keying in on our main shooters, it frees up opportunities for some other players."

Carty, in particular, has shined down the stretch, finding his scoring touch while also serving as the team's primary facilitator.

"It's not a surprise to me at all, [Carty's] been one of the hardest working kids since the offseason," Aguilar said. "He has the support of the team and I think that means a lot."

With the win over Pearl River, Rye has earned the right to take on the winner of

the No. 4 Nanuet and No. 13 Albertus Magnus first round game, which will be played on Feb. 17, after press time. According to Aguilar, the Garnets will be prepared no matter which team they face in the quarterfinals.

"I've been spoiled with a great assistant coach, and JV coaches," he said. "Over the last few weeks, we've gotten out to see any potential teams we might face in the playoffs."

With just two practice days before their Feb. 19 quarterfinal contest, the Garnets will be looking to refine their game as they make a push for the Westchester County Center.

"We're just fine-tuning what we do, because we've gotten to this point for a reason," Aguilar said. "We don't want to over-think it, we don't want to over-coach. We've won 16 games this year doing what we do well."

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Michael Carty looks for an open teammate on Feb. 9 against Byram Hills. In Rye's first-round playoff win over Pearl River on Feb. 16, Carty had eight points, 10 rebounds and five assists. Photo/Mike Smith

2016 SUMMER CAMPS

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Why day camp?

By Marla Coleman

Children learn life skills that become habits of the heart.

Another mother wrote that the family was on a ski trip. The son got to the top of a steep hill and started to panic. The mom said, "What would you do if you were at camp?" and he proceeded to engage himself in positive self-talk that was part of the camp culture: "It may take time, it may be hard; but stick with it, and you'll be fine!" He skied down with a huge sense of accomplishment and perseverance.

It's tough to be a kid these days. It's tough to be a parent. In a society where the nature of the family, the workplace and the community have changed dramatically, we can no longer assume that the natural process of growing up will provide children the experiences and the resources they need to become successful, contributing adults. In sharp contrast to the traditions of growing up in the '50s and

'60s, today we live in the first moment when humans receive more of their information secondhand than first! We are in a climate where it is harder to know what we need to survive, so drawing on experiences that give children healthy alternatives and opportunities to instill capabilities, the hallmarks of thriving, is the greatest gift you can give a young child.

Does it really matter if my child doesn't go to day camp, especially since she will go to overnight camp in a few years? She is only 4 years old—why does she need day camp?

Camp provides one of the very few links with a world larger than the consumer culture we inhabit—and day camp is one important choice in a quiver of options. The camp experience helps children and youth develop an appreciation of their place and their responsibility in a much larger universe. A preschooler—or even an older child who might be reluctant to go to overnight

camp—can join a community that is created especially for her to practice growing up. Why wait until age 10 when the benefits of feeling connected and being able to contribute and navigate at an earlier age can be reaped? Under the supervision of inspiring guides and passionate coaches, children can feel successful and make new friends while having the time of their lives; they can experience belonging and contribution; they can have a sense of consistency and predictability in times of turbulence and change.

Day camp can begin as early as age 3, and is geared to children who get to experience camp and still return home each evening. They have the best of both worlds—the camp community which is built exclusively for kids, and their own home which provides the security they need at a tender age.

One day camp parent said, "While my children and I are constantly bombarded by the news which is focused on what is



wrong with the world, camp is a living example of what is right."

Day camp is a terrific first experience. Reminiscent of less complicated days, when people connected with nature, thrived

on inter-generational relationships, and made new discoveries, everything is designed and scaled to ensure that children feel included, cared about, and capable. Beginning camp at an

early age provides important advantages.

Camp is the best demonstration of moral and spiritual order—democracy is the core purpose. Children learn life skills and behaviors that become habits of the heart. While many then move on to overnight camp, others will be content to continue the day camp experience; after all, there is a camp for everyone—and that might well be day camp!

To learn more about camp and child development, please visit the American Camp Association's family-dedicated website, CampParents.org, or call the toll-free number 1-800-428-CAMP (2267).

Marla Coleman is the parent liaison at Camp Echo in Burlington, New York. The immediate past president of the American Camp Association, she is a co-owner of Coleman Family Camps, which includes Camp Echo and Coleman Country Day Camp.

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Play Group Theatre's magical summer

Magic. We use that word a lot around The Play Group Theatre. And we really mean it, every single time we say it. It isn't like we think that's how theatre works...that it magically just happens. PGT actors know all about the work it takes to make each moment a moment, to make their show to come to life, to make all their effort appear effortless. And that is the real magic. Kids joyfully working hard, making friends, making art...together.

From Little Theatre (ages 4 to 6) to PGT Kids (ages 7 to 10) to the Young Actors Ensemble (ages 11 to 13) to Teen Conservatory (ages 14 to 18), from our one-week Improv Workshop to our six-week MainStage cast, PGT Summer Theatre actors come together at a variety of stages in their creative journey. No matter what brings you through our doors, what you will find here is an artistic haven—a creative home where you are challenged to think outside the box, to strive toward a higher level of artistry, and to work within a group of dynamic,



exceptional, emerging young artists in a collaborative environment, and to do it all while making lifelong friends and having the summer of your life!

At PGT Summer Theatre, we focus entirely on the love of the craft and the life lessons that are a natural result of a healthy and non-competitive creative process. We see the artists our students can become, while we celebrate the children they are.

PGT Summer Theatre is a conservatory-style program, with half the day devoted to rehearsals, and the other half to classes, including acting, dance, voice, Shakespeare, Improv and more. A trip to Broadway

and a workshop with Chicago City Limits are just some of the special events that round out the PGT Summer experience. PGT is conveniently located in its own performing arts complex in downtown White Plains, which includes the MainStage Theatre, Studio Theatre, rehearsal studios, scenic and costume shops, and access to Tibbet's Park for outdoor activities. The PGT staff are professionals in the field and dedicated to providing a warm, nurturing, creatively charged, artistically challenging environment for every student. Join us for a magical summer!

For more information, please call 946-4433 or visit us at our website, playgroup.org.

Taking camp on the road

Zeal Adventure & Travel is the ideal travel program for teenagers who have graduated from their summer camp, but still seek to enjoy all the attributes of camp for more summers. Zeal is a slightly more grown-up version of sleep away camp, a teenage sleep away camp, that still incorporates the best parts of camp—the friendships, sense of community, personal growth, excitement and the opportunity to give back to others. Zeal was designed and developed by longtime summer camp professionals, with the idea of creating a travel program that provides the hiring, training, supervision, intentionality and attention to detail and safety of a sleep away camp. Each trip combines outdoor adventure, sightseeing, community interaction and 25 to 30 hours of community service.

Adventure

At the heart of each Zeal trip is adventure. With safety always in mind, our trip leaders guide Zeal participants from place to place,

activity to activity, experience to experience. Participants gain new perspectives, skills and understandings about the world as they enjoy their best summer yet.

Community Service

At Zeal Adventure & Travel, we've built global relationships. Our campers aren't just doing trail maintenance, teaching kids English or planting native grasses. They're learning about local cultures and customs through friendships. They're eating home cooked meals together, and sharing stories.

Friendships

While Zeal trips are a chance to deepen your friendships, they're also an opportunity to gain new ones. On any given trip, you'll find yourself in a mixed group of people you know (if requested) and others you don't. Despite the normal tendency to stick with your friends, the groups quickly melt into a single team. This blending of the group comes from the nature of Zeal trips and the skilled facilitation

of our trip leaders.

Our Leaders

Our trip leaders are the best counselors from the best camps, hired for their deep knowledge of the locations we travel to, experience in our camps and direct recommendation from camp directors. Simply said, they're the best of the best.

College Admissions

College admissions teams look for well-rounded students with standout life experiences. With this high bar and overflowing competition, it's easy to understand the stress of college admissions. Zeal is a perfect pairing to this challenge. On every trip, our participants learn new skills, provide meaningful community service, and have transformative experiences that are no brainers to write about. Armed with amazing experiences of adventure, adversity, and service, those college essays will almost write themselves.

For more information, visit travelwithzeal.com.

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Camp builds self-esteem, independence

One of the many joys of parenthood is helping children navigate new waters. And although these situations are met with hesitation, slight anxiety—or in the case of some first-time campers, homesickness—it is these moments that develop the 21st century skills needed in adulthood. New situations, such as going away to camp, serve as teachers in life's classroom—developing leadership, self-esteem, teamwork, independence and problem-solving.

It's important, even critical, for parents to help children overcome any feelings of hesitation in order to help them grow. Take camp, for example. From a child's perspective, camp is fun, fun, fun! Parents know that camp provides immeasurable growth opportunities, and is a vital part of childhood. As the day approaches, even the most excited campers sometimes get nervous about being away from home.

"Homesickness is completely

normal," said Michael Thompson, consultant, author and psychologist in a recent PBS Parents article, "Helping Kids Beat Homesickness at Sleep-Away Camp." "If a child loves his or her parents and has a good home, why wouldn't he or she feel some longing for mom, for dad, for the dog, or for home cooking?"

It is up to parents to help ease the transition to camp, and to help their children grow from the experience. The American Camp Association, ACA, suggests the following advice to help alleviate anxiety and get a jump start on life's lessons.

Encourage independence throughout the year. Practice separations, such as sleepovers at a friend's house, can simulate the camp environment.

Involve children in the process of preparing for camp. The more they own the decision, the more comfortable they will feel being at camp.

- Make sure to understand the camp's philosophy on how is-

sues, such as homesickness, are addressed. Talk candidly with the camp director to understand his/her perspective on the adjustment to camp life.

- Discuss what to expect at camp before leaving for camp. Consider role-playing anticipated situations, such as using a flashlight to find the bathroom.

- Reach an agreement ahead of time on calling each other, but make sure to honor the camp's policy on phone calls. Send a note or care package ahead of time to arrive the first day of camp. Acknowledge missing the child in a positive way. For example, saying "I am going to miss you, but I know that you will have a good time at camp," lets the camper know that families are thinking about them, but confident in their ability to adapt to camp.

- Pack a personal item or two from home, such as a stuffed animal.

- Avoid bribing behaviors. Families send the wrong mes-



sage when they link a successful stay at camp to a material object. Families should focus on the real reward, like newfound confidence and independence.

- Don't plan an exit strategy. If a "rescue call" comes from the child, offer calm reassur-

ance and put the time frame into perspective.

- While most incidents of homesickness pass quickly, parents know their child best. If parents have concerns (for example, the child is not eating or sleeping, or appears overly anxious), they should immedi-

ately talk to their camp director. Camp staff are trained to identify and ease homesickness, and are a valuable resource for parents as well as campers.

For more information on preparing your child for an independent, fun-filled summer, visit ACA's family resource page at CampParents.org. Or, follow ACA on Facebook and Twitter for helpful hints and camp information.

Contact public relations at 765-349-3317 or pr@ACAcamps.org to interview an ACA spokesperson, or for more information about preparing for camp. For customizable public service announcements or article reprints, visit the media center at ACAcamps.org/media.

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Unplug and play at Rye Y Summer Camp



Rye Y camps, for youth ages 3 to 14, are led by a team of full-time professional directors and are committed summer staff who serve as professional role models to campers. The camps are accredited by the American Camp Association with low counselor-to-camper ratios. Campers choose from a variety of camps and can attend from one week to eight weeks. Camps are held at the Rye Y and the Osborn School in Rye.

Kinder Camp, for children ages 3 to 6, introduces young ones to the camp experience in a warm, supportive environment. Activities include swim lessons, crafts, music, sports and more. Half or full day options are available.

Discovery Camp, for ages 4 to 11, is a full day camp packed with swim lessons, STEM, crafts, music, performing arts, sports, field trips and special guests to keep our campers en-

gaged and excited every day. Campers gain new abilities, challenge themselves with the unexplored and learn to work with others as a team!

Sports Camp, for ages 5 to 12, has both full and half day options and is designed for sports enthusiasts who want to develop both their individual and team skills.

STEAM Camp, for children in grades two to five, is new this year. Campers will be challenged to question, explore, plan, discover, analyze and understand the world through the lenses of science, technology, engineering, art and math.

Gymnastics Camp, for ages 6 to 14. Beginner and advanced gymnasts are welcome. Drills, games and teamwork are utilized to build gymnastics skills. Full and half day options are available.

Adventure Camp, for teens completing grades six to nine, is

designed for campers who like to be on the go. Campers travel to a different great summer destination every day, including water parks, camp outs, amusement parks, baseball games and more.

Teen Fitness Camp, for ages 11 to 14, is a fun way to get fit over the summer. Participants work indoors and outdoors with certified personal trainers to achieve individual goals. Activities include swimming, sports, games, strength training, spinning, Pilates, agility training and more.

C.I.T Program, for teens who have completed grades nine and 10, is designed to challenge participants to grow as leaders both at camp and within the community.

For more information, or to register for any of the above camps, visit ryecamps.org or call 967-6363. The Rye Y offers financial assistance for families who qualify.

Camp at the Rye Nature Center

Summer Camp

Explore the outdoors with Rye Nature Center's Summer Camp. Each day is filled with science experiments, gardening, hiking, natural history lessons, and art and media projects. Built-in free time allows kids to get wet on the slip-and-slide or play our favorite game of hide and seek, "Deer and Wolf." Our middle school campers will enjoy weekly field trips and a cookout with twilight explorations.

Each week has a different theme guiding the daily activities. From dinosaurs, survival skills and forensics to garden-

ing, creepy crawlies and weather storms, this camp has something to offer for everyone. This camp is appropriate for campers entering preschool to seventh grade in the fall.

Paddle Adventure Camp

The Rye Nature Center's Paddle Adventure Camp is an incredible and unforgettable experience. Open to all levels, this camp is designed to introduce campers to the joys of kayaking. Splitting their days between kayaking and hiking, campers will build paddling skills, confidence, and an appreciation for the beautiful area where we live. Trips range from our very own

Long Island Sound to the Hudson River or Cold Spring.

This one-of-a-kind experience will allow teenagers to experience nature from a whole new angle and foster a deep connection with and appreciation for the environment. In addition to honing their kayaking skills, campers are given opportunities to develop leadership skills, team building, self-confidence, and friends and memories. This camp is appropriate for campers entering eighth, ninth, or 10th grade in the fall.

For more information on these programs, visit ryenaturecenter.org or call 967-5150.

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Top 10 things you never knew about camp

Camp has become a staple of the summer season. Each year, millions of children, youth and adults head to the hills, lakes, valleys and parks to participate in the time-honored tradition of camp. And, while most people easily conjure up images of campfires and canoes, there is a lot more to the camp experience. Here are 10 of the things you may not have known about the camp experience.

1. Camp is older than dirt. Started in 1861, the camp experience turned an impressive 150 years young in 2011. The secret behind the longevity? “Camps are constantly adapting to meet the changing needs of today’s families,” said Peg Smith, CEO for the American Camp Association, ACA. “And yet, in essentials, camp is very much the same as it was 150 years ago—kids still have authentic, life-changing experiences.”

2. Camp is worth its weight in gold, and then some! The camp experience is life-changing,

developing friendships and memories that last well beyond the final campfire. And, there is a camp for literally every budget. Often camps offer special pricing or financial assistance, and some camp experiences qualify for tax credits or for payment with pre-tax dollars. Visit CampParents.org/affording-camp for more information.

3. Green is “zen.” Research shows that firsthand experience with nature, like those at camp, reduce stress in children and help them better handle stress in the future. In addition to teaching children how to be good stewards of the environment, camps are teaching children how to enjoy the world around them and take a minute to breathe deep and feel the nature, which ultimately teaches them how to de-stress the natural way.

4. Mommies and daddies do it, too. Camp is not just for children and youth. There are

family camp experiences, and camps for single adults, senior adults, and any adult that wants to relax and enjoy all camp has to offer. Adults benefit from the same sense of community, authentic relationships, and self-discovery that children do. Camp is an excellent vacation option, allowing adults to try a variety of new activities in a safe and fun environment.

5. Try this on for size! Camp is a great place to try new activities and hobbies. Afraid of rock walls? According to ACA research, 74 percent of campers reported that they tried new activities at camp that they were afraid to do at first. And, those activities often leave lasting impressions. In the same survey, 63 percent of parents reported that their child continued new activities from camp after returning home.

6. Manners matter, and often linger. The camp experience teaches more than just archery or lanyard making. The

entire experience is made of teachable moments, perhaps one of the biggest is how to live with a group of people. Campers learn to pick up after themselves, respect each other’s property, and to say “please” and “thank you.”

7. Veggies taste better with friends. Hollywood and fictional novels may have given camp food a bad reputation, but in truth, camps are constantly exploring healthy food options, and often are at the forefront of things like allergy specific diets, healthy snack options, and vegetarian meals. According to ACA’s 2011 Emerging Issues survey, 90.7 percent of responding camps indicated that healthy eating and physical activity was an important or very important issue.

8. If everyone else went to camp, maybe there’s something to it! Camp has played an important role in the lives of some of the most talented people in history. ACA’s family resource site offers a list of notable campers, including business professionals, celebrities, artists and great thinkers.

9. Camp gets those neurons pumping! Education reform

debate and concern over summer learning loss have pushed academic achievement into the spotlight. Research shows that participation in intentional programs, like camp, during summer months helps stem summer learning loss. In addition, camp provides ample opportunity for developmental growth, which is a precursor to academic achievement. And, because of the “hands-on” nature of camp, often children who struggle in traditional education settings do well at camp.

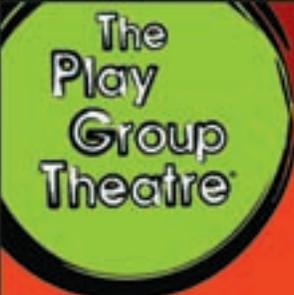
10. Camp builds leaders for the 21st century and beyond! Independence, resiliency, teamwork, problem-solving skills, and the ability to relate to other people—these are the skills that tomorrow’s leaders will need, and the skills camp has been adept at building for 150 years. “Tomorrow’s leaders will not be those who can type or text with lightning speed; they will be those who can have a face-to-face conversation and articulate their thoughts, ideas and values,” Smith said. “Tomorrow’s leaders will be able to relate globally and find common ground with people who are vastly dif-

ferent from themselves—people from different backgrounds and cultures. Tomorrow’s leaders will be made and educated by experiences like camp.”

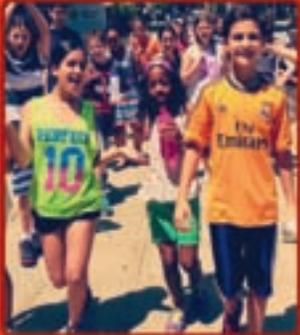
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Taking camp skills back to school

Millions of parents chose camp for their child or teen because of the immense benefits of the experience. Not only does camp foster making new friends and learning 21st century life skills like independence, problem-solving, and teamwork, but it's also fun! As the summer fades and children return to school, former ACA Chief Executive Officer Peg Smith reminds parents to pack a few extra items from camp in the school backpack:

- **Confidence:** During the camp experience, children and youth have tried new activities and been successful; they feel empowered.
- **Curiosity:** Camp has given children and youth the chance to explore, study and observe in an experiential learning environment.
- **Character:** Camp has challenged children and youth to develop character through fostering respect for each other, a sense of community and the ability to solve problems.
- **How can parents help transfer these skills into the classroom?** ACA suggests the following tips:
 - **Remember to Remind:** When campers come home, they often keep the spirit of camp alive for a week or two, and then things trail off. Use positive reinforcement to remind campers that you appreciate the positive attitude and willingness to help that they developed at camp.
 - **Become Camp-Like:** Families can set the example by demonstrating a willingness to



change something at home in order to sustain some of the changes campers have made. Bob Ditter, a clinical social worker and psychotherapist, suggests, "Parents have to make a decision. Are they willing to change something in their practice at home in order to sustain some of the changes their kids have made, such as having a job wheel that you put up on the wall outlining chores?"

- **Everyone Gets a Say:** At camp, children help determine how their day is spent. Their advice is actively sought, and they feel like equal players. Emulating this environment at home allows them to continue to stand up for themselves and feel like a contributing member of the household.

- **Avoid the Negative Compliment:** Don't inadvertently sabotage efforts by pointing out differences in behavior. Instead of saying, "You never did this before," praise the behaviors in a genuine way. For example, "I

noticed how patient you were with your little brother."

"Above all else, let your child know that what they learned at camp is going to serve them well when they go to school this fall," Smith said.

Contact public relations at 765-349-3317 or pr@ACAcamps.org to interview an ACA spokesperson or for more information about converting camp into real life. For customizable or article reprints, visit the media center at ACAcamps.org/media.

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