Opinion

EDITORIALS & LETTERS **Pages** 6 & 7

What you need to know

CANDID CAMERAS: The proliferation of surveillance and security cameras has raised privacy issues, but they can also serve as a crime deterrent and tool for solving crimes. Clarkstown Police seek to inventory them. Page 4

MENTAL HEALTH GAPS:

Rockland County Legislature is moving to close some of the critical gaps in mental health coverage, spurred on by the opioid epidemic and state requirements for aid. Page 5

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Our Town newspaper ISSN 025457. Periodical Postage rates paid at Pearl River NY 10965 and at additional mailing offices.

School budgets await voters on May 15

By Suzanne Daycock **STAFF WRITER**

Rockland County school boards have cast their votes on new spending plans for the 2018-19 school year. These budgets are now in the hands of local taxpayers, who will have the final say on spending when polls open on May 15. The last day to register for this year's school budget vote with the appropriate district clerk is Thursday, May 10.

Under state law, school boards must adopt a budget proposal and provide the state with a mandatory Property Tax Report Card in time for local residents to review those plans and seek answers to questions well in advance of the annual, statewide school budget vote each year. To facilitate that process, local school districts are required to schedule and hold a public hearing, where residents are invited to learn more about the strategies that underscore each plan and the dollars allocated to achieve established goals.

All of the school spending proposals reviewed and reported on here conform to the tax levy requirements adopted by state lawmakers in 2011, meaning that they remain within the cap established for year-to-year increases in their representative tax levies. As a result, budgets only require the support of a simple majority of voters in order to pass.

Clarkstown Central SD

CCSD, which serves the largest student population in Rockland County, held a number of budget workshops before adopting a proposed \$203,926,000 spending plan for the 2018-19 school year. The district plan represents a budget-to-budget increase of only 1.8 percent. But when a proposed \$1.8-million "safety and security" item is added to the bottom-line, the total plan represents a 2.7 perincrease over \$198,643,605 budget that voters approved for the 2017-18 school

The precise details behind the \$1.8-million proposed for safety and security have yet to be determined. The plan, however, is in direct response to the concerns raised by the rash of school violence that has occurred in recent months.

During the discussion that occurred prior to the adoption of a 2018-19 budget by the board dur-

SCHOOL BUDGETS:

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In Print & Online For Orangetown, Clarkstown, Rockland & N. Bergen

Our Town

WEDNESDAY April 25, 2018 Vol. 45, No. 26 Our 46th Year

Entire contents copyrighted

O&R seeks \$24.7 million rate hikes: Does the utility deserve to get it?

By Anne Phyllis Pinzow STAFF WRITER

In January, in order to pay for a host of improvements, refinements, changes and programs, Mike Donovan, spokesperson for Orange and Rockland said, "O&R is seeking an increase for electric delivery of \$20.3 million. The overall bill for a typical residential electric customer using a monthly average of 600 kWh would increase an average of about \$6 per month, from \$122.03 to \$128.21."

For natural gas delivery, "O&R seeks an increase in revenues of \$4.5 million. The overall bill for a typical residential natural gas customer using a monthly average of 100 Ccf would increase an average of about \$4 per month, from \$133.64 to \$137.76."

Donovan said, "The revenue increases to

fund both the electric and natural gas delivery proposals in the company's request were mitigated by the recently enacted federal tax code changes that reduced O&R's corporate income tax rate from 35 percent to 21 percent.

Lower tax rates will be reflected in bills

Our Town asked how much less (an amount, not percentage) does O&R have to pay in taxes under the tax code changes?

Donovan said, "For 2018, where the old tax rate is still being charged at 35 percent, the O&R cash tax savings is being deferred plus interest — and is being held for customers. That is estimated to be approximately \$10.4 million for electric service and \$4.6 million for gas service. For 2019, where O&R bills will reflect the new lower tax rate of 21 percent, O&R estimates that customers will realize the benefit of paying approximately \$12 million less in taxes for electric service and approximately \$6 million less in taxes for gas service. There would be no cash savings for O&R in 2019 as there was in 2018 because the new, lower tax rate is reflected on the 2019

"O&R will realize a tax savings under its current energy delivery rates from January 2018, the time the new federal corporate tax changes became effective, until January 2019 when new O&R energy delivery rates are due to go into effect. O&R will defer the federal corporate tax savings from that period as a customer benefit. The NYSPSC is expected to decide the amount, manner and timing of that customer benefit's return to customers.'

RATE HIKE: Page 8, please

Meet the top scholars at Tappan Zee HS

Tappan Zee High School has announced Jake Laddis as Valedictorian and Nicole Malpeli as Salutatorian of the Class of 2018. Jake earned his place at the top of his graduating class by excelling in the most rigorous coursework available at TZHS. He is described as an innovative problem-solver with wide-ranging interests, but is particularly drawn to politics and government.

Over the course of his TZHS career, Laddis has been involved with Model UN, TZ varsity soccer, the robotics team and, as DECA member, has qualified to compete in the International Career Development Center Conference and Competition in Atlanta next month. He is in the process of finalizing his postgraduation plans. "The multitude of opportunities students are constantly being presented with open doors," reflects Laddis. "No matter what door you choose, there's always support to back you up.

Malpeli, a three-season varsity athlete, has thrived both academically and athletically. She is described as having an outstanding work ethic and has demonstrated strong leadership in the area of community service throughout her four years at TZHS. Math and science are Malpeli's favorite subjects and she plans to major in biology at Duke University this fall. "I feel like there's a really good sense of community at Tappan Zee and everyone is there for each other," she says.



Jake Laddis and Nicole Malpeli, Valedictorian and Salutatorian at Tappan Zee High School.

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School budgets in, all meet tax cap, ready for voters on May 15

Continued from Page 1

ing its regular meeting on April 17, the board did agree that a portion of the \$1.8-million plan would include the addition of three school resource officers to the three that are already assigned to district buildings. That decision is based on a review of the district's safety response plan, which assigns SRO coverage to a

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number of zones that include all district buildings.

The objective of the new approach is to minimize the time required for an SRO to respond to an emergency that may occur in any of district building. Under the proposed plan, school and law enforcement officials estimated that an SRO would be in place to respond to a building emergency anywhere in the district in under two minutes.

The \$1.8-million plan also includes the funding necessary to add a second district security officer at each elementary building and to reinforce the security team that is currently assigned to Felix Festa Middle School. Cameras, a visitor management system and other security strategies are still under review.

Finally, the plan includes the funding necessary to pursue strategies that are intended to mitigate factors that have been shown to result in violence on school campuses. School officials are working with principals and teachers to develop specific recommendations for engaging

the personnel and resources needed to support the social and emotional needs of students.

In addition to soliciting voter support for the proposed 2018-19 school budget, the Clarkstown school board is requesting permission to establish a new capital reserve fund to replace the one that will sunset at the end of the 2018-19 school year. No additional tax dollars will be collected to fund this reserve, which is funded through budget surpluses and other cost saving measures.

A public hearing on the 2018-19 budget is scheduled to take place on Thursday, May 3 at 8:00 p.m. in the Chestnut Grove Administration Center according to the official board calendar.

Nanuet Public Schools

The Nanuet Board of Education adopted a \$73,216,050 budget for the 2018-19 school year during its regular meeting on April 10. The proposed spending plan represents only a 1.73 percent increase over the prior year's budget of \$71,967,897 and an increase in the district's tax levy of 3.9 percent, which complies with state tax cap requirements.

The proposed budget continues the progress being made with respect to an adopted set of goals established for the current school year by the board. Those goals include system-wide improvement strategies across the grades that encourage students to explore and discover their interests through projects, clubs and activities in school, at the Outdoor Education Center and in the community.

Each district building will also continue to prepare for reaccreditation by the



Cheryl Holm and her managers Tumble–Bee Gymnastics

clock

lumble—Bee Gymnastics, celebrating 32 years in the county, started in August of 1986 in Pearl River, New York, before moving to New City and settling in Nanuet, New York. Since that time, they've provided countless children with a positive gymnastic experience. Tumble Bee is more than just tumbling. They offer an education in gymnastics, fitness, and fun.

Owner Cheryl Holm is quick to

h e r w o n derful m a n a g e r s w i t h helping

BUSINESS FOCUS

her achieve Tumble –Bee's main goal. "Our goal is to have every child succeed and feel better about them selves and to have a positive learning experience. I tribute Tumble Bee's success to my wonderful, dedicated managers: Belinda Gales, Jaclyn Hautau, Marie Wood. They keep Tumble Bee and our staff running like

"Our staff is warm, caring, and trained to work with children ages 10 months - 12 years old. Since 1995, Tumble Bee has been the only gym in the area to teach the nationally recognized Fun & Fit Gymnastics curriculum, which has now been combined with a new on line Smart Moves Program. We offer classes 7 days a week and private birthday parties on the weekends. Open Gym,

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Night
Theme
Parties
throughout the
school
year.

work."

Drop N Shops, Clinics and Tumble Bee Kids Clubs during holiday breaks. Each week offers an exciting new adventure with our lesson plans, theme weeks and set-ups for the preschool programs. Tumble-Bee Gymnastics is located at 401 Market Street in Nanuet and can be reached at 845 623-2553 or tumble-beegymnastics.com

Middle States Association Commission on Elementary and Secondary Schools while students continue to develop digital portfolios that reflect their progress and interests. Security improvements and building maintenance continue to be pursued as part of the district budget, mitigating the current need for a bond or capital fund referen-

A public hearing on the 2018-19 budget is scheduled to take place on Tuesday, May 1 at 7:30 p.m. in the Media Center of Nanuet High School.

Nyack Public Schools

dum this budget season.

The Nyack school board adopted a 2018-19 spending plan totaling \$84,460,000 during its regular meeting on April 11. The plan represents a 1.65 percent budget-to-budget increase over the prior year's \$83,090,000 budget and an overall increase in the district's tax levy of 2.1 percent, which complies with the state tax cap requirement.

The district's 2018-19 spending plan includes the resources necessary to continue to enhance instruction using technology and by imple-

SCHOOL BUDGETS:

Page 3, Please





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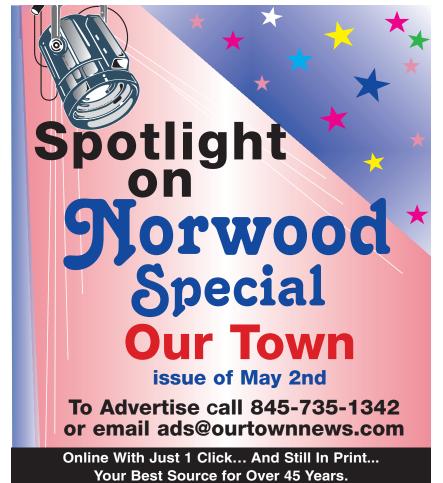
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Rockland County Executive Ed Day with Karen Ross.

Karen Ross receives Rockland Freedom Award

Story and photos by Anne Phyllis Pinzow

Karen Ross, 59 of Nanuet, a Nanuet High School graduate, was the sixth recipient of the Rockland County Freedom Award for her outstanding service to the nation. She was born in Rockland County and retired as a chief petty officer in the United States Navy after serving for 20 years.

From there she has worked for Child Care Resources of Rockland a non-profit resource and referral agency for families in Rockland County that are looking for child care. She is currently the Director of Family, Community and Operations Services. Her child care advocacy extends to working with other community organ-

izations, public school systems, and attending events to promote the agencies services to the community at large.

Ross also serves on the board of directors for Parents Helping Parents, a local non-profit organization committed to helping parents of children with drug/alcohol abuse, emotional, and other behavioral issues work through their problems.

Ross said when she graduated High School, she felt college wasn't for her and she wasn't sure what she wanted to do, so she joined the Navy in 1977 and saw the world. She was stationed in California, London, England, Virginia,

FREEDOM AWARD: Page 15, please

SCHOOL BUDGETS:

Continued from Page 2

menting network improvements. Curricula, which involve multi-year implementation plans, reinforce reading, math and social studies objectives in all grade levels, and science and engineering outcomes at the middle and high school levels.

Like CCSD, the Nyack school board's plan for the 2018-19 school year includes a \$2-million investment in security improvements. Unlike CCSD, the district will seek permission from voters to use funds from the district's 2015 capital reserve to complete these projects as well as other capital improvements that involve instructional spaces like libraries, science labs and a new approach to classroom design.

To fund the entire capital improvement plan, the board is seeking permission to increase the limit on its capital reserve fund from \$10-million to \$15-million and to extend the sunset date of that fund by two years. There will be no additional cost to taxpayers as these resources are funded with money that is saved during the prior year. A public hearing on the 2018-19 budget is scheduled to take place on Tuesday, May 1 at 7:30 p.m. in the auditorium of Nyack High School.

Pearl River School District

The Pearl River school board has adopted a \$68,078,176 spending plan for the 2018-19 school year that represents a year-to-year increase of 3.3 percent over the current year's \$65,880,252 plan. The overall tax levy will increase by 2.2 percent if the budget is approved by district residents, and it is currently estimated that this increase will increase the residential tax rate by approximately 3.9 percent pending the town tax assessor's delivery of a final report by the end of July.

Several years ago, a grant allowed the Town of

Orangetown to provide both the SOCSD and Pearl River districts with a school resource officer. A single SRO is currently subsidized by town government, who each half-time. Both districts have stepped up this year in their respective budgets to provide the funding needed, together with current town funding, engage a full-time SRO in each district, which is an investment of approximately \$50,000 on the part of each dis-

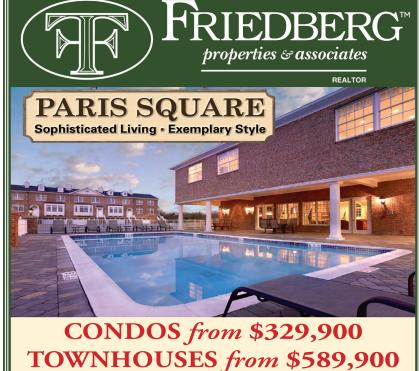
A public hearing on the 2018-19 budget is scheduled to take place on Tuesday, May 1 at 7:00 p.m. in the district administrative building, which is located at 135 West Crooked Hill Road.

South Orangetown Central School District The SOCSD Board of Education adopted a \$91,817,017 budget for the 2018-19 school year at its regular meeting on April 12. That budget reflects a 3.2 percent budget-to-budget increase over last year's \$88,966,619 plan and a 3.7 percent tax levy increase, which comports with state tax levy goals. As previously discussed with respect to the Pearl River proposal, SOCSD's 2018-19 budget includes \$50,000 that, when combined with support from the Town of Orangetown, will allow the district to engage a full-time school resource officer rather than the part-time SRO that it currently shares with Pearl River School District.

The tax levy increase remains within the cap as a result of the rising consumer price index and district-specific capital exclusions, which reflect a year-over-year change in capital spending. The levy increase does not include spending from capital reserves or fund balance, which are not part of the calculation.

In addition to the 2018-19 budget proposal, district residents will be asked to vote on a proposition that will allow school officials to renew a lease it currently holds with Dominican College for use of the former Orangeburg Elementary School. That proposition, if passed, will authorize the Board of Education to enter into lease agreements for up to 50 years in 10-year intervals.

Superintendent Dr. Robert Pritchard and Administrator of Business Sandra Winkler presented the board's adopted budget during a joint meeting of the district's elementary and middle school PTAs on April 24. That session will be followed by a public budget hearing on Thursday, May 3 at 7:30 p.m. in the library of South Orangetown Middle School. Community members may ask questions regarding the both the budget and Dominican lease proposition at that meeting.



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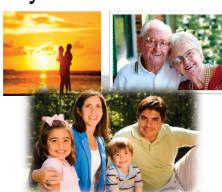
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Perpetrators won't smile on C'town candid cameras

By Anne Phyllis Pinzow
STAFF WRITER

Clarkstown has joined the Rockland County Sheriff's Department compiling a surveillance camera inventory owned by any property owner, commercial or residential who wishes to volunteer their surveillance camera footage to aid in the investigation of a crime.

Sheriff Lou Falco said knowing where there are surveillance cameras can save police officers time during an investigation as they don't have to go from house to store to office building to check if the owner might have a surveillance camera pointing in the direction of a crime and if the owner would allow the police to use the footage.

Sergeant Peter Walker who serves as the police department's public information officer said that Clarkstown is also in the process of establishing a surveillance camera registry. "So far we have 25 businesses and residents that have signed up for the program. We're relatively happy with the responses so far but clearly we would like to get many more participants." He

was thankful that a few media outlets were spreading the word about the voluntary registry program.

Surveillance cameras are everywhere and there are few if any restrictions concerning their placement (except in New York, employers are prohibited from causing a video recording to be made of employees in a restroom, locker room, or room designated by an employer for employees to change their clothes, unless authorized by court order. Ref. N.Y. Labor Law section 203-c(1)).

Quantity unknown

There is no way to tell how many surveillance cameras are in Clarkstown, though one report stated there were 70 on Main Street in New City, but in New York City there are 6,000 street cameras, two thirds of them privately owned. In public housing there are 7,000 cameras and 4,313 cameras throughout the New York City subway system and it is possible to track a car through the streets with traffic cams.

In Rockland County, there are

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Security cameras, also known as surveillance cameras, have proliferated in Clarkstown and elsewhere in Rockland. While some citizens see them as an invasion of privacy, Clarkstown police and the Rockland County Sheriff see their potential in deterring and fighting crime.

surveillance cameras in banks, many stores, gas stations, in the malls and in government buildings, houses of worship and in the hallways of some apartment houses.

Orangetown tries to regulate placement

While the proliferation continues, Orangetown has been working on a law regulating the placement of security cameras on utility and telephone poles as follows, "No Non-Utility Devices- Security Camera shall be erected, maintained, installed or otherwise placed or kept in place on any utility pole or in any public right-of-way and easement areas unless said placement and maintenance is at the written direction of the Town of Orangetown Police Department for public security purposes.

Without such written direction from the Town of Orangetown Police Department, anyone who installed, places, maintains or otherwise causes such security camera to be so placed shall be guilty of a misdemeanor subject to imprisonment or up to one year and a fine of not more than \$50,000." The law does not extend to installation of a security/surveillance camera on private property and installed on a privately-owned structure.

County restricts drone intrusion

In 2015, with the fear of invasion of privacy, among others, Rockland County passed the "Ensuring Privacy from Drones Act," a law prohibiting the flying of drones anywhere except on a person's own private property, another person's

a person's own private p private property with the permission of an owner of the property and public property, other than public parks, only with the written permission of the controlling municipality or agency. A public park in Haverstraw and the landfill in Clarkstown have hosted drone clubs for decades with the towns' permission

the towns' permission. Last year, Clarkstown **CPD** Captain Anthony Ovchinnikoff, who has since retired, spoke briefly of the inprocess program, started in 2016, to use drones with cameras for police work. He said he had read about it in a magazine from the New York State Department Criminal Justice Services. "I started researching it and felt it was something we should pursue."

The types of drones Clarkstown has been looking into are equipped with a regular camera as well as one with heat sensing night vision capabilities which may only be used in certain specific instances.

Drones no substitute

But drones won't record a criminal in the act of breaking the law such as what might be recorded by a home owner's or business' security/surveillance camera and those are the cameras that the Clarkstown police want to know about.

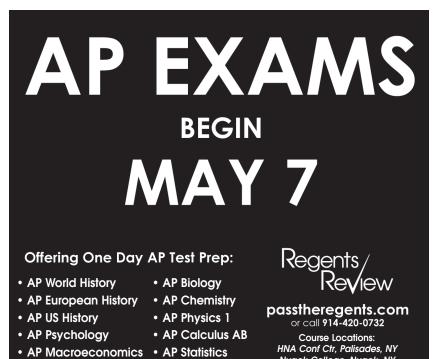
Walker said that while most residences don't have surveillance camera, "what we're seeing more of is that little video doorbell camera," which starts recording whoever is standing by the front door as soon as the doorbell button is pressed.

Walker said in order to register, people can go onto the Town of Clarkstown website, click on the police shield which goes to the police website. From there one can navigate to the surveillance camera registration, a four-page online form asking for an email address, street address and hamlet, where the cameras are located, home or business, phone number.

Image quality improves

Trying to identify anyone with an image from many of the business surveillance cameras can be difficult, but Walker said that these have greatly improved in the past few years. "Just look at your cell phone," if it has a camera, and compare what could be captured to images captured now. He said last month an image taken

CAMERAS: Page 20, please







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County moves to close the gaps in mental health care

By Anne Phyllis Pinzow **STAFF WRITER**

The Rockland County Legislature last week confirmed the appointment of nine individuals to the Rockland County Community Services Board Chemical Dependency Subcommittee:

Judy Rosenthal of White Plains, Executive Director of Fiscal & Program Operations at the Rockland County District Attorney's Office

Sheila Magee of Suffern, Interim Director of Behavioral Health at Good Samaritan Hospital

Juliet Stiebeck of Orangeburg, CASAC (Credentialed Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Counselor), a substance abuse counselor in Valley Cottage

Ruth Bowles of Warwick, Executive Director Rockland County Addiction, Drug Dependence

Peter T. Noonan of Nanuet, Accident Reconstruction Consultant, retired Chief of Police of the Clarkstown Police Department,

Christina Murphy of Port Jervis, Director of the Russel E. Blaisdell Addiction Treatment

Aron Reiner of Spring Valley, Executive Director at Bikur Cholim

Marion Breland of Nyack, Coordinator of Behavioral Health Implementation County of Rockland

Derwin Manigault of Pomona, Program Director Samaritan DAYTOP Village Inc.

The event went mostly unnoticed as it was a reinvigoration of a group whose members had dropped away as it had not met in decades, just when the need for such a group was growing.

According to an October article in the Journal of American Medical Association (JAMA) by doctors Andrew Kolodny and Thomas R. Frieden, "The United States is in the midst of the worst drug addiction epidemic in its history. Prescriptions for and deaths from opioids both quadrupled between 1995 and 2010. By 2015, an estimated 92 million individuals in the United States were prescribed an opioid and there were more than 33,000 deaths from an opioidinvolved overdose.'

Learning of this, President Donald Trump, urged by the Commission on Combating Drug Addiction and the Opioid Crisis declared this "a national emergency under either the Public Health Service Act or the Stafford Act."

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention the epidemic is only getting worse. In New York the drug overdose mortality rate in 1999 was 959. In 2016, in less than 20 years it jumped to 3,638, almost 400 percent.

In Rockland County, according to the New York State Department of Health, Rockland County's death toll from opioid overdose rose from 27 in 2015 to 37 deaths in 2016.

County Executive Ed Day told Our Town, "The scourge of opioid addiction and chemical dependency is something that affects every community in Rockland County. I have been focused on this issue since taking office and the appointment of our Chemical Dependency Subcommittee is a step in the right direction to combatting the current crisis. This subcommittee will help ensure our residents have access to the services and care that they need."

It was in 2014 that Day tasked the Rockland County Community Services Board to address behavior health in Rockland County and in 2015 that the Rockland County Executive's Community Behavior Health Commission Report was issued.

It stated that since 2001, "Tremendous strain was being placed on communities. With this also came a widespread epidemic of chemical dependence to prescription drugs and myriad other substances, as well as a resurgence of heroin use."

Based on the report, the group's mission has become more vital than when it was created in 1983 along with several other subcommittees of the Community Services Board; mental health, developmental disabilities and alcoholism, or, at the discretion of the local government, alcoholism and substance abuse. "To improve the lives of all residents of Rockland County, including some of our most vulnerable citizens," specifically to the different subcommittees, to inform the local planning process.

The subcommittee's job is to work with the Rockland County Department of Mental Health to take its part in these areas:

- Care provision/ expansion
- Care integration
- Define the role of the local government unit/ government departments in these efforts
- Advocate for regulatory changes (have local addiction treatment centers expand their admission criteria to include patients who meet the admission criteria but have been denied by their insurance compa-
- Expand service access
- Advocate for funding for special populations needs.

Required for aid

Rockland County Legislator Harriet Cornell told Our Town that the subcommittee was also being given a new life because, the "Community Service Board and a number of other boards need to be created and maintained as a condition for eligibility for state aid. Additionally, because they include experts and local residents with an interest in the field, local wants and needs have a platform for expression and

Though at this writing, the subcommittee had not yet met, member and Rockland County employee Marion Breland said she could talk about the why and the what of the group.

She said though dormant for a long time, the committee's job was to participate in the county's planning process for behavioral health since it 1986, the first year the county had a county execu-

Breland said Rockland County used to have a unified service enhanced state funding formula along with four other counties which meant "we'd get better reimbursement from the State (New York State Office of Mental Health) because we had a local planning process for what was then called mental hygiene but refers to mental health, chemical dependency and intellectual developmental disabilities. She said this was one of the recommendations in the county study, "because you want more community input into the local planning process. You want there to be an integrated local planning process." She said providers should not be sitting in a room deciding what the public needs without asking the public.

She said under the state agency there were workgroups made up of providers and provider groups, made up of people who work in the field. "You are required as a provider to come, meet with your colleagues monthly and the

Department of Mental Health and work out a

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 25, 2018, OUR TOWN....5

MENTAL HEALTH CARE: Page 7, please



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OPINION

Our Town welcomes submissions for our Opinion pages. Please mail, fax or email your letter or comment. Submissions reflect the opinions of the writers and do not necessarily reflect those of this newspaper.

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From roots to rockets

HE President of the United States is granted extraordinary power to pardon those individuals convicted of federal crimes – extending to otherwise clueless turkeys whose only crime was being invited to dinner at the White House.

In his brief term of office, President Trump has issued three pardons, while holding out the possibility of granting more as the Mueller probe widens and deepens. The three miscreants receiving pardons so far are Joseph M. Arpaio, the proudly racist, antimmigrant sheriff from Arizona; Kristian Mark Sauder, convicted of retaining classified security information; and, "Scooter" Libby convicted of perjury and obstruction of justice. Trump has three more years in the White House, so more turkeys may earn pardons.

The Libby pardon may provide some measure of aid and comfort to those squirming under the Mueller probe, about to be indicted or already pleading guilty. The pardons already granted may have had political implications; those waiting in the wings will definitely have them.

However, President Trump is being asked to consider another, most unusual pardon, of a man convicted May 13, 1913 on two counts of violating the Mann Act, 36 Stat. 825 (1910), 18 U.S.C. § 2421.

The Mann Act outlawed the manufacturing, sale, and transportation of intoxicating liquors and prohibited interstate and international transportation of women for immoral purposes. The Mann Act reflected growing sentiment that government could improve behavior by restricting it in terms of the narrow and puritanical mores of 105 years ago. Revised twice, the Mann Act remains on the books, and was used to prosecute such prominent figures as Frank Lloyd Wright, Charlie Chaplain and Chuck Berry. Prohibition was in a sense a reincarnation of that popular belief that legislators' version of morality could be enforced through law and public policy.

F President Trump grants the pardon, the act will come much too late to benefit the man who spent a year and a day in Leavenworth and fined \$1,000 after his conviction. John Arthur "Jack" Johnson died in 1946 and is buried in Graceland Cemetery, Chicago. What makes the petition for pardon unique is that Johnson stands in the boxing record books as the first African-American to win and hold the World Heavyweight







JACK JOHNSON'S FIGHTS WERE MORE THAN JUST VICTORIES FOR HIM-THEY OPENED THE DOOR FOR FUTURE VICTORIES

Championship.

Legal experts are convinced his trial and conviction on Mann Act charges were contrived. His real crime, according to the pardon petition, was challenging racial barriers and taboos. He flaunted his success and his defiance of bigotry. He lived by an ethos – "I am not a slave," "I act in my relations with people of other races as if prejudice did not exist." That attitude, expressed by a black man, stoked the fears and prejudices of many Americans in the early 20th century. Also inflaming racial fears and prejudices was the fact that Johnson was married four times –all his wives were white.

N That period, black athletes did not compete against whites, especially in boxing, which was an extremely popular sport. The idea that a black fighter could win against a white opponent threatened deeply held racial prejudices and stereotypes. It also aroused fears that African-Americans would gloat over such a victory and feel empowered.

Johnson won his world title in Australia against Canadian Tommy Burns.

Johnson was born in Galveston, Texas in 1878, where still a teenager; he earned respect as a disciplined and determined fighter. The Texas legislature attempted to redress

the injustice meted out to Johnson. On April 2, 2001, the Texas State Senate passed Resolution No. 620 declaring that the prosecution and conviction of Jack Johnson had resulted from a "contrived charge" and was a product of the political and racial tensions of his time. The Texas House of Representatives adopted a similar resolution, and March 31, 2001 was declared Jack Johnson Day in the State of Texas.

Adding legitimacy and urgency to this posthumous pardon petition is the reality that racial laws were not unusual in the various states

The Oregon black exclusion laws were attempts to prevent black people from settling within the borders of the settlement and eventual state of Oregon. The first such law took effect in 1844, when the Provisional Government of Oregon voted to exclude all black settlers from Oregon's borders. The law authorized a punishment for any black settler remaining in the territory to be whipped with "not less than 20 nor more than 39 stripes" for every six months they remained. Additional laws aimed at African Americans entering Oregon were ratified in 1849 and 1857. The last of these laws was repealed in 1926.

A racist law upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court was the Withdraw Car Act was passed by the Louisiana State Legislature in 1890 which required "equal, but separate" train car accommodations for blacks and whites. An unsuccessful challenge to this law culminated in an 1896 United States Supreme Court decision, Plessey v. Ferguson, which upheld the constitutionality of state laws requiring racial segregation. Homer Plessey, born a free man, was a mixed-race resident of New Orleans. In that state's racial hierarchy he was classified as "colored," so when he bought a ticket on the East Louisiana Railroad and boarded the "white" car, he was ordered to leave. He was arrested when he refused. The incident was contrived in order to test the law; the Supreme Court decision upholding it stands as one of the worst in the court's history.

A n entire body of laws, aimed at segregating African-Americans and other racial minorities, suppressing their civil rights and perpetuating their status as sec-

ond-class citizens served as a model for Hitler's racial laws in the 1930s. It was codified racism. A delegation of German lawyers sailed to the U.S. on a study tour and was particularly impressed by U.S. legislation, which went beyond segregation to include rules governing American Indians, citizenship criteria for Filipinos and Puerto Ricans as well as African Americans, immigration regulations, and prohibitions against miscegenation in some 30 states. An article in the Atlantic by Irving Katznelson, November 2017, observed, "no other country, not even South Africa, possessed a comparably developed set of relevant laws."

The Supreme Court evinced a change of heart and policy in the 1967 Loving versus Virginia case. Mildred Loving, a mixed-race woman and Richard Loving, a white man, had been each sentenced to a year in prison for violating the state's "Racial Integrity Act of 1924," which prohibited the marriage of anyone designated as "colored" to anyone designated as "white." The unanimous decision effectively ended miscegenation laws in the United States. June 12, the day the decision was handed down, is celebrated as Loving Day.

A s hard as he fought for racial equality, it was Jim Crow that killed Johnson, just as institutionalized racism killed many African-Americans. Angrily racing from a diner that would not serve him in North Carolina, he was involved in a car crash June 10, 1946 on US 1. There was a segregated hospital nearby in Franklinton, but Johnson was taken instead to the only hospital that would admit African-Americans, in Raleigh, some distance away. He died at age 68.

Several administrations considered a pardon for Johnson, including George W. Bush and Barack Obama but took no action. In a Tweet (what else?) President Trump, at the urging of Sylvester Stallone, says he is considering granting a full pardon. This posthumous pardon cannot rectify the injustices of history, anymore than removing or relocating statues can erase wrongful actions of the past, taken in the context of a different epoch and milieu. Both, however, can serve as acts of explanation, interpretation, contrition and recognition, all of which would be meaningful, instructive and highly appropriate. \square

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Cooperative Extension: Relevant and ready

To the editor:

All of us at Extension were thrilled to see an entire page devoted to recognition of our one hundred year anniversary in your April 18 edition. Thank you for your comprehensive editorial and clever cartoon.

It was a visionary idea a hundred years ago to develop the link between the land grant college system and residents. That was especially significant when so few had the wherewithal to attend college.

The link remains important today, given the speed at which technology continues to transform our lives. Fortunately for us in New York State, this concept was strengthened by creating associations in every county, making it easier to reach residents.

We invite your readers to visit our website (www.rocklandcce.org) to see our continually changing programs and events. There they can read about our "Small Steps, Big Benefits" environmental morning to be held on June 9 at Casey Hall at Dominican College. This event will help residents make their own environment more sustainable, save a little money and reduce their carbon footprint.

Again, our sincere appreciation for helping to spread the word about CCE Rockland.

Suzanne Barclay Executive Director Cornell Cooperative Extension

MENTAL HEALTH GAPS:

Continued from Page 5

local services plan together, look at gaps in services, bring any ideas for new programs or if a program's closing you're supposed to evaluate the needs and whether or not that's an okay thing. You come together to discuss everything that's related to that field as providers." She said this has been going on since it was initiated.

But subcommittees of the workgroups were supposed to take a bunch of providers, mixed with consumers, people who are family members of those affected by whatever the issue is and members of the public who are interested. This mix of people, Breland said, was supposed to be advisory to the Community Services Board.

"The Community Services Board takes all three of those behavioral health areas and takes consumers, providers and interested members of the public that represent all three to make decisions about the overall behavioral health needs in Rockland County."

Breland said that before there was an executive form of government in Rockland County, the Community Services Board was policy making. The board would make decisions and the county legislature would approve (or disapprove) those decisions about funding, about the budgets of the department of mental health, about programs closing, opening, they would develop and approve a local service plan every single year.

"Once we had an executive form of government, the Community Services Board became advisory to the county executive and that's the role of the Community Services Board today."

She said for the last 20 years or more the role of that local input has gotten smaller and smaller, especially the input from the public, "was not what it could be and not what it should be."

She said for a while the Community Services Board was only meeting quarterly and, in some cases, the Chemical Dependency subcommittee didn't meet at all. In some cases, workgroups and subcommittees were combined.

"That might sound okay in theory but the fact is you have a workgroup that meets 9 or 9:30 in the morning on a weekday morning, most members of the public aren't available then." She said that eliminated the ability for parents with children in need to have the opportunity to take part in the process. This was another reason that the participation of the public dwindled.

Breland said, with a plan a mission to include more public input and public participation in planning, "I think that's why the subcommittees are being revitalized."

She said Chemical Dependency Subcommittee won't be meeting at 9 in the morning. "We're going to take the mission seriously of getting community input. That's what you want, that's the point of it."

OPINION

PAGE

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 25, 2018

Letters are welcome

- All letters must signed with a verifiable name, address and telephone number.
- We only print the writer's name and town.
- Writers state their own opinions which are not necessarily those of this newspaper.

Email to: news@ourtownnews.com

Thanking a veteran

To the editor:

The members of American Legion Post #329 would like to thank the Rockland County AOH and the St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee for recognizing and honoring all the Korean War Veterans and for choosing Francis Duffy, retired USMC and Iwo Jima survivor, as Parade Commander for the 2018 Rockland County St. Patrick's Day Parade.

It is extremely important to honor all veterans, especially war time veterans, for their sacrifices to ensure our freedom.

It is equally important to bestow this gratitude towards these veterans in a manner such as a parade, where many of our community children are watching. It is imperative that our community and our children are reminded of what these men and women have done, and continue to do today. Thank you and God Bless America.

Thomas Lynch, Commander, American Legion Post #329 Daniel Davin, Adjutant, American Legion Post #329



Francis Duffy, St. Patrick's Parade Commander

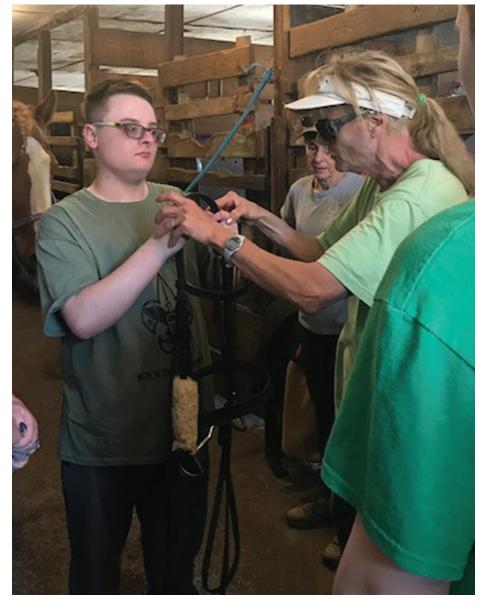
Some special training in horsemanship

Special Education Boy Scouts got some hands-on experience with horses at Silver Rock Farm where owner Laura Mason gathered volunteers that included a scout working on his Eagle project and another teenager working on her bat mitzvah project and who came out to help assisted by some hard-working stable employees.

The scouts included Joseph, Jacob, James, Steven, and Evan, Scout leader Emily Stuercke and about 4-five other BOCES/ Kaplan teachers and staff who helped the scouts work on their horsemanship badge. Mason led the boys to the tack room to gather supplies, she taught them all how they clean hooves with a hoof pick, and how they brush horses clean. Then they learned how to put the pads and English saddle and gently attach a girth so that Candy the horse would like it, then put reins on the horse, and how to hold the reins (as you would hold an ice cream cone!). Then each Scout learned how to get on the horse on the left hand side, they rode around the ring, and learned to dismount on the left hand side. After the ride. everybody toured the barn and met all the horses.

RIGHT: Laura Mason demonstrates horse reins to Joseph.

BELOW: Everyone prepares for their chance to mount and ride.





O&R seeks rate hike; federal tax cut may benefit ratepayers

Continued from Page 1

Richard Berkley of the New York Utility Project, a not-for-profit law firm advocating for people on low and fixed incomes said that Governor Andrew Cuomo announced in January that companies are being required to return their tax savings to the rate payer.

Our Town: What form is the customer benefit that O&R will defer when the federal corporate tax savings goes into effect.

Donovan: The new tax rate is in effect now but O&R is still collecting under the old rate until the end of O&R's rate year on Dec. 31, 2018. Then, O&R will collect the taxes under the new rate. O&R is deferring the tax savings in cash for 2018 to an interest-bearing account. It will remain there until the NYSPSC decides how, when and in what form the benefit will be returned to cus-

tomers. The money goes to the customers.

"Although today's filings are for one-year rate agreements for both electric and natural gas delivery service, O&R is open to explore multi-year rate plans in discussion with the NYSPSC's Department of Public Service staff and other stakeholders. Multi-year rate plans benefit customers by providing certainty about the level of the company's delivery rates over a number of years."

Corporate tax windfall

Berkley said, "Washington created a tax cut that was an enormous windfall for corporate America." He said private corporations put a lot of money into the pockets of their executives as a result of the tax cut. But utilities, when they pay their corporate taxes, they're doing it with ratepayer money so

when the tax rate was reduced they had to lower the amount of money they're asking for from their customers. "Orange and Rockland has already done that. The lowered the increase by the amount of taxes they had to pay to the feds."

Berkley said there is another part of the tax issue and that is the amount of money that utilities collect from ratepayers on capital items (such as trucks, infrastructure) which are used to earn income. The utility amortizes the equipment and saves the money collected for future taxes over the amortized life. "Bottom line is they are just short the \$5 billion in what is called deferred taxes...The wait for the future taxes has been reduced in the same way that their effective tax rate now."

PSC considers issue

There is a proceeding before the PSC now (17M0815) which will determine how, how much and how

quickly the utilities will return that money back to the ratepayers. Berkley said, "it is entirely likely that the money will come back to the ratepayers as a sur-credit." which is essentially similar to the property tax checks people get when the municipality tax levy increase is under the declared tax levy cap.

Revises low-income assistance

Also featured in O&R's rate proposal is a revised low-income assistance program. The New Bill Discount Program aligns with statewide mandates that electric and gas utility companies provide low-income bill discounts. Those discounts are designed to achieve a target energy burden (i.e., the percentage of a household's income that is spent on energy) of six percent of monthly low-income household income. To achieve that goal, O&R's rate proposal includes funding for low-income credits of approximately \$9.9 million for electric and \$3.6 million for natural gas.

"The New Bill Discount program became effective on January 1, 2018, about the same time as the start of the 2017-2018 Home Energy Assistance Program ("HEAP") season. All customers currently receiving HEAP assistance to pay their bills for their Orange and Rockland electric and/or gas services, or other fuel services (e.g., oil, propane, or wood), are now eligible for the New Bill Discount Program and will be enrolled by the company in the same manner customers customarily have been enrolled.

For customers with more profound billpayment issues, O&R's Neighbor Fund provides critical home-heating assistance for those O&R customers who find themselves unable to pay their home heating fuel bills because of emergency financial conditions.

The Neighbor Fund provides a one-time grant for electric customers of \$250 and for heating fuel customers of \$250.

Grants from The Neighbor Fund are

awarded to pay for home energy costs no matter what type of fuel is used —electricity, oil, natural gas, propane, wood or coal. The grant money does not have to be repaid, and there are no age limits or income guidelines to be met.

To qualify for The Neighbor Fund grant, individuals must have an account with O&R and must already exhaust all governmental resources available for financial assistance. They must also provide supporting documentation of emergency/crisis circumstances (medical bills, unemployment notification, etc.)

The Salvation Army administers The Neighbor Fund program, evaluates Neighbor Fund applications and makes the grants.

Our Town asked how much money and to how many qualified ratepayers was assistance given in 2016 and 2017.

Donovan said in 2016, \$21,650.71 was granted to 61 customers and in 2017 \$5,895.41 was granted to 18 customers.

Berkley commenting on low-income programs said that having customers continue to pay their bills any company avoids accruing large uncollectible debts that the company has to write off which leads to increased charges for all ratepayers.

Increases dedicated to improvements

The proposed increases compare in size to the amount of improvements needed in the power infrastructure considering the deaths, the destruction and the weeks without power in the last few years due to electric poles dropping like pick-up sticks from high winds and wacky weather. Residents would probably not be surprised to learn that the major portion of the United States power grid especially the part in New York, transmitting what drives our electric civilization, is more than 100 years old. Many of the pipes that carry natural gas in the United States are older.

Meanwhile, the stresses that have been put on that power grid have increased at the same rate as the need for electricity and natural gas, the latter accounting for 30% of energy in the U.S.

Our Town asked Donovan, a series of questions which were also asked of Berkley. Some questions were answered by both, some only answered by one.

The first question had to do with where the increase is going.

Berkley said, that there is very little difference between the energy grid in 2010 and the energy grid when it was first created," about 100 years ago. He said that the grid, by and large, operates the same way now as then.

Donovan said, "O&R's request reflects the fundamental transformation electric and gas energy companies, particularly in New York State, are undergoing to build a cleaner, more resilient and affordable grid. The era of the power grid with centralized generation and one-way electric flow is transitioning to a more complex, interactive electric grid."

Berkley said, "On a statewide basis there has been an administrative proceeding of the Public Service Commission called, 'Reforming the Energy Vision.' It's in its third and a half year." He said every utility has been encouraged... to reimagine and reorganize the way that it does its distribution of energy. He said the goal is to create what energy companies call the 'transactive grid.'

What it does is allow electricity to flow both ways, from a centralized power plant to the consumers and from other sources of electricity (solar panels, micro hydro, wind, methane digesters, geothermal, gas generator, battery) back to the electric company thus providing more electricity, at a theoretical lower price, through the electric grid. This is also going to change the way billing as well as auditing of electric usage is done.

"What Orange and Rockland is saying is that the state is requiring us to change the way we do business and that's going to cost us more money," said Berkley. "While it's entirely possible in some point in the future that the changes that are being required of all of the utilities (Con Edison, the owner of O&R is in the lead of the world of making

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AOH scholarships

John Cardinal D'Alton Division 3 of the Ancient Order of Hibernians held its annual Communion Breakfast at the Church of St. Margaret in Pearl River on Sunday, April 22.

Ten student scholarship winners were honored by the pastor, Rev. Eric P. Raaser at the mass. Following, the honorees were presented their awards at the breakfast held at Hibernian House. To be awarded a scholarship the applicants were reviewed on their academic community and Irish cultural activities along with their performance on a competitive examination on Irish history.

Front Row (I-r): Dermot Moore, Div. 3 AOH President, students Ciaran Green, Elizabeth Gilbride, Olivia Toal and John McGowan, Rockland County AOH President.

Back Row (I-r): Committee persons, Eddie O'Dea and Neil Cosgrove, students Christina Henehan, Sean O'Neil, Noel Heffernan, Martin Duffy, Patrick Sammon

Not in photograph Daniel Peterson and Kieran Scanlon).

Photo by Bob Reers





House



Farm to table-try homegrown

If you've eaten out recently, you've probably noticed the menus feature locally sourced ingredients. The farm-to-table movement continues to flourish at restaurants throughout the country.

In fact, rather than the exception, it's become the expectation. According to the National Restaurant Association, farm-totable is quickly becoming the new norm. Diners are so attracted to the freshest fare possible, it's inspiring some restaurants to start their own gardens, on a rooftop, terrace or simple outdoor plot. Hyper-local culinary concepts like these represent the top trend on the annual "2018 Culinary Forecast" report.

You can take a cue from this hot trend by starting your own farm-to-table concept garden at home. Just imagine plucking ruby red tomatoes and rich green basil straight from your garden to make a farmfresh, scrumptious caprese salad without ever leaving home. An at-home take on the farm-to-table trend can easily be translated to a convenient "garden-to-table" concept in your own backyard. Growing your own at home will elevate your cooking and you'll feel good about being able to produce your own food while lowering your grocery bill (and certainly save by not dining out as much).

No matter the size of your garden space, you can grow fresh foods that are readily available right at your fingertips, even if you just have a small patio or balcony. What's more, some of the most popular produce to eat is also easy to grow.

Here are some easy-to-grow, space-saving suggestions to encourage a garden-totable trend at home.

Caged tomatoes

Whether you choose big, juicy slicers or sweet cherry-sized snackers, caged tomatoes are easy to grow and offer endless cooking opportunities. Determinate varieties of tomatoes are container favorites because the vines are relatively compact yet bear a productive harvest. Or create your own container garden using tomato varieties especially bred for small spaces.

Caged peppers

Try popular and versatile Green Bell, a heavy yielder of large fruits and a good allround pepper for slicing and stuffing. Or, spice up your recipes with jalape ±o chile peppers, which yield a bountiful harvest.

Strawberries in hanging baskets

Sweet, juicy strawberries add loads of flavor to salads, dressings, drinks and desserts. Think you need a plot to grow a productive strawberry patch? Think again. Maximize space with Bonnie Plants'

strawberries in hanging baskets, which are everbearing and produce cascades of berries throughout the grow-



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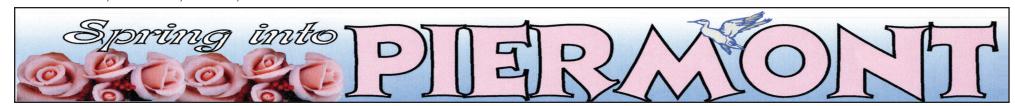






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America built railroads; railroads built Piermont

By Suzanne Daycock

STAFF WRITER

An honest assessment of history must conclude that mankind's most impressive accomplishments frequently come at whims of fate. For example, was it the superior intellect of Sir Isaac Newton that caused him to choose the shade of an apple tree ripe with fruit as a resting place or the navigational prowess of Christopher Columbus that caused him to stumble upon a speck in the vast emptiness of the Caribbean Sea?

Mrs. Henry I. Pierson was the newlyminted daughter-in-law of wealthy Ramapo industrialist Jeremiah Pierson and sister-in-law to Piermont's Eleazer Lord when she arrived in Charleston, South Carolina on her wedding trip. The city was buzzing with excitement as the couple took possession of a hotel wedding suite and the Piersons would soon learn why.

A steam locomotive was scheduled to make its first trip from Charleston to Hamburg on January 15, 1831. It would mark the first time that a steam locomotive hauling passengers would travel from one city to another in the Western Hemisphere and the new Mrs. Pierson was determined to be on it.

"The first bride who ever made a honeymoon trip on a railroad in America did more by that act to expedite the building of the world's first [railroad] trunk line than the ablest statesmen, engineers and financiers of the Empire State," remarked Charles Frederick

Carter in his 1909 treatise, When Railroads Were New.

"Indeed, it is within bounds to go much further than this and say that the inspiration drawn from this bride's delight over a novel ride pushed the hands of progress ahead ten years on the dial of history."

It had been nearly two decades since England's George Stephenson – a former cow-herder educated as an adult in night school - had designed and built the world's first steam-driven locomotive. He had tested the new contraption for the first time on July 25, 1814 on rails used to pull coal from a mine under the power of men or mules.

As he planned his test route, Stephenson deliberately chose a track

that trekked uphill at a distance of 450 feet. That day the new steam-powered engine hauled eight loaded coal wagons with a total estimated weight of 30 tons up the iron track at a speed of four miles per hour.

In moments, the world was changed forever. Not only did the steam-powered locomotive move an unprecedented weight of coal along the track, it soon was considered to be the most successful working steam engine that had ever been constructed, encouraging its inventor to experiment further to perfect its design. Stephenson built sixteen different engines in all, using parts that had to be manufactured and assembled by

George Stephenson designed the world's first public railway, beginning with the Stockton and Darlington "road" in 1825. That endeavor was followed five years later by the Liverpool-Manchester line in 1830. Stephenson was the chief engineer for both.

The six-mile journey along the Charleston-Hamburg line in January 1831 marked the first time a regular train was scheduled to carry passengers from one point to another in the United States. The nation's first successful steam locomotive had made a shorter, trial run just 18 months before as a simple test-run of the engine itself.

"She was eager to take the ride and her husband, like a dutiful bridegroom, agreed," Carter shares of Mrs. Pierson's new passion. "The two cars were crazy contraptions on four wheels, resembling stagecoach bodies as much as they did anything else.

Henry Pierson managed to procure two seats on the inaugural journey, which he delivered to a gleeful bride. They arrived early that day to attempt to ensure that Mrs. Pierson procured a seat by a window.

"The train contrived to get over the entire system of six miles and back again at a fairly satisfactory speed," Carter states. "All the passengers were highly pleased with their strange experience. The bride was in a transport of delight."

And, eventually returning to her home in Ramapo, she could speak of nothing else.

"She gave her brother-in-law, Eleazer Lord, and her father-in-law, Jeremiah Pierson, such glowing accounts of her railroad trip that they were fired with enthusiasm," Carter proclaims. "The bridegroom had already become almost as ardent an advocate of railroads as his bride."

Jeremiah Pierson was one of the nation's first captains of industry, having operated milling and manufacturing facilities along the Ramapo River between Sloatsburg and Hillburn since shortly after his arrival there in 1795. At the time, Eleazer Lord was a leading New York City merchant and financier.

The bride's enthusiasm, with the supporting

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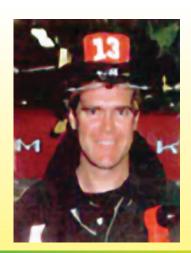
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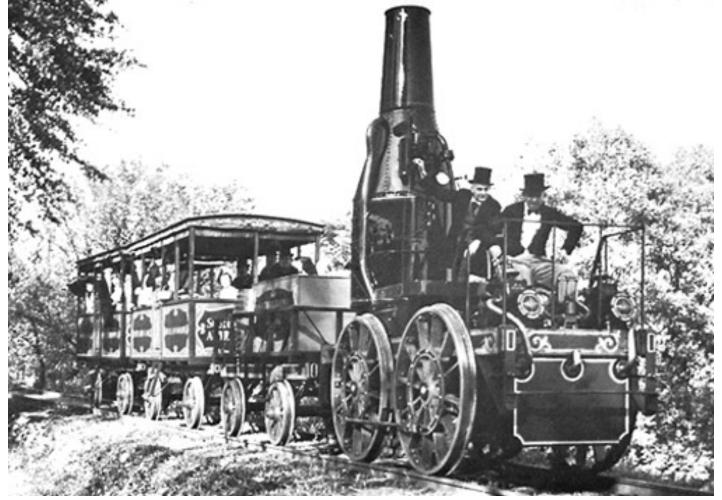


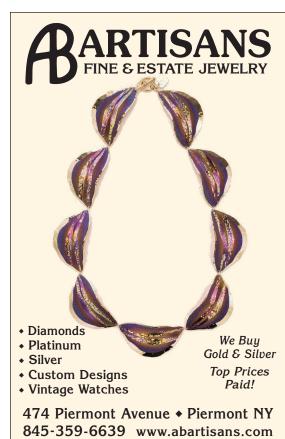
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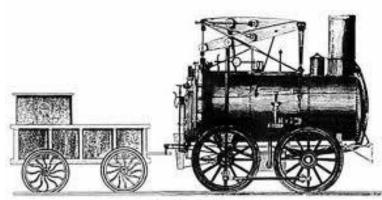
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The Stourbridge Lion

ABOVE: Best Fried of Charleston, the train that fired the imagination Pierson and Lord and inspired the Erie Railroad.

LEFT: The Sturbridge Lion, which revolutionized transportation in England during the Industrial Revolution.

testimony from her groom, led her pair of wealthy kinsmen to pull together a pool of investors to persuade the New York State Legislature to issue a charter to the New York & Erie Railroad. The April 24, 1832 document fixed the railroad's eastern terminus at Piermont and its western terminus on the shore of Lake Erie at Dunkirk.

The plan would provide an overland route across the state's Southern Tier between the Hudson River's commercial routes, and the shipping lanes and ports of the Great Lakes. The route would take advantage of the Ramapo River Pass through New York's Hudson Highlands, where the Pierson family milled cotton cloth and iron nails just north of Suffern.

Eleazer Lord arrived in Piermont with the railroad in 1836 as its first president. While laborers worked to complete the Piermont-Goshen section of the railway, Lord worked to build a new home above the village that he christened "The Cedars." Today, his home is commonly referred to as Lord's Castle.

Construction on the Hudson River pier was completed in 1838. Although work on the railroad progressed in fits and starts, the Piermont-Goshen section was completed before the end of 1841.

The entire project was completed in the spring of 1851 after the final spikes were driven into rails that would connect Binghamton to Dunkirk. When the work was complete, the New York & Erie Railroad became the longest railroad trunk line in the United States.

To celebrate its completion, a grand opening celebration was planned for May 14, 1851, with an inaugural journey from Piermont to Dunkirk planned for the morning. Guests of the railroad included U.S. President Millard Fillmore and Secretary of State Daniel Webster.

On the day of the inaugural run, guests embarked on an experience of a lifetime. Some remained onboard from terminus to terminus, traveling through some of the state's most dramatic landscapes. Others made the sudden decision to disembark after long delay that caused a change of engines at Port Jervis resulted in a reinvigorated journey where carriages full of passengers found themselves traveling at speeds that approached 60 miles per hour for the first time in their lives.

Mrs. Henry I. Pierson maintained her seat by the window and beside her husband of several years for the entire inaugural journey. The surge of excitement she had felt during her initial experience on the Charleston-Hamburg line returned, but this time, it came along with a groundswell of pride.

At least one passenger was guaranteed to arrive at the end of what was proving to be an exciting journey through the Southern Tier and, when all was said and done, through a somewhat extraordinary life.

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Health & Fitness



Ask the dentist

How can your own blood speed healing?

By Robert H. Guller, D.M.D.

OF PASCACK DENTAL ARTS

There is clear evidence that a substance called PRF or Platelet rich fibrin can help with the recovery time and healing process after oral surgery. PRF or (L-PRF) was first described in 2001 by Dr. Choukroun, a French plastic surgeon whose course I was recently able to attend on the subject.

Taking a blood sample from a patient

pre-operatively and spinning it at high speed in a centrifuge to separate the blood into layers allows a doctor or technician to obtain the substance. The top layer, which remains, is a jelly-like substance known as fibrin and it contains a multitude of concentrated growth and clotting factors, which can supercharge the healing process. The process is safe and the material derived from it cannot be rejected because it is composed of the patient's own cells. The procedure may not be appropriate in all cases of surgery, but when quality and expediency of healing are critical it can be helpful.

For more information on this topic, ask your dentist or dental hygienist or contact Dr. Guller at: askdrguller@aol.com or call 201-391-5565.

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One third of all smokers get on-line help to quit

The internet is the first place many people go to get information on how to quit smoking. In fact, more than 12 million U.S. adults - a third of all smokers - turn to the internet for help quitting each year, according to a new Truth Initiative study.

Published in Nicotine & Tobacco Research, the study examined data from the National Cancer Institute Health Information National Trends Survey to determine how many U.S. adult smokers searched online for help to quit smoking from 2005 to 2017.

Researchers found that the number of smokers who searched online for information on quitting tobacco more than doubled over the past 12 years, from 16.5 percent in 2005 to 35.9 percent in 2017. In 2017, an estimated 12,434,691 U.S. smokers searched online for quit smoking information. The findings underscore the role of internet resources in tobacco control efforts and how they can impact public health.

"Given the ability to reach roughly onethird of all smokers, and demonstrated effectiveness that is comparable to other recommended forms of cessation treatment, internet interventions have the potential for substantial impact on population quit rates," said Dr. Amanda Graham, research investigator at the Truth Initiative Schroeder Institute and lead author of the study.

Previous research has shown that internet-based programs can help smokers quit. One study found that web-based programs can be just as effective at helping smokers quit as face-to-face or telephone counseling, and are more effective than print materials. Other research shows that online quit-smoking resources may be a viable option for connecting with young adult smokers who want to quit.

BecomeAnEX.org, a digital quit-smoking program developed by Truth Initiative in collaboration with Mayo Clinic, demonstrates the effectiveness of online programs. Research shows that following the EX program quadruples a smoker's chance of quitting. Additional research found that smokers who became more socially connected were significantly less likely to be smoking three months after they enrolled.





Health & Fitness



Some strategies for managing healthcare costs

As Americans work hard to meet all the obligations that come with work, family and everyday life, many are challenged to find time to manage all the financial elements affecting their healthcare.

If you're among them you're far from alone, since the multiple details associated with healthcare insurance can be confusing. At the same time, you want to be smart about your financial resources when making decisions about the quality healthcare you and your family need.

Fortunately, by carving out time to research money-saving tips you may be able to minimize your out-of-pocket healthcare expenses. Such out-of-pocket spending rose by more than 50 percent between 2010 and 2017, The Atlantic recently reported, partly because half of all health insurance policyholders in the U.S. are dealing with annual deductibles of at least \$1,000.

Whether you're uninsured or simply facing a high insurance deductible, you can take several steps to better manage your healthcare budget. Consider how the following tips may offer you a better sense of control of rising healthcare costs.

Read bills carefully

Read bills with a critical eye. Any bill can include administrative errors, and some estimates have indicated errors on as many as 80 percent of medical invoices issued, reports the Medical Billing Advocates of America. That statistic makes it well worth your while to examine and question your expenses before you settle up.

Lower the cost of meds

Lower the cost of your meds. A free program known as Inside Rx is a prescription savings card that provides discounts on prescription medications for eligible patients. And it's amazingly effective.

According to the data, eligible patients have saved an average of 40 percent on the more than 100 featured brand medications included in the program, and even more on generic medications.

Inside Rx is a great option to help the uninsured, those facing high deductibles or anyone trying to save money on their meds. Inside Rx even offers prescription savings for pets for qualifying medications. And the Inside Rx card is free and easy to download, with no registration process or sharing of personal information.

Compare costs

Compare costs whenever possible. Some medical services can be difficult to compare on an apples-to-apples basis, but it's worth doing your homework before making appointments for more standard services such as annual check-ups, lab work and testing, dental care or dermatology services. Check vendor websites, make phone calls and conduct web searches to find online databases, such as HealthcareBluebook.com, that suggest fair prices for various services. If you're insured, your insurance provider can then clarify what portion of the bill will be covered.

It's OK to negotiate

Be bold about negotiations. It's OK to speak up. You have nothing to lose by politely asking your healthcare provider to work with you on the price of an upcoming service, especially when dealing with a private practice. Start the conversation by aiming for the Medicare rate or an amount close to that paid by commercial insurers. As an alternative, ask the office administrator to set up a manageable payment plan.

Get a cash discount

Consider paying cash up front. Some vendors offer discounts for simply paying cash for your services without funneling everything through insurance. Even if you're insured, you can still evaluate whether immediate cash pay-



ments will be lower than your post-insurance costs.

Keeping a close eye on where you might be wasting money on healthcare can pay off in a big way - and the remedies don't have to be complicated. Conduct your due diligence on such costs to protect your financial health as vigorously as your physical health.

Some simple inquiries and a little research may be the key to managing healthcare costs.



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O&R asks \$24.7 mil rate hike: What benefit to ratepayers?

Continued from Page 8

these changes, said Berkley) may save money at some point. At this point in time they cost more money.'

Donovan outlined some of the components of new system, representing \$149 million in 2019 for improvements including the following:

Construction of a new high-voltage substation on a 5-acre portion of the

former Lovett Generating Station site in Stony Point. This project will improve electric service reliability to 56,000 O&R customers in Rockland County and will cost approximately \$33 million. Its in-service date is May

Construction of a new electric substation at the southwestern corner of South Mountain Road and North Little Tor Road in New City to address serious electric service reliability issues in that area. It can go mobile as well. The substation will serve 32,000 customers now relying on three substations. The mobile substation, which is now operating at this location to supplement existing service, would then be available to provide emergency service as needed elsewhere in the O&R system. The estimated cost of this project is about \$24.5 million and its inservice date is December 2020.

O&R plans two projects along the CSX rail line right-of-way (the former West Shore Rail Line) between West Nyack and Stony Point. Each project will install three double-circuit, galvanized steel poles to replace three double-circuit, two-pole, wooden structures.

The first project is due in service in December 2019 at a cost of approximately \$1.5 million. Those structures are in Stony Point, the village of Haverstraw and the Clarkstown hamlet of Congers.

The second project is due in service one year later at \$1.5 million. Those structures are all in the Clarkstown hamlet of Valley Cottage. The installation of these projects will improve electric service reliability for approximately 22,000 O&R customers in Rockland County.

As to the need for an increase in natural gas delivery rates, Donovan said, "Replacing 22 miles a of aging natural gas piping per year. Also, O&R plans to increase deployment of inspectors to job sites, video confirmation of pipe location and condition and increased outreach and education to excavators.

Other programs planned by O&R include a reduced need for infrastructure, said Donovan.

Donovan said "O&R plans to do that by either reducing the demand for the grid power or providing an alternate source to supplement or, in some cases, replace grid power, or through a combination of both methods. One of those methods employs Energy Star certified appliances like refrigerators, washers and driers, even LED lightbulbs.

Another method is to use NWA (non-wire alternatives) equipment that can supplement or provide an alternative to power from the grid. Those methods include installing solar panels, fuel cells or batteries, or some combination of those, or other technologies.

The reduction in the demand for electricity those technologies can provide lets O&R defer construction of multi-million-dollar substation upgrades a cost that would be borne by customers. It is an approach that saves money for customers, helps O&R maintain reliable service and reduces emission from power plants.

Berkley said that because of increased density areas of New York City, Con Edison had petitioned the PSC to allow them to spend \$1 billion to build another substation.

The PSC said no, that Con Ed should spend less money on a project that would reduce the need to put a substation there. This has been a requirement of most of the utility companies, said Berkley. The solution has been to build a battery storage plant to keep it for high use periods.

Another solution is to go to large residential entities and asking them, "in those times when we need more energy coming back to the company or not being used by end users would you be willing to reduce your demand and we'll pay for the energy

that you're freeing up."

Our Town: Why is Monsey the focus of the nonwires alternative project.

Donovan: Orange and Rockland (O&R) wants to help customers in specific parts of its Monsey service area to take advantage of innovative ways to reduce the amount of electricity they need from the grid. Specifically, O&R's new initiative seeks to provide innovative energy solutions within the Monsey substation service area, where increasing demand is expected to exceed the substation's capacity within the next few years.

Rather than adding infrastructure to meet that growing demand, O&R wants to reduce the need for power from the grid in these areas by a combined total of about 2.5 to 3 megawatts. To achieve that goal, O&R is asking prospective business partners to provide proposals on how they can help customers in parts of Monsey to install solar panels, fuel cells, energy efficient equipment, batteries and other distributed energy resources.

Encouraging electric vehicles

Donovan said that O&R is also "encouraging electric vehicle adoption by its customers through the installation of plug-in electric vehicle (PEV) chargers and DC fast chargers, rebates for prospective residential PEV buyers, education and outreach programs and its existing residential time-of-use

There are three levels of chargers. A level 3 or DC fast charger can charge 80% of an electric vehicle battery in 20 minutes. A level 2 can charge a care for 10 to 25 miles for every hour of charging, but the level 1, the home versions can take 60 hours to charge a car which has a range of 300 miles.

Our Town: What type of chargers would be available and given the time, how is what O&R is planning different and or better and how does the cost in electricity to charge a care compare to the cost of gasoline.

Donovan: O&R wants to deploy both Level 2 and 3 chargers in publicly accessible locations throughout its NY service territory so that while drivers are running errands or perhaps even dining, they can charge their vehicles, in a way similar to their pulling into a gas station.

O&R also wants to provide rebates for Level 2 residential chargers for home use so customers can conveniently charge their EVs when they are not in use during the evening hours. Special electric rates are also available for EV owners who charge their vehicles during off peak hours.

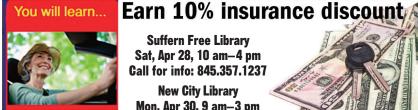
Although charging an electric vehicle may take longer than an internal combustion engine (ICE) filling up at a gas station, EVs offer many benefits. Electric vehicles reduce air pollution and create far less greenhouse gas emissions. Operating an EV costs 50 to 70% less for driving the same distance as an ICE, and an EV requires less maintenance."

Opposes subsidies for charging stations

Berkley said that given that his organization is to represent the low and fixed-income ratepayers, even though reducing the greenhouse gases are a good thing, "Our position on using a rate case to subsidize the cost of vehicle charging stations and electric

RATE HIKE: Page 15, please

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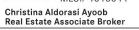
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Karen Ross receives Freedom Award: Joined the Navy to see the world

Continued from Page 3

Naples, Italy and Guam. What she remembers best about her service in the Navy was the camaraderie and friendships made, the hard work, hard play, we had a lot of fun. "This was the peacetime Navy." Even in peacetime there was action, the Gulf War, Granada, Panama and Africa, women were not allowed on most naval vessels. "In the field that I was in it was against the law for women to go to sea because it was only on combatant vessels.

"I could not go on a destroyer or an aircraft carrier and it wasn't until the late 90s that they started putting women on board." According to Sealift, after a court ruling in 1978, women were allowed to serve as surface warfare officers and on auxiliary vessels such as submarines and destroyer tenders and oceanographic research ships. Ross said she did serve on a motor vessel which carried support services and personnel. "There was an exercise going on and I was the Chief in charge and we were doing communications

As a Cryptologic Technician, "Intelligence so to speak and we supplied a lot of Communications support for a lot of the fleet, the aircraft, submarines, that was the job I did." This included message traffic and rules of engagement.

This did not mean that Ross didn't have battles to fight. "Back in the seventies it was not a popular thing for women to do. I got resistance from people that I knew, my mother one of them but she finally overcame that."

From her service, Ross was awarded, the Joint Services Commendation Medal, the Navy Achievement Medal (2 awards), the Navy Good Conduct Medal (4 awards), the National Defense Service Medal, the Overseas Service Ribbon (11 awards), and the Navy Meritorious Unit Commendation (2

"This event is normally held in March as part of Women's History Month where we recognize the contributions that women have made to our country but that have all too often gone unnoticed," said County Executive Ed Day at the April 11 event.

"However, due to Mother Nature's desires, we've had to push this event into April. Regardless of the month we are proud to highlight the achievements that women have made in building our nation and, in this case, defending it."

Ross said she would suggest the Navy for girls graduating high school. "It's a good career path, there's a good education path. There's money for school and they promote going to school."



Wellness Exhibit at TZHS

Tappan Zee HS 10th grade English students, under the guidance of Lois Parker-Hennion and Dana Stranges shared their research presentations which centered around all facets of wellness. After exploring and committing to topics of interest, students wrote research papers and planned interactive exhibits in preparation for the fair. Guests had several opportunities to engage in wellness-related activities, from listening to different genres of music and noting its impact on emotions to practicing the Emotional Freedom Technique.

O&R asks \$24.7 mil rate hike: How will customers benefit?

Continued from Page 14

vehicles generally is that we don't believe that that's an appropriate thing to do in a rate case," as the people they're representing are having trouble paying their bills and you're asking them to subsidize the more expensive electric cars which they wouldn't have enough money to purchase themselves.

He said developing and installing infrastructure for PEV stations should be the province of transportation companies, not electric companies.

Our Town asked why isn't the replacement of gas pipes a deduction to investor dividends instead of an increase to rates.

Berkley said that under federal law and prescient that all the money that energy companies expends to provide its services to ratepayers, going back 100 years, are paid for by the ratepayers.

Another reason for the increase to ratepayers is hindsight. Donovan and Berkley both spoke about the damage done by Super Storm Sandy and the other super storms that have hit the area.

Storm-resilient upgrades

O&R initiated a construction program designed to make O&R's energy systems more storm resilient, including building additional electric circuits, undergrounding strategic locations where multiple overhead circuits meet on distribution poles and expanding tree-trimming clearances at critical service locations. Approximately 30 percent of O&R's electric distribution system is now underground.

Donovan said, "System resilience projects have now been embedded in O&R's operations budgets and processes and are performed annually. System resilience construction standards, including using taller, stronger poles and more durable cable and wire, have been adopted by O&R. Thus far, O&R has performed nearly \$60 million in system resilience projects alone.

"The growing introduction of system automation projects has benefitted customers, too. O&R estimates that automation projects saved nearly 25,000 customer outages during the March nor'easters. In 2017, over 2,000 field crew assignments were saved by recloser devices that automatically operated on the system. During Storms Riley and Quinn in March, automatic switching devices saved 150 field crew assignments."

O&R's request begins a year-long public review process in which the NYSPSC examines the company's proposals. That review is managed by an administrative law judge who ensures the fairness and thoroughness of the process through to the final decision and vote by the New York State Public Service Commission NYSPSC. If approved, these rates will become effective on January 1, 2019.

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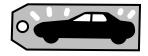
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LPN's must have NYS licensed practical nurse certification Send Resume to Janine Corona: icorona@campventure.org

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Middle School principals picture (I-r): Salvatore Sansone , Pearl Solomon , Maria Paese and Frank Auriemma.

Pearl River Middle School marks 50th anniversary

Pearl River Middle School celebrated their 50th Anniversary with a day-long celebration of the past and present. Former middle school teachers and alumni came to speak to 5th, 6th and 7th grade classes about their experiences in PRMS. Students also had an opportunity to ask questions about what it was like going to school as far back as the 60's in some cases. A video presentation took the audience back to 1968, when the middle school first opened. Each grade also filled a time capsule with memorabilia. Three former PRMS principals and numerous retired faculty and staff joined the celebration with current faculty and staff in the afternoon.



ABOVE: Staff, faculty and alumni from the Pearl River Middle School going back half a century reunite at the 50th anniversary celebration.

Legal

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK COUNTY OF ROCKLAND Plaintiff designates ROCKLAND as the place of trial situs of the real property

SUPPLEMENTAL SUM-MONS Mortgaged Premises: 34 POND VIEW DR CONGERS, NY 10920 Section:44.19 Block:1 Lot:3 INDEX NO. 030643/2016 CIT BANK N.A.,

Plaintiff,

VS.

RICHARD T. JOSEPH, AS HEIR AND DISTRIBUTEE OF THE ESTATE OF JO-SEPHINE JOSEPH; any and all persons unknown to plaintiff, claiming, or who may claim to have an interest in, or general or specific lien upon the real property described in this action; such unknown persons being herein generally described and intended to be included in the following designation, namely: the wife, widow, husband, widower, heirs at law, next of kin, descendants, executors, ad-

Legal

ministrators, devisees, legatees, creditors, trustees, committees, lienors, and assignees of such deceased, any and all persons deriving interest in or lien upon, or title to said real property by, through or under them, or either of them, and their respective wives, widows, husbands, widowers, heirs at law, next of kin, descendants, executors, administrators, devisees, legatees, creditors, trustees, committees, lienors and assigns, all of whom and whose names, except as stated, are unknown to plaintiff; JOAN GROMACK; CAROL SCIS-CENTE; SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT; INTER-NAL REVENUE SERVICE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA; NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION AND NANACE - TAX COMPLI-ANCE DIVISION - C.O. -ATC, and "JOHN DOE 1 to JOHN DOE 25", said

names being fictitious, the

persons or parties, corpora-

tions or entities, if any, hav-

ing or claiming an interest

Legal

in or lien upon the mortgaged premises described in the complaint, Defendant(s).

To the above-named De-

fendants YOU ARE HEREBY SUM-MONED to answer the complaint in this action and to serve a copy of your answer, or, if the complaint is not served with this summons, to serve a notice of appearance on the Plaintiff's Attorney within 20 days after the service of this summons, exclusive of the day of service (or within 30 days after the service is complete if this summons is not personally delivered to you within the State of New York) in the event the United States of America is made a party defendant, the time to answer for the said United States of America shall not expire until (60) days after service of the Summons: and in case of your failure to appear or answer, judgment will be taken against vou by default for the relief demanded in the complaint. NO-TICE OF NATURE OF AC-TION AND RELIEF SOUGHT

Legal

THE OBJECT of the above caption action is to fore-close a Mortgage to secure the sum of \$544,185.00 and interest, recorded on June 24, 2008 in Instrument # 2008-00029459, of the Public Records of ROCKLAND County, New York, covering premises known as 34 POND VIEW DR, CONGERS, NY 10920.

The relief sought in the within action is a final judgment directing the sale of the premises described above to satisfy the debt secured by the Mortgage described above. ROCK-LAND County is designated as the place of trial because the real property affected by this action is located in said county. NO-TICE YOU ARE IN DAN-GER OF LOSING YOUR HOME If you do not respond to this summons and complaint by serving a

of the answer on the attorney for the mortgage company who filed this foreclosure proceeding against you and filing the answer with the court, a default

Legal

judgment may be entered and you can lose your home. Speak to an attorney or go to the court where your case is pending for further information on how to answer the summons and protect your property. Sending a payment to the mortgage company will not stop the foreclosure action.

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

Dated: March 23, 2018 Westbury, New York RAS BORISKIN, LLC Attorney for Plaintiff BY: COREY ROBSON, ESQ. 900 Merchants Concourse, Suite 106 Westbury, NY 11590 516-280-7675

Legal

NOTICE TO BIDDERS
The following solicitations will be received by the Director of Purchasing, for the County of Rockland, Bldg.

A, 2nd Floor, 50 Sanatorium Rd. Pomona, NY10970: RFB-RC-2018-048 Chemicals-Install and

Operate Odor Control System, Furnish Non-Hazardous, Non-Corrosive Chemicals Pre-Bid/Site Visit: 5/9/18@10:00am Performance Test: Deadline 5/18/18@5:00pm Opening: 9/13/18@3:00 pm

RFB-RC-2018-052 Generators-Preventive Maintenance and Repair Opening: 5/10/18@3:00 pm RFB-RC-2018-056

Dewatering Container Rental, Hauling and Disposal of Sewer Grit Opening: 5/3/18@3:00 pm

Legal

RFB-RC-2018-057 Motors-Replacement Motors for Centrifuges-90kw & 15kw Opening:5/22/18@3:00 pm

Opening:5/22/18@3:00 pm RFB-RC-2018-058 GE Variable Frequency Drive AF600 Series and GE Controls RX3i Series

GE Controls RX3i Series Opening: 5/22/18@3:00 pm Specifications and solicitation forms may be obtained by visiting the Purchasing Division's Website at: www.rcpurchasing.com or the Empire State Purchasing System at: www.empirestatebidsvstem.com Americans with Disabilities Act Notice: to request accommodations for a disability, please contact Ann Marie Curley, 4 days in advance, at (845) 364-3820. County of Rockland, Pomona, NY 10970 Paul Brennan, CPPO, Director of Purchasing Dated: 4/25/18

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Morning Music Club marks 94 years, looks forward to annual scholarship concert

The Morning Music Club (MMC) recently ended their season at the Rockland Conservatory of Music in Pearl River with a concert of selections from 'Bach to Bernstein'.

President of MMC, Evelyn Beckerle, pointed out that the club was established in 1924, and after 94 years is still going strong as Rockland County's oldest musical organization. MMC continues its tradition of bringing classical and modern music at no cost to the local community. As an all volunteer organization serving the county through its concert series, holiday chorus, music scholarship awards program, and outreach program, it brings live music to non-profit and charitable organizations such as The Bobby

Lewis Center, Rockland Psychiatric Center, Camp Venture Nanuet, The Promenade at Blue Hill, Association for the Visually Impaired, ARC, Head Start of Rockland Programs in Haverstraw and Nyack, and several others who might otherwise be deprived of quality music.

The next Morning Music Club event will be the May 22

Scholarship Recital featuring MMC's high school scholarship awardees. It will be held at the Nauraushaun Presbyterian Church, 51 Sickletown Road, Pearl River beginning at 7:30 pm. This year the club is able to provide seven scholarships to musically talented Rockland County students for a total value of \$12,000.

Community Calendar

FYI

■ Religious Education Faith Formation program (CCD) at Immaculate Conception Church, 211 Summit St., Norwood, will accept registrations for grades 1 through 7 for 2018-2019 school year. Forms available online. Registrations: \$50 per student, maximum of \$150 per family. Re-registrants must register by June 15th. Families new to the program or re-registrants with one or more new children entering the program must submit registrations in person. Call Louise Lucivero at 201.768,1600.

2nd Tue each month

- Master Dzieci will present personal transformation and a presentation with a half-hour workshop from 7 to 7:30 p.m. at Christ Church, Sparkill. Actors will share inner practices and entail a Hebrew chant. Suggested donation: \$15. Reservations unnecessary, call 845.359.2858 for more details.
- Free monthly food swap is set at 6:30 p.m. in back of Piermont Reformed Church, 361 Ferdon Ave., Piermont. Call 845.268.2990 for more information. This event will run through through Dec.
- Tappan senior's meetings will be set at Manse Barn, 32 Old Tappan Rd., Tappan on the 1st and 3rd Tue of each month. Call Marilyn Grosbeck, president, at 845.359.0308 for more information.
- Pearl River Library will feature *Stories*, *Songs and Silliness* with Miss Sarah for children not yet age 2 accompanied by a caregiver. No registration; just come in Mon from 11 to 11:30 a.m.
- Pearl River Library provides a state-of-the-art digital scanning system for free public use. Scan documents or photos.
- Join in every Tue from 11 a.m. to noon at Orangeburg Library for a casual conversational class to improve their English speaking skills. The ESL class focuses on speaking and listening skills. Call 845.359.2244 ext. 10 to register.
- The Learning Lab at Pearl River Public Library presents *Computer Coding and Website building*, digital photography, an Intro to Google, Chess Club, Math Club, YA Book Club, Teen Tech Tutors, Memoir Writing for seniors, Teen Writing and more for children to seniors. Programs are free; registration is available in person or online at the library website.
- Claire's Cove Thrift Shop of St. Francis of Assisi Church, 128 Parrott Rd., West Nyack has served the community for 20 years and is open Thu, Fri, and Sat from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. during business hours. Ph. 834.638.2892
- Pearl River Senior's Club of Orangetown welcomes new members age 60 and over at Beth Am Temple, 60 East Madison Ave. Call Marie Taylor at 845.735.6102 for information.
- Orangetown, Nyack Senior Citizens Club meets every 2nd and 4th Wed in St. Ann's school cafeteria, 32 Jefferson St. Enter at the rear from the school parking lot. Orangetown residents age 60 and over that don't belong to another Orangetown senior club will be welcome to join.

Every Tue

- Rockland Cadet Squadron of Civil Air Patrol, an Auxiliary of USAF, enables members to perform valuable community service, attain aerospace knowledge, skills, participate in emergency services while developing the discipline needed to lead and excel. Meet at 7 p.m. at the Challenger Center, Rt. 59, Airmont. Call Major Joan Lee, Commander 845.304.4669 for more information.
- Pearl River Library will host *Code Club Beginners Intermediate* from 4:15 to 5 p.m. Register online or at the library website.
- Sit and knit club meets at Nanuet Public Library from 7 to 8:45 p.m. (not on the 4th Tue). Participants who started a knitting project may join a casual and crafty club for people who know how to knit but need assistance. No registration necessary

■ Walking Club meets every Tue at 1:30 p.m at the front entrance of Orangeburg Library for a 60-minute walk on the Joseph B. Clarke Rail Trail.

Every Wed

- Pearl River Library hosts a *Math Club* for teens and tweens from 5 to 6 p.m. Visit their website or register at the reference desk.
- Angel's Attic Thrift Store is open for shopping and donations from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m., Thu 10 a.m. to noon and Sat 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at United Methodist Church, 76 Congers Rd., New City. Parking is in the rear. There will be used clothing, household items; proceeds support relief efforts and colleges here and in Africa.

Every Thu

- Orangeburg Library presents *Storytime with Miss Kimberly* from 10:30 to 11:15 a.m. for ages 3 to 5., Thu, 10:30 a.m. or 1:30 p.m. To register call 845.359.2244 ext. 10.
- Pearl River Library presents Teen Library Council to meet over pizza and brainstorm about the future of the library from 5 to 6 p.m. Register at the Reference Desk or online at their website.
- Learn basic Chinese for reading and writing with Wei Nitopi. Class is offered every Mon in the Board Room of Orangeburg Library from 11:30 to 12:30 p.m. This is a beginner class for adults.
- The Walking Club meets every Tuesday at 1:30 p.m. at the front entrance of Orangeburg Library for a 60-minute walk on the Joseph B. Clarke Rail Trail.

Wed, Apr 25

■ Dominican Sisters of Sparkill will host a free lecture featuring Robert Ellsberg entitled *Dorothy Day, Oscar Romero, and New Faces of Holiness* from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at 175 Route 340, Sparkill. Registration is required call 845.359.4136.

Thu, Apr 26

■ Frank Sinatra's Concert Albums from the 1950s is set at 7 p.m. at New City Library. When Sinatra joined Capital Records, he pioneered the practice of selecting an album theme and matching it with coordinating songs. Presenter Floyd Lapp shares his music collection and knowledge of this music. Ph. 845.634.4997 for more information.

Fri, Apr 27

■ Wine, Poetry & Music celebrate National Poetry Month at DePew House with a reading by Orangetown Poet Laureate, Rose Marie Raccioppi, and live performance by harpist, Barbara Allen 5:30 to 7 p.m. hosted by Library Orangeburg and Orangetown Historical Museum & Archives. Wine and cheese served. DePew House located at 196 Chief Harris Way. Call 845.359.2244 ext.18 to register.

Sun, Apr 29

Orangeburg Library will demonstrate how to prepare India cooking with Anupama Amaran. Prepare chicken biryani and other well-known Indian side dishes, \$5 per person. To register call 845.359.2244 ext. 18.

Wed, May 2

■ One on One Interview and resume reviews is set at Tappan Library at 11 a.m. Sign up for a 30 minute one-on-one session with a career counselor. Pre-registration required; pre-register online at www.taplib.org or call 359-3877 for more information.

Sat, May 5

■ Book Discussion: *To The Bright Edge of the World* is set at 1 p.m. at Tappan Library by Eowyn Ivey. Call 359-3877 for more informa-

tion

Sat, May 5 and Sun May 6

■ Blauvelt Free Library presents the 6th Annual Blauvelt Community Yard Sale, *The Western Highway Roundup*, rain or shine at local homes not the library in which upwards of 40 houses participate each year, and appear on a free treasure map available in print online at www.blauvelt-freelibrary.org on May 1. On the back is a listing of merchandise sellers plan to offer. Residents will be given a free lawn sign; call 845.359.2811 for details.

Tue May 8

■ New City Library will host DNA Testing for Genealogy Research at 7 p.m. Learn how a DNA test can power up your research. Presented by Nora Glavin, certified genealogist.

Wed, May 9

■ New City Library will present photographer and anthropologist Barry Kass who will guide visitors on a virtual truck tour of this North African desert at 2 p.m.

Fri, May 11

■ New City Library will present *Share*, *Listen*, *Learn*. Delve into selections from their oral history collection featuring audio clips of local residents at 2 p.m

Sun, May 20

■ Grace Episcopal Church, Nyack, will host a tag sale to benefit senior youth group's upcoming service trip from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at 30 First Ave.

Tue May 22

■ Getting Started: *Brick Wall Genealogy Roundtable* is set at New City Library at 7 p.m. At this annual GSRC event, members will be on hand to present the essentials needed to research census, cemetery and vital records. Free handouts will be given.

Sun, May 27

■ New City Library will host an outdoor concert: Big Band Sound at 2 p.m. This 20 piece orchestra recreates the swinging sounds of the Big Band Era. Bring chairs/blankets. In the event of inclement weather, concert will be moved indoors.

Tue, May 29,

■ Hillburn schools will feature Film: 2 at 7 p.m., Thurgood Marshall comes to Hillburn when the small village finds itself

at the center of a major civil rights case. Documentary filmmaker Joe Allen will take questions after the screening.

Wed, May 30

■ New City Library presents Backyard Farming 7 p.m. featuring Anthony Bracco of Bracco Farms in Orange County who will describe how to adapt small naturally-grown farm methods in your own garden.



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Clarkstown seeks to join Sheriff in surveillance camera network

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with a doorbell camera was crystal clear of a person suspected of being in the act of perpetrating a crime.

Walker said that in the past, while the grainy images might not be useful in identifying someone, "a picture or image is better than not having one at all." He said sometimes something in the picture can give the police a tip or insight into the identity of the suspect.

The registry surveillance camera images, aside from being useful in catching a suspect, can also be used in court, he said. "Once we have an image, our detectives follow a policy and procedure to make sure we have a chain of evidence so it can be used in the prosecution."

Asked if there could be a charge of withholding evidence if someone refused to allow images from their private surveillance camera to be used by the police, Walker said no because there is no way that the police could prove that the camera was on, that it actually captured any image. "In order to use this in court we have to make sure that everything falls into place, the date is correct, the time is correct. We can't have a faulty camera system image introduced in court because it could be inadmissible or easily defeated by the defense." He emphasized that the use of the cameras is completely voluntary so that everything could be checked out.

"If we have on the registry a camera that is across the street from where a crime has taken place, the detectives will look in the registry contact the owner and go over and explain why they want to look at footage giving the date and time and ask permission. At no time is the person required to grant access to the surveillance system." He said if police notice a surveillance camera during a crime investigation they will ask the owner if they would like to include their camera on the registry.

Could incriminate the innocent

With so many surveillance cameras, it could be possible for someone completely innocent of any involvement with a crime in progress might have his or her image caught along with the perpetrator. Sgt. Walker said that if that image was to be released to the public, "we would shade out that individual, we would make sure that the non-participant would not have his or her identity of face revealed to the public."

Another fear people might have been installation of remote access. "We have no remote access nor are we asking for remote access to anyone's camera systems. This is not big brother trying to get into your home and see what's going on. This is more about creating an efficient use of our resources by continuing to develop a partnership between the community and the police department.

So far, the inventory has not been helpful in investigations as it's only about two weeks old, said Walker.

Not so on the county level as Rockland County District Attorney Thomas Zugibe said. "The District Attorney's Office regularly uses this type of evidence in prosecutions, and often obtains favorable plea agreements from defendants once they realize there is video evidence of their crimes."

In an email in response to questions asked by Our Town.

Zugibe said, "Depending on the circumstances, video from residents and business owners of their own property and public streets, as well as publicly viewable areas of other private properties, are admissible, even over any 'right to privacy' arguments. Further, in general, suspects and defendants cannot assert somebody else's privacy rights in order to protect themselves.

"Generally, a person has no expectation of privacy when walking on a public street and give up their privacy right to be identified on video if

they enter somebody else's private property, certainly if they do so to commit a crime.

"I do not recall a case where a legally obtained surveillance video of a business, residence or public place was ruled inadmissible because of privacy issues."

Asked about how long surveillance camera images are kept if they are used in the apprehension of conviction of a perpetrator as well as for someone who was caught on the camera who was not a participant in any crime and no element of the crime was part of the image, D.A. Zugibe said, "The law mandates that we keep all evidence used in a case for differing periods of time, from a few years up until forever, depending primarily on the nature and seriousness of the crime. The District Attorney's Office would not keep as evidence a video with no evidentiary value, and so an image with just nonparticipants would generally not be kept, although there may be some rare exceptions.

"In general, any record kept by any arm of the government is theoretically subject to FOIL. There are numerous exceptions to the general rule mandating disclosure, and the answer would depend on many different factors."

So, wherever you go, don't be surprised if someone says, "Smile, you're on surveillance camera"

Student athletes pass the word on drugs, alcohol

Tappan Zee HS VAASA (Varsity **Athletes** Against Substance Abuse) students, in conjunction with the health department SOMS visited the 7th & 8th grades to describe how alcohol and drugs affect athletic performance. Students visited the classes of Health teachers Vikki Shaw, Chris Rastelli, Joe Napoli & Frank O'Reilly and discussed



thoughts and questions about the transition into high school, peer pressure, and substance abuse. This has been deemed a successful program in the past and a rewarding experience for both the student athletes and the middle school students.?

