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VOLUME 30 ISSUE 34

THE PASCACK VALLEY'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

NOVEMBER 2, 2026

PASCACK VALLEY



Families flock to Veolia's second annual Touch-a-Truck Day in Haworth | PAGE 22

EMERSON

AT 102, HELEN DELBOVE URGES A LOVING HEART

Helen Delbove has traveled the world, raised a family and watched it grow to include grandchildren and great-grandchildren. At 102, her advice is simple.

"Live your life because it's short," she said. "Have a loving heart for other humans."

Delbove celebrated her 102nd birthday at Brookdale Emerson on Oct. 23, joined by family, friends and staff. Mayor Danielle DiPaola and Police Chief Mark Savino attended and presented her with a resolution recognizing the milestone, according to Brookdale.

Born in New York City in 1924, Delbove lived in Manhattan before moving to the Emerson senior living community. She

See HELEN on page 17 ▶

A LESSON BEYOND WORDS

Students from two local high schools put Mandarin to the test in Chinatown



Students from Pascack Hills and Pascack Valley high schools explore Manhattan's Chinatown during a trip connecting their Mandarin studies with food and culture. Leading them are teachers Liam O'Neill, front and center, and Debbie Yao, in red at left in the foreground. Courtesy photo

FOR PASCACK HILLS and Pascack Valley students, a day in Manhattan connects Mandarin lessons with food, culture and discovery

A haircut on Pell Street could earn five points. So could a foot massage. Other assignments

called for finding Chinese characters, photographing incense or recording a video of friends trying a new food and speaking Chinese.

For 52 students from Pascack Hills and Pascack Valley high schools, a day in Manhat-

tan's Chinatown offered a different kind of language lesson: one that sent them into the neighborhood to explore.

The students, spanning grades 9-12 and representing the

Continued on page 16

PASCACK VALLEY

CHAMBER CHEERS CITIZENS OF THE YEAR

Teri Capparelli, Peter Wohl accept honors; event brings tears, laughter, renewed resolve

BY JOHN SNYDER
EDITOR@THEPRESSGROUP.NET

To the Greater Pascack Valley Chamber of Commerce, Theresa "Teri" Capparelli is a nonprofit leader, fundraiser and community advocate. To her daughters, she is also the mother who never missed a game, made every holiday memorable and somehow managed to do it all in heels.

Dr. Peter Wohl's professional accomplishments filled another set of proclamations. His friend Jonathan Heit offered a more personal measure: Try spending a day greeting nearly everyone you encounter by name, asking about their lives and sending them away smiling.

"It's exhausting," Heit said. "And he does it with no caffeine."

Those affectionate portraits helped tell the story of the chamber's Citizens of the Year dinner, held Oct. 20 at Seasons Catering in the Township of Washington. With family, friends, colleagues, and public officials gathered to honor

See CITIZENS on page 15 ▶

HERE FOR HILLSDALE

Approximately 25 volunteers joined the annual fall cleanup, collecting litter from streets and parks near the downtown. An outstanding team effort, say organizers.

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Back in time...

Kristin Beuscher returns us to the first week of November 1906, for an event the Montvale Standard called "one of the most daring robberies ever heard of in this neighborhood."

PAGE 4

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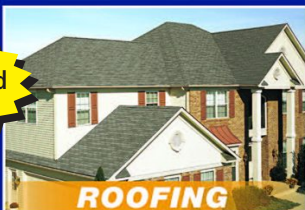


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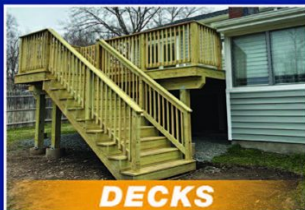
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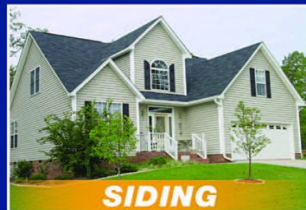
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PASCACK PRESS LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Submission deadline is 11 a.m. Wednesday. Publication is not guaranteed. Subject to editing. No anonymous letters. Email to editor@thepressgroup.net.

'Manners Maketh Man'

To the editor:

IT WAS THE BEST OF TIMES, it was the worst of times. It can all be seen simply driving home from work any given evening. It's Pascack Road for me, for starters, and it's leaning towards worse than I can remember. While we're all concerned about the constitutionality of Flock cameras in our towns, let's not forget our right to get home safely. Gotta get back to common sense.



Manners, common courtesy, being decent...gone. But what's ever-present is the tailgating, high beams coming at you, illegal passing, incessant unnecessary car horns, getting cut off while being given the middle finger. Possibly the worst is blowing red lights and stop signs. People just don't care. Must get home to rescue their prepared meals, neatly placed by ease-of-process delivery services on their porches.

Speeding at you, around you, behind you. Driving straight through a turn-only lane with blinker on and finger out, doubling down on defying levelheadedness. Every square foot a rules-of-the-road violation, where street signs and traffic lights are suggestions to be obeyed when convenient.

ient.

While posted speed limits are met with tongue in cheek, the act of stopping to render aid to disabled roadside vehicles is as extinct as the dodo or a Yankees pennant. But call them on this and you're the object of their fury of F-bombs and a permanently evolved, devolved middle finger.

Seniors out walking, kids on bikes, moms with strollers, grown men even going for a walk — 'cause we tell 'em all to get sun and air. But beware: It's 6 p.m. and you're in their way. Bobby Wheeler was right on "Taxi" when he told Jim a yellow light meant to *slow down*. Guessing few caught that episode.

I stopped for a woman at a pedestrian crosswalk recently 'cause pedestrians have the right of way, and the good town of Oradell put out handheld signs so she could protect herself if the common sense wasn't enough.

Yet horns and screeching brakes behind me begged to differ.

We were not born rude. Yielding, safely acquiescing to another driver out of politeness, smiling a wee bit while grinning and bearing the lack of flow of it all...we were taught better than this. But it is that bad now. Safety and flow have taken space on the milk cartons.

But behold the pictures and videos taken by irate drivers of other irate drivers to report dangerous behavior — while requiring dangerous behavior to make said citizens' reports.

It's not the cops' job to prevent such daily maladies. It's not possible. Westwood and Washington Twp. have great officers out here on the streets, but they simply can't prevent aggressive, careless, reckless driving. Doesn't work that way. That's the job of common sense. Manners. Again, the milk carton.

Manners are as vital as laws and, in some cases, more so. But driving around here provides evidence of neither. Manners cost nothing and many times save lives. Consider saving excessive cursing and using the middle finger for what they're actually designed for: watching a Yankees-Red Sox game.

Slow down...

Coach Jimmy Wagner Oradell/Westwood

Re-elect DiPaola, Republicans

To the editor:

I AM WRITING to tell you about the outstanding Republican leadership in Emerson under Mayor Danielle DiPaola and her team, Michael Timmerman and

See LETTERS on page 7 ▶

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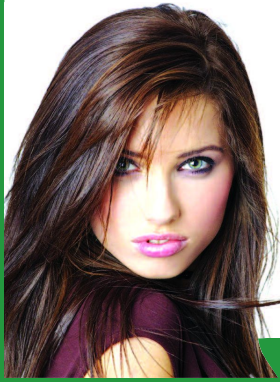
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Call to increase street-tree planting budget

BY MICHAEL OLOHAN
OLOHAN@THEPRESSGROUP.NET
HILLSDALE

■ Commission chair reports net loss of 237 trees in nine months

Hillsdale Environmental Commission Chair Fred Rubel is urging the borough to increase funding for street tree planting after reporting a net loss of 237 street trees in nine months.

Rubel told councilors Oct. 13 that Hillsdale has about 4,000 street trees but suffered a “net loss” of 237 from fall 2025 through June 2026.

He did not request a specific amount, asking the mayor and council to determine an increase that fits with other 2027 budget priorities.

In a brief presentation, he said, “We hope to see a more significant tree management budget for 2027 for managing street trees.”

He showed the 2026 tree management budget, which appropriated \$3,800 for street tree planting. Rubel said “very few street trees have been planted over the past eight years,” which he attributed to low planting budgets. He hopes to work with the Department of Public Works to plant five or six street trees

before the end of 2026.

Rubel said, “With respect to the ‘aging out’ of street trees in our borough, we are working with the DPW hoping to get a few street trees planted before this year ends using funds from the dedicated Shade Tree Donation Account.”

Rubel thanked the DPW for helping with previous plantings and praised DPW Superintendent Barry Peterson and his crews for a “prompt response” several weeks earlier when tree limbs fell along Liberty Avenue and near the Beechwood Nature Trail, where high school students had parked cars.

“In addition to responding quickly with a good-size crew, the (DPW) team creatively used borough-owned equipment instead of a contractor to access and remove higher dead tree limbs, which no doubt provided a monetary savings for the borough,” Rubel noted.

Some councilors suggested significantly increasing the street tree planting budget in 2027, expressing concern that the borough

is losing its tree canopy, which provides shade and helps reduce summer heat. Street trees also give neighborhoods character.

Rubel said he hoped his presentation would prompt discussion of the need for trees and a broader

community question: What do elected officials and residents want the streets of Hillsdale to look like?

He said he hoped that attention would lead to an improved canopy townwide and more funding for street tree replacement. He also briefly discussed which types of trees are better suited to streets, saying some last more than a century while others struggle to reach 40 to 60 years.

Rubel also provided a short history of Hillsdale’s Environmental Commission, which was formed in 1969 and formally established by ordinance in 1972.

“We serve in an advisory capacity to the Planning Board and (council). But we also try to advocate for the environmental concerns of residents, especially when

CONTINUED ON PAGE 17

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Preservation group raises concern over federal bill

PRESERVATION NEW JERSEY is urging local historical societies, historic preservation commissions and residents to review proposed federal legislation that it says could weaken protections for historic and cultural resources.

The Bipartisan American Affordability and Jobs Act of 2026, S. 5653, proposes changes to federal permitting and project reviews. A national coalition that includes the National Trust for Historic Preservation has written to U.S. senators expressing concerns about its potential effects on Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. Preservation New Jersey

Section 106 requires federal agencies to consider how projects they undertake, fund, permit or approve could affect historic properties. The process provides opportunities for consultation and public participation before decisions are made.

It does not guarantee that a historic property will be preserved. Rather, it requires consideration of a project's effects and gives interested parties a chance to help identify ways to avoid or reduce harm. Advisory Council on Historic Preservation

Supporters of permitting reform, including Associated Builders and Contractors, have endorsed the bill as a way to improve the federal approval process. Preservation advocates are asking lawmakers to protect historic-resource review as they consider changes. Associated Builders and Contractors

Preservation New Jersey has posted the coalition's letter, legislative analysis and a recorded webinar on its website. The nonprofit encourages residents and local organizations to learn how the proposal could affect New Jersey's historic places and opportunities for public involvement.

For more information visit preservationnj.org.

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Back in time...

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BACK IN TIME FEATURES



The Jacob and Cora Ter Kuile mansion stood on Grand Avenue opposite Pascack Road, at the corner of Terry Court. Jacob Ter Kuile was Montvale's first mayor. This drawing by local artist Carolyn MacDonald shows the house as it would have looked. The house was demolished in 2019.

Twin tots foil burglary at Montvale mansion

MONTVALE'S FORMER MAYOR, Jacob Ter Kuile, had equipped his mansion with an elaborate burglar-alarm system, but the one night it wasn't wound, burglars entered undetected—only to be frightened away by two young children calling for their nurse.

This week we go back 120 years to the first week of November 1906, for an event the *Montvale Standard* called “one of the most daring robberies ever heard of in this neighborhood.”

The Ter Kuile family lived in a beautiful mansion on West Grand Avenue across from the Pascack Road intersection, next to modern-day Terry Court. Born in Holland, Jacob Ter Kuile came to America in 1872 and made a fortune as a steamship agent. He was among the Pascack Valley's elite class of “gentleman farmers” and was the wealthiest man in Montvale at the turn of the 20th century. He served as the borough's first mayor in 1894.

Even with a spacious residence that included seven bedrooms plus two rooms for the maids, Jacob and his wife, Cora, had a full house. The couple had eight children, the youngest of whom were twin boys Reinold and Roger, born in 1903.

Rural Montvale's population in 1906



**SPECIAL TO
PASCACK PRESS**
By Kristin Beuscher,
Historian,
Pascack Historical Society,
Park Ridge.
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Jacob and Cora Ter Kuile
of Montvale

was approximately 470, and the luxurious Ter Kuile mansion stood out as a showplace. It would have been tempting to burglars, and we know Jacob Ter Kuile was concerned about this because the windows and doors were equipped with alarms.

These alarms were a far cry from those we are accustomed to today. Who ever heard of a keypad? Montvale was not even wired for electricity in 1906. The alarms in the Ter Kuile mansion had to be wound by hand. Turning a key tightened a spring, much like winding a clock. Opening a protected door or window would release the mechanism and set off a loud bell or gong.

Setting the alarms was a nightly ritual at the Ter Kuile house, a job that would have been assigned to one of the servants. But on this particular night, for some reason, the step had been skipped.

“It is a remarkable fact that Tuesday night for the first time in a long while,

through an oversight which is not likely to be repeated in the near future, the alarm was not wound up and the burglars had no trouble in gaining an entrance to the house,” the *Montvale Standard* wrote.

The criminals entered noiselessly and moved through the home with the precision of a professional crew. In targeting the mansion, the burglars must have thought they would walk away with the haul of a lifetime. They nearly did, but something spooked them.

Even though those newfangled burglar alarms were not activated, the Ter Kuile family could still rely on that age-old alert that

See TOTS on page 14 ▶

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'We're honored': Tice's Corner changes hands

5

BY JOHN SNYDER
EDITOR@THEPRESSGROUP.NET
WOODCLIFF LAKE

■ *New owner says it plans to add local businesses, events*

Tice's Corner has a new owner, with Massachusetts-based WS Development announcing Oct. 29 that it has acquired the 120,000-square-foot shopping center at Chestnut Ridge Road and Tice Boulevard.

The purchase brings the former Tice's Farms property into a national portfolio of more than 100 properties. WS Development said it plans to maintain the center's established mix of stores while introducing additional brands and local businesses, along with events, art and outdoor gathering spaces.

The announcement did not disclose the purchase price, identify the seller or specify when the transaction closed. It also did not name prospective tenants or give a timetable for changes.

The open-air center at 441

Chestnut Ridge Road features 28 stores and restaurants, according to the company. Its tenants span fashion, beauty, home furnishings, technology and dining, with retailers including Apple, Anthropologie, J.Crew, Free People, Madewell, Athleta, Bluemercury and Ethan Allen.

For longtime Bergen County residents, the property's significance predates those storefronts. Tice's Farms, which dated to 1808, was known for its apples, cider, pumpkins and autumn traditions. The former farm site became Tice's Corner, which opened in 2001 as an open-air specialty retail center.

The acquisition comes as the shopping center marks 25 years since that opening, adding another chapter to a property that has served generations of local fami-

lies in different ways.

"Tice's Corner has been part of this community's story for well over two centuries, first as Tice's Farms and now as one of Bergen County's most beloved gathering places," said Eric Smookler, WS Development's vice chairman and co-chief investment officer, in the announcement.

"We're honored to carry that story forward, and excited to bring new energy to a destination that already means so much to the people who call this community home."

Under its new ownership, the

center will continue to offer its established national retailers, the company said. Planned additions would include national brands and local businesses across retail, beauty, wellness and dining.

Beyond leasing, WS Development said it intends to create more reasons for people to visit and spend time at the property. Its announcement identified art, events and outdoor gathering spaces as elements of that approach, although it did not describe specific installations, programming or construction projects.

The company characterized the acquisition as part of its broader strategy of developing retail and lifestyle destinations with strong ties to their surrounding commu-

nities.

Founded in 1990, WS Development handles the conception, ownership, operation and leasing of its properties. Its portfolio ranges from urban spaces to lifestyle and community shopping centers, with more than 25 million square feet of existing space and another 10 million square feet of planned development, according to the company.

Other properties in its portfolio include MarketStreet in Lynnfield, Massachusetts; Hyde Park Village in Tampa, Florida; Stuyvesant Plaza in Albany, New York; and Montgomery Village in Santa Rosa, California.

We will update this story.

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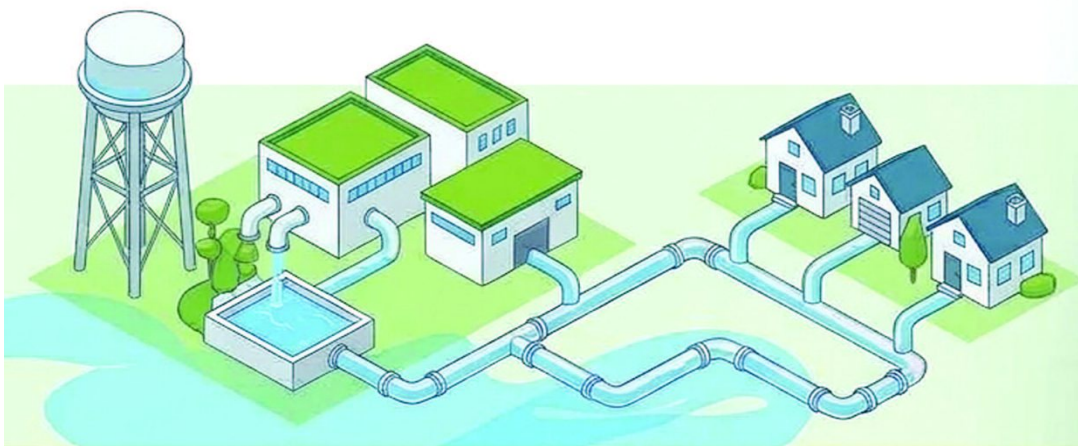
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Park Ridge Council hopefuls debate costs, water, development

BY MICHAEL OLOHAN
OLOHAN@THEPRESSGROUP.NET

PARK RIDGE — Mill Pond restoration, drinking water quality, property taxes and development are central issues for four candidates seeking two three-year Borough Council seats in the Nov. 3 general election.

Democratic incumbents Robert Metzdorf and Michael Mintz face Republican challengers Marc Weinberg and Sebastian Hennessy, who replaced Councilmen William Fenwick and Gregory Hoffman on the Republican ticket.

All four candidates support restoring Mill Pond, also known as Electric Lake, but emphasize different approaches to financing the work and planning future improvements.

Mill Pond:

Restoration and costs

The borough's 2025 nonbinding referendum asked voters whether Park Ridge should pursue \$5 million or \$10 million in borrowing to dredge Mill Pond, or leave it undredged.

According to the explanatory statement adopted by the council Aug. 5, 2025, the corresponding project estimates were \$6.5 million and \$11.5 million, with a previously awarded \$1.5 million state grant accounting for the differ-

ence. The referendum was intended to guide subsequent council decisions.

Metzdorf moved the resolution placing the question before voters, Mintz seconded it, and all six councilmembers voted in favor.

The pond was last dredged in approximately 1979. The borough's explanatory statement cited sediment accumulation, reduced stormwater capacity, flooding concerns and poor water quality as reasons to consider the work.

Pascack Press asked the candidates what future uses and improvements they would favor beyond dredging.

Mintz and Metzdorf pointed to the \$1.5 million in grants already secured and said they would seek additional assistance.

"It is my hope that we can obtain additional grants and make Mill Pond a premier recreation area," the incumbents said in a joint response.

They envision recreational fishing, kayaking and continued protection of the pond's wildlife habitat.

"We hope to stock Mill Pond

so that residents may use it for recreational fishing. We further hope that it would be open for recreational kayaking and that the pond, which now attracts abundant wildlife, would flourish as a natural habitat for wildlife," they said.

Weinberg and Hennessy emphasized reducing the project's cost to taxpayers. They said they would pursue available state funding, including financing through the New Jersey Infrastructure Bank, before committing additional borough funds.

Borough Engineer John Dunlea of Neglia Engineering said in June that the borough had applied to the Infrastructure Bank for loans to help finance the work.

The Republican challengers also proposed pursuing legal action against parties identified as responsible for polluting Mill Pond or its water supply.

They suggested that sediment removed from the pond could have commercial value, saying testing indicated the material "is usable in commercial applications." They proposed selling it to offset project expenses or arranging for its removal at no cost to the borough.

The candidates contended that sediment removal accounts for approximately half the project's total cost. The potential proceeds or disposal savings remain unresolved; Pascack Press sought clarification from Dunlea but had not received a response by press time.

Weinberg and Hennessy also said "Our residents have said they would like to see a park area built

at the site to celebrate the pond's history. This is something we will bring to the council and NJDEP, to ensure our residents that their feedback has been heard and acted upon."

Incumbents cite taxes, services and public safety

Metzdorf and Mintz identified property taxes, quality of life and public safety as their three leading priorities.

"Mike and I voted against raising property taxes three years in a row [and] we've secured over \$4.5 million in state grants," Metzdorf said.

The incumbents pointed to their opposition to overdevelopment, preservation of open space and investments in municipal facilities.

"We have provided new lights for our playing fields, rejuvenated the fields and the historic train station. We have preserved open space to protect from overdevelopment," they said.

The borough celebrated the reopening of its restored historic train station Oct. 20. The project received \$412,000 from the Bergen County Historic Preservation Trust Fund and \$147,000 through a New Jersey Transit Village grant.

The incumbents also cited the borough's municipally operated electric and water utilities, which they said provide reliable service at rates below those charged by other regional providers.

On public safety, they highlighted efforts to lower the speed limit on Park Avenue, add police officers and special law enforcement officers serving local schools, and strengthen municipal computer security against cyberattacks. Metzdorf serves as the council's police commissioner.

Challengers focus on water, spending and development

Weinberg and Hennessy identified drinking water quality, fiscal oversight and opposition to large-scale development as central campaign priorities.

They said the borough must complete treatment improvements addressing contamination by per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, commonly known as PFAS, in its municipal wells.

"Our priorities for Park Ridge include ensuring that our residents have clean water and that the contaminated wells are fitted with water treatment equipment to ensure that the PFAS contamination is remediated and we can put an end to the state mandated notices that concern and confuse many," the challengers said.

They called for stronger oversight of the water utility and infrastructure improvements to ensure drinking water quality.

In an update provided to Pascack Press, Mintz said the borough has invested millions of dollars, much of it from federal and state funding, in PFAS treatment improvements.

According to Mintz, 15 of the borough's 21 wells are supplying water with PFAS concentrations well below state limits. Of the six remaining wells, he said, two are out of service because of elevated PFAS levels, two are operating with levels below state limits, and two seasonal wells have temporary PFAS filtration systems.

The borough is working to install permanent PFAS treatment systems on as many as five wells using federal and state funding, Mintz said.

On spending, Weinberg and Hennessy pledged "to keep a

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

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Letters:

FROM PAGE 2

Ashley Rice.

Emerson has always been deemed a charming and safe town, family-friendly with a great school system, vibrant parks and playgrounds. It is a friendly and family — oriented community.

Mayor DiPaola keeps this community the way it is known and deemed: charming, safe, family-oriented and business friendly.

The roads in Emerson are always in top shape. The snow is promptly cleared. The streets are regularly cleaned. The parks and the public spaces are immaculate. The playgrounds are well maintained and kept. The public services like trash collection, recycling, debris collection are on time. The police keep the residents safe. They are visible at all times, giving us a sense of security night and day.

The mayor is always reachable and readily available to Emerson residents. She makes an effort to know her constituents by name. She makes her rounds, saying hello to the residents. She is well aware of the needs and concerns of her constituents. She keeps the residents well informed of what is going in Emerson. She maintains programs and activities for the enjoyment of families and the community in the spring, summer, autumn and holiday season.

I find her to be of good moral

character, very responsible and very dedicated public servant who truly cares for Emerson. No hidden agenda. Her genuine love for this community is the driving force behind her excellent performance as the best mayor Emerson has ever had.

My husband and I do not see any reason for an administration change. Emerson deserves the best team. We have the best now, no need to change.

So please join us in voting for Mayor DiPaola, Michael Timmerman, and Ashley Rice.

Maria Teresa and Peter Puma
Emerson

Guttilla ticks all the boxes for Emerson

To the editor:

I AM PROUD to endorse my friend, neighbor, fellow mother, and educator, Julia Guttilla, for Emerson Borough Council.

Julia's deep roots in our community make her uniquely qualified to represent Emersonians across every generation. She was raised here and chose to return with her husband to raise their own two children. Because her parents still live in town as well, Julia's perspective is shaped by three generations of her own family living with the impact of the council's decisions.

Julia well understands the

fabric of our town. She remembers the excitement of bowling a strike at Lucky Strike Lanes, sharing meals with family at the Emerson Hotel, walking the halls of our local schools, and playing on the very same fields where our children now play on early Saturday mornings.

When you speak with Julia, her pride in Emerson is undeniable. But you will also hear her vision for a better future—one that supports new and long-standing families alike, including our seniors, children, working parents, and stay-at-home parents.

Please join me in voting for a leader who listens with respect and can be trusted to represent the past, present, and a better future of Emerson.

Jillian Rabadan
Emerson

Ianni, Toms have right approach on progress

To the editor:

AS A HILLSDALE resident, I believe reliable cell service is more than a convenience; it is a public safety issue. Residents should be able to contact emergency services when they need them, regardless of which cell phone carrier they use.

My wife and I were members

of Stonybrook Swim Club this past summer and quickly noticed the lack of reliable cell service on the East Side of town. After learning about the recent council vote on a proposed cell tower, I followed the public discussion and was struck by how quickly an important community issue became a partisan debate.

The mayor and council invested considerable time and resources researching potential solutions and consulting qualified professionals before bringing a proposal to a vote. That proposal was rejected, 4-2, along party lines. It is fair to disagree about a particular solution, but if the proposed tower is not the answer, residents deserve to hear what alternative will actually solve the problem—and how soon it can be implemented. Simply saying no or calling for more study does not improve anyone's cell service.

I believe elected officials have a responsibility to listen to residents, consider the advice of qualified experts, and work

toward practical solutions. We rely on professionals for their expertise in countless areas of our lives.

Our local government should take the same approach when addressing a technical issue like cellular coverage. Residents deserve more than promises of a plan to be revealed after an election. They deserve a clear commitment to finding a workable solution.

After seeing the public discussion on Facebook, I was encouraged by how many residents expressed support for addressing this problem. This is not simply a political issue; it affects our safety and quality of life. I encourage residents to review the publicly available council meeting minutes, understand the proposal and the votes cast, and judge for themselves how their representatives approached the issue.

I recently attended a meet-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 19

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COUNCIL OKs A.I. CAMERAS, GOLF GEAR LEASES, PROPERTY SALE

BY MICHAEL OLOHAN
OLOHAN@THEPRESSGROUP.NET

The Township Council approved nearly \$513,000 in golf course equipment leases and more than \$156,000 for artificial-intelli-

gence security cameras at five public locations at its Oct. 26 meeting. It also authorized the sale of township property for a 35-unit housing development.

Five consent agenda resolutions awarded EAW Security a total of \$156,473.51 to install Tur-

ing AI cameras: \$51,080.15 at River Vale Country Club; \$30,844.30 at Town Hall; \$22,105.15 at the DPW building; \$29,796.68 at Mark Lane Athletic Complex; and \$22,647.23 at River Vale Senior Community Center.

It was not immediately clear how the cameras would be used, which features would be enabled or who could access the footage. Mayor Mark Bromberg and Council President Paul Criscuolo did not immediately respond to Pasack Press requests for comment.

EAW Security's website describes Turing AI's capabilities: "Turing AI's People Analytics offers better safety and security through utilizing facial recognition, people detection, vehicle detection, license plate detection, and intrusion detection. These capabilities can generate person of interest and vehicle of interest alerts and notifications."

Which of those capabilities River Vale's system will include was not known.

The council separately awarded EAW Security \$24,800 for "additional work at the new Public Safety Complex that is outside the original installation scope of work." Chief Financial Officer Gennaro Rotella certified that funds were available in the capital

account.

The council previously approved \$20,665.05 for an EAW Security access control system in August and an \$11,097.50 change order for installation of an access control door in May.

Golf course equipment

The \$512,992 in golf course contracts covers five-year leases for 70 new 2027 Yamaha gas golf carts, one beverage cart and 70 GPS units for River Vale Country Club.

The contracts with Golf Car Specialties of Pottstown, Pa., run from January 2027 through Dec. 31, 2031. They were authorized under New Jersey's Cooperative Purchasing Program, which permits awards by resolution without advertising for bids.

Rotella certified that sufficient funds were available in the golf course operating account.

Sale of 650 Rivervale Road

The council also approved the sale of township property at 650 Rivervale Road, Block 701, Lot 5, to Lake Tappan Village LLC. The resolution did not disclose a sale price. The site is approved for 12 affordable units and 23 market-rate units and has an assessed value of \$606,600, according to

local tax records.

Resolution 2026-220 identifies the site as part of a 2015 affordable housing settlement agreement. It states that “the Township and the Developer through their respective attorneys have engaged in negotiations and have reached terms for Purchase and Sale Agreement regarding the Property.”

M&M Development LLC and ALM Consulting Group LLC, affiliates of Lake Tappan Village LLC, were designated redevelopers under a May 11, 2020, resolution.

The latest resolution states that the developer has “obtained Preliminary and Final Major Site Plan, Use Variance, Design Waivers, Application Waivers, Soil Movement and Bulk Variances Approval from the Joint Planning Board of the Township of River Vale by Resolution dated January 15, 2025 (“Resolution of Approval”) for the construction of twelve (12) Affordable Housing units and twenty-three (23) Market Rate for sale units on the Property.”

The township and developer entered into a developer's agreement July 14, 2026. Requests for the property's sale price were not immediately answered.

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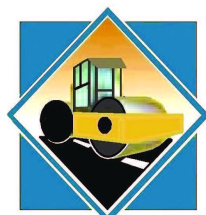
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WCL Council candidates outline development, spending priorities

BY MICHAEL OLOHAN
OLOHAN@THEPRESSGROUP.NET

WOODCLIFF LAKE — Two Republican incumbents and two Democratic challengers are seeking two Borough Council seats Nov. 3, with development, municipal spending and schools among their priorities.

This roundup summarizes the candidates' stated positions and campaign priorities. Julie Brodsky and Joshua Stern, the Republican incumbents, answered a question about development jointly. Democratic challengers Aleisia Gibson Wright and Eric Bittman responded individually.

Julie Brodsky and Joshua Stern

Brodsky and Stern say their approach to New Jersey's affordable-housing requirements seeks to limit new construction while strengthening the borough's tax base. They cite senior-designated



units, supportive housing and townhomes with elevators as ways they sought to meet housing obligations while reducing potential school enrollment.

"We wish we didn't have to build any new development, but the BMW and Hilton sites will be tremendous projects that will stabilize and strengthen Woodcliff Lake's tax base and will not change the small town nature of our town," they wrote.

The incumbents say they have discussed school capacity with local and regional school boards. They also say discussions about sharing development revenue to help offset additional school costs remain ongoing.

Their other priorities include controlling borough spending, renovating recreation facilities, repaving roads, updating police technology and expanding community events.

They point to Springfest's restoration, the Woodcliff Wednesdays concert series, expanded municipal communications and a five-year police labor agreement among their accomplishments.

Brodsky, a 20-year resident, is a longtime Bloomingdale's retail executive who has volunteered with the Parent Faculty Association and local athletic programs. Stern, a seven-year resident and commercial litigator, has twice served as council president.

Gibson Wright

Gibson Wright calls for closer

scrutiny of development incentives and public comparisons of payment-in-lieu-of-taxes agreements, or PILOTs, with conventional property taxation.

"Woodcliff Lake is a place where developers already want to build. They don't need a tax break to come here," she said.

She proposes public information sessions before major land-use votes, advance publication of development plans and financial updates written in plain language.

"Residents deserve to shape these decisions while their input can still make a difference," she said.

Gibson Wright also advocates a strategy to attract businesses as commercial properties become residential. Her priorities include affordability, student civic engagement, environmental stewardship, improved sidewalks and a multiyear plan for the borough's pool, fields and courts.

A nine-year resident, Gibson

Wright is a healthcare communications executive and agency founder. She serves on the Pascack Hills School Safety Council.

Eric Bittman

Bittman emphasizes the combined effects of new housing on schools, infrastructure, traffic and property taxes.

"New development should not overwhelm our schools or place an unfair financial burden on existing residents," he said.

He calls for greater transparency about development's long-term financial effects and careful evaluation of municipal financial commitments.

"Growth must be carefully managed to preserve the character and quality of life that make Woodcliff Lake special," he said.

His other priorities include responsible spending, improved communication with residents, recreation and bipartisan cooperation. He proposes working with the Board of Education to improve soccer and baseball fields, restore tennis courts and provide usable basketball facilities.

An 11-year resident, Bittman is the founder and owner of Warren London Dog Products and a former tax accountant. He volunteers as a girls' soccer coach.

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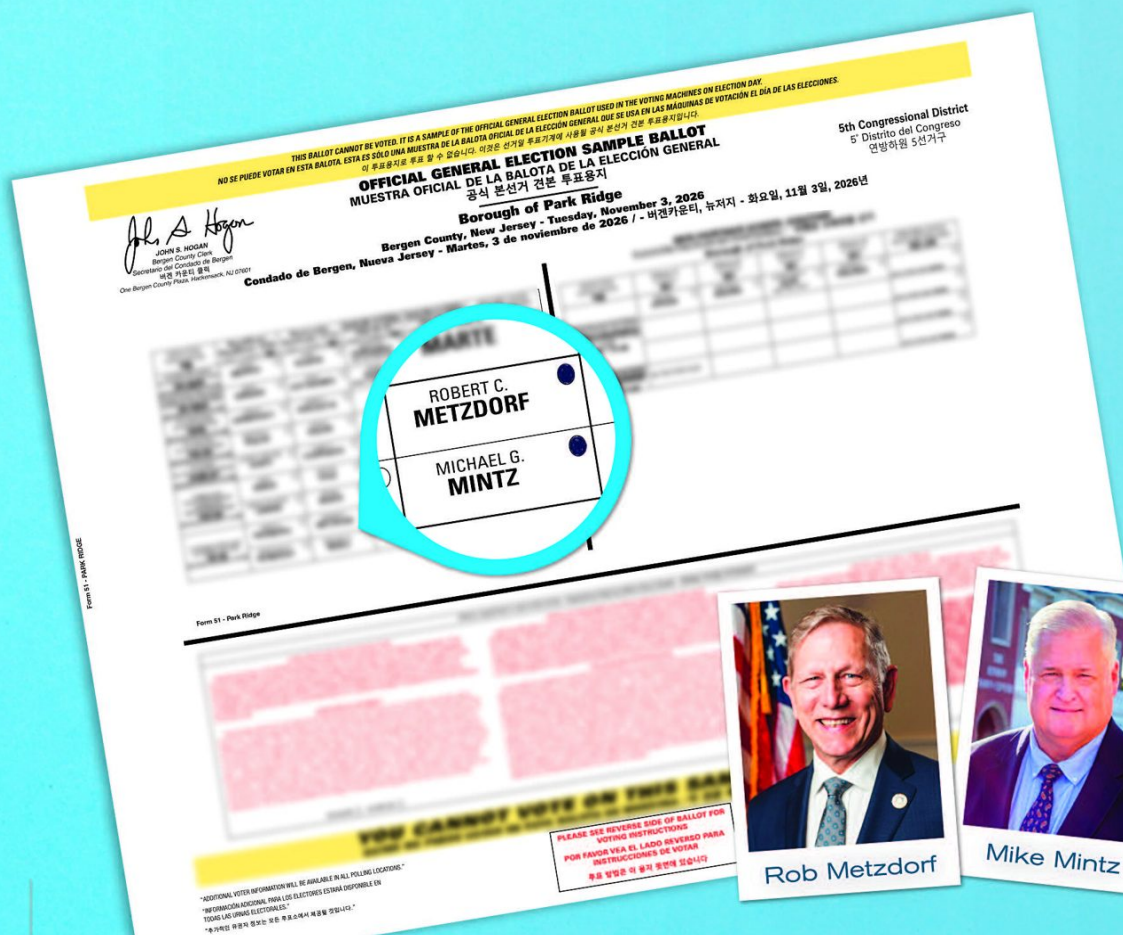


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- ✓ Fought **AGAINST** overdevelopment

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Council:

FROM PAGE 6

mindful eye on our residents' tax dollars to ensure that Park Ridge remains affordable for all of our residents."

They also pledged increased support for senior programs and improvements to municipal athletic fields.

The James PILOT

The candidates differ over the borough's 2017 payment in lieu of taxes, or PILOT, agreement for The James, a 240-unit

downtown apartment complex named for the late actor and Park Ridge native James Gandolfini.

Weinberg and Hennessy criticized the agreement as a tax benefit for developers.

"We believe in tax breaks for our residents, and not for developers unlike our opponents who voted in favor of a tax PILOT program for the developer of The James building," they said.

The challengers also pledged to "protect Park Ridge from runaway overdevelopment, push back against Trenton's attempts to limit local zoning authority and preserve Park Ridge."

The PILOT agreement was approved May 23, 2017, by a 5-0

council vote, with one member absent. Both Mintz and Metzdorf voted in favor.

Asked about the agreement, the incumbents said The James replaced a waste transfer station that had generated approximately \$40,000 annually in property taxes. They said the PILOT generates approximately \$897,000 in borough revenue for 2026 and pointed to broader economic benefits associated with the redevelopment. Those figures represent different revenue categories: property taxes from the former use and borough PILOT revenue from the development.

The James includes 240 apartments, 24 designated as affordable

housing units.

The challengers did not specify in their response what form their proposed residential tax breaks would take or how they would be financed.

Candidates' backgrounds

Metzdorf has served nine years on the council, including as president and police commissioner. He previously served on the Planning Board and coached youth football, basketball and baseball.

His council assignments have included liaison responsibilities involving the utility board, public safety, senior citizens, the Golden Age Club, the DARE program and the Tri-Boro Food Pantry.

Mintz has served six years on the council. His previous public service includes membership on the library board, utility board, pool commission and zoning board.

He also served as senior citizen liaison during the COVID-19 pandemic, helping coordinate assistance for older residents and support for first responders. In youth athletics, Mintz served as wrestling commissioner and secretary of the Twin County Wrestling

League.

The Democratic incumbents' campaign information is available through the Park Ridge United Facebook page at facebook.com/ParkRidgeUnited.

Weinberg serves on the Planning Board. He and his wife of 20 years have three grown children who attended Park Ridge schools. He previously coached recreational baseball and soccer.

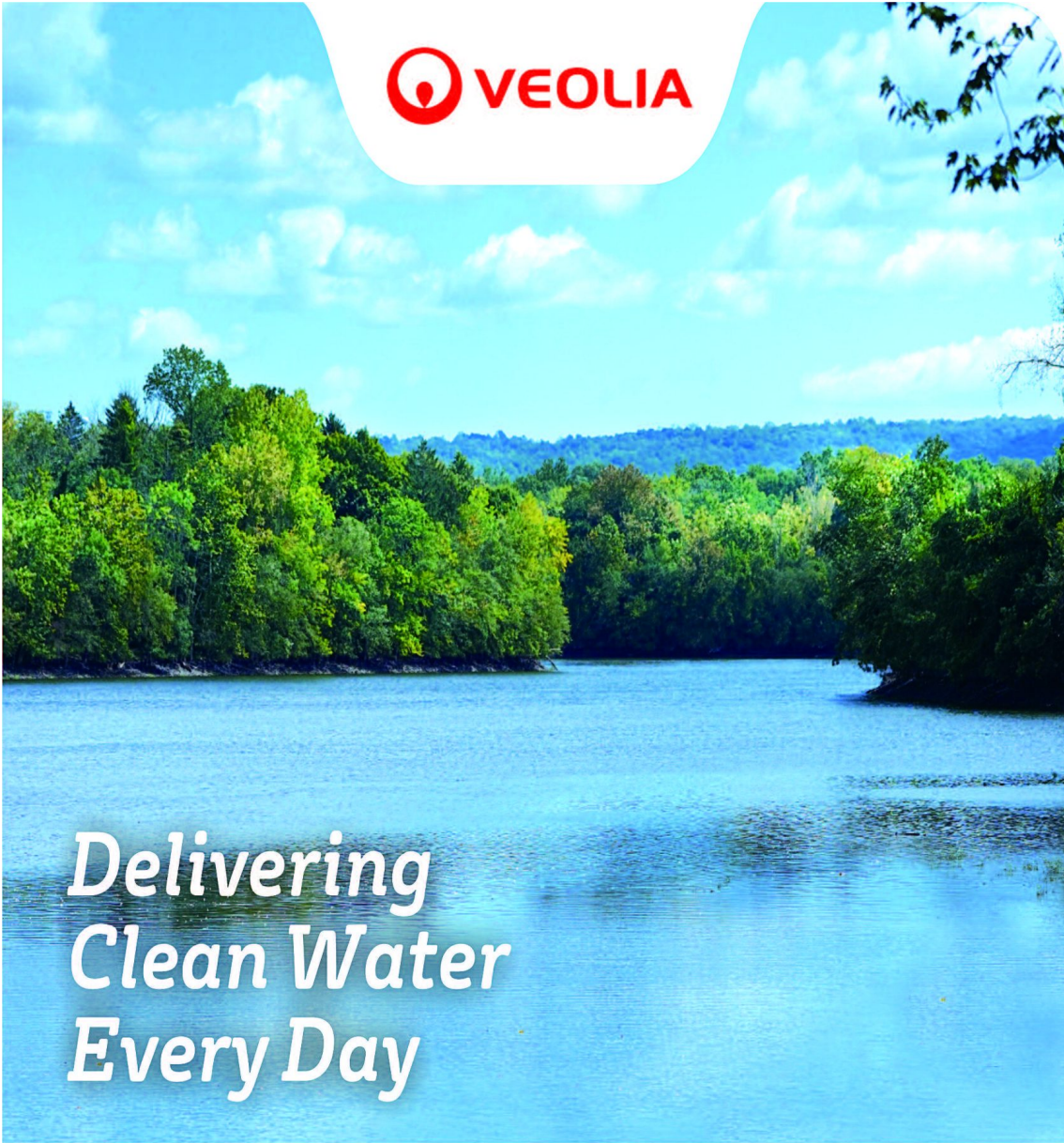
According to his campaign biography, he has more than 35 years of business experience involving organizational leadership, financial management and team development.

Hennessy is married and has three young children. His campaign biography cites more than a decade of experience in the insurance industry, including leadership and risk management. He has also volunteered with Read Ahead, a youth literacy and mentoring organization.

The Republican challengers can be reached at PreserveParkRidge@gmail.com.

The election is Tuesday, Nov. 3.

— Additional reporting by John Snyder



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NCFL opens Emerson home for adults with disabilities ¹³

■ *Locust Avenue residence is non-profit's second in borough, 23rd in Bergen County*

BY JOHN SNYDER
EDITOR@THEPRESSGROUP.NET

EMERSON—A spacious, light-filled house at 15 Locust Ave., between downtown and Borough Hall, is the newest community residence operated by New Concepts for Living for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

The nonprofit celebrated the opening Tuesday, Oct. 27, with a ribbon-cutting ceremony attended by state legislators, county and local officials, families and supporters. Guests were served refreshments as they gathered to mark the opening of NCFL's second home in Emerson and its 23rd in Bergen County. Inside, illustrations showed off similar builds in Hillsdale and elsewhere.

Custom designed with accessibility in mind, the co-ed residence features extra-wide hallways and wheelchair-accessible accommodations. It will provide specialized, around-the-clock care in a neighborhood setting.

"We are proud to welcome another NCFL residence to Emerson and grateful to New Concepts for Living for its continued commitment to providing adults with



New Concepts for Living celebrated the opening of its second Emerson home and 23rd Bergen County community residence for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities Oct. 27 at 15 Locust Ave. From left: NCFL trustee and day program parent Lisa Babin; resident parent Barbara Michelson; Emerson Councilman Michael Timmerman; Amy Scartocci of the New Jersey Division of Developmental Disabilities; Emerson Mayor Danielle DiPaola; state Sen. Holly Schepisi; Bergen County Commissioners Germaine M. Ortiz and Mary J. Amoroso; and NCFL CEO Steve Setteducati. *Courtesy photo*

I/DD the opportunity to live in a beautiful home within a safe, inclusive community," said Mayor Danielle DiPaola.

"Every individual deserves a secure and supportive place to call home, and this residence reflects the importance of creating communities where everyone has the opportunity to thrive."

NCFL provides community housing, day programs and therapy services for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities, including autism, Down syndrome and cerebral palsy. Its residential program combines support for residents' daily needs with opportunities for community con-

nection.

"We are committed to fulfilling our agency's mission by expanding our number of residences to provide more adults with I/DD a beautiful, nurturing home in a welcoming Bergen County neighborhood," said NCFL CEO Steve Setteducati.

"Our homes also give families the invaluable peace of mind that comes from knowing their loved ones are receiving the highest quality of care in a person-centered supportive environment."

State Sen. Holly Schepisi,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 23

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FROM PAGE 4

requires no winding—the cry of a small child.

“The robbers would have had a clear field with a good prospect of carrying off a wagonload of plunder, had it not been for the Ter Kuile twins, two stout youngsters who not infrequently wake up during the night and, naturally, shout for their nurse,” the Montvale Standard wrote. “This they did Tuesday night, between 12 and 1 o’clock, and by this incident the burglary can be timed. It is certain that nothing else could have scared them off.”

The burglars fled shortly after midnight, but it wasn’t until after dawn that the family learned of the crime committed as they slept.

When one of the maids entered the dining room early

Wednesday morning, she found it in disarray. All the drawers and cabinets were open. A small table beneath one of the bay windows had been moved to the middle of the room, and the window was wide open.

“With frightened eyes she took in the general disorder of the room, for the burglars had gone through every drawer and cabinet in search of silverware,” the Montvale Standard reported. “The maid screamed and soon all the members of the family and servants were on the spot.”

A thorough search of the house revealed that the burglars had not done as much damage as they had likely intended. They did not know that the Ter Kuiles, very sensibly, did not keep large sums of money at home. Mrs. Ter Kuile paid all her bills by check, not cash, and the family silver was stored in a safe deposit vault in New York City.

At first, a chafing dish was believed stolen from the dining

room, but it was found in the bushes beneath the open window—a testament to the burglars’ quick exit.

Thanks to two little boys who did not sleep through the night, all the burglars managed to steal from the wealthiest family in Montvale was a pocket watch, a wallet containing about \$4 and a couple of overcoats. As we send the kids back to school, let’s take a look at one of this author’s favorite photographs from the Pascack Historical Society’s archive. Dated to between 1887 and 1890, this was the entire student body of the Park Ridge schoolhouse.

The snapshot captures so many little faces, so many different personalities.

The woman standing on the far right, who looks like she should be in high school, was the teacher. The school budget for 1889, as reported in the Bergen Index newspaper, included \$120 for her salary. There was also \$70 set aside for repairs, \$45 for coal to heat the building, and \$40 for cleaning.

The schoolhouse these children attended was set back from Pascack Road (Main Street to them) and Park Avenue. The land is now part of the Park Ridge High School campus. Built in 1856 with just one room, an 1876 addition had added more space on the north side.

Still, the population of rural Park Ridge was very small, and not everyone saw the value of staying the course when it came to education. One can tell by this photograph that there were many more young children than older ones. Most had already left school by the time they reached their teen years, taking up work on the farm or learning a trade. The number of graduates each year could usually be counted on one hand, and we know that in 1887 the graduating class (completing what might be comparable to eighth grade today) was just two students, one boy and one girl.

The school year generally began on the first Monday of September. During the months of summer vacation, which started on the last Friday in June, the school was locked up and deserted. At the end of August, the doors and windows would be thrown open to air out the building, the floor was scrubbed, blackboards given a fresh coat of paint, and the walls whitewashed.

The grass and weeds had grown out of control since school ended in June. A laborer would be sent in with his scythe to cut it all down. It was not thought necessary to remove the clippings; these would soon be flattened by all the little feet.

The world this group knew was so different from the one chil-

dren know today. People traveled in horse-drawn wagons, not automobiles. Nights were darker, illuminated by the flicker of kerosene lamps, not electric light. People got their water from wells, and they used outhouses, at home and at school. They wrote letters and waited days or weeks for a reply, as houses did not have telephones.

As for entertainment, they couldn’t have in their wildest dreams imagined a PlayStation or an iPad. Even the ability to listen to pre-recorded music at home was still a few years away, and movies and television would have sounded like science fiction. In their adult years, they saw all of these breakthroughs become commonplace.

Soon after this photograph was captured, another building addition in 1890 would add a second story to the school, and this allowed more separation between different age groups. The addition would house grades five through eight, the original 1856 school room housed grades three and four, and grades one and two had lessons in the portion from 1876.

It was also a step forward in that while the building still did not have indoor plumbing, there were now two outhouses, one on each side behind the school. The building also had its own hand pump for well water, which was a marked improvement over having to run to nearby farms with a bucket.



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Citizens:

FROM PAGE 1

Capparelli and Wohl, the evening gave two people accustomed to helping others a turn on the receiving end.

The awards date to 1974, when the chamber honored Harold Effron. According to the evening's program, Effron exemplified giving back without expecting anything in return, notably as an honorary member of the Park Ridge Volunteer Fire Department.

Capparelli and Wohl join a roster spanning generations of local service. Recent recipients include Peter Wells and Jennifer Keilly Errity in 2025; Robin Malley and Jeff Jasper in 2024; and Dee Gillen and the Napoletano Vitale family in 2023. Earlier honorees include Father Thomas J. Norton in 1996, Detective Rachel Morgan in 2011, and Libby and Keith Durie and the Bergen Medical Volunteer Initiative in 2016.

Chamber President Anthony Rizzo, publisher of *Pascack Valley City Lifestyle*, guided a program that included introductions, acceptance speeches, state and county recognitions, and the chamber's own awards. The citations documented careers in nonprofit service, health care and business. The speeches supplied the details that people closest to the honorees wanted everyone else to know.

There was another milestone to celebrate, too. Wohl's son, Hudson, was turning 13, and a cake



Citizens of the Year honoree Theresa "Teri" Capparelli with Greater Pascack Valley Chamber of Commerce President Anthony Rizzo and Treasurer Ken Baron; fellow honoree Dr. Peter Wohl with state Sen. Holly Schepisi; and Hunter Wohl, newly 13, at the chamber's Oct. 20 dinner, at Seasons Catering in the Township of Washington. *John Snyder photos.*



with a candle gave the birthday boy his own moment of recognition.

Rizzo placed those individual contributions within the chamber's broader work. Representing 10 Pascack Valley towns, the organization brings together local business owners, professionals and community members to support businesses and give back to their communities.

"Our mission is about bringing people together and building lasting relationships," he said. (The Press Group, which owns Pascack Press, is a member.)

That work includes meetings on the first Friday of each month and an annual Mayors Breakfast, where local leaders discuss developments in their towns and the year ahead. The chamber also awards the Skip Kelley Memorial Scholarship to a graduating high school senior from each of the 10 communities it represents. "Giving back is just as important as networking," Rizzo said.

For Capparelli, the personal tributes began with daughters Lindsey Cinque and Allie Graff, who explained that their brother, who lives in Tampa, could not attend. They suggested his absence settled the question of who the favorites were.

They described their mother as an accomplished baker and hostess, an energetic entrepreneur and

the person they still call first for advice or encouragement. Her brownies mention, as did the determination that taught her children to pursue their own ambitions.

"She's led by example, and I think we're all better people because of it," they said.

The qualities they knew at home, they explained, were the same ones she brought to the organizations she served.

"She listens, she remembers, she follows through," they said in their joint introduction, "and she makes people feel like they matter, because they do."

Capparelli's public work includes her service as executive director of Habitat for Humanity of Bergen County, her position as a development specialist with the Women's Rights Information Center in Englewood, and her volunteer work with the Franciscan Community Development Center in Fairview.

Her county proclamation — on hand was Bergen County Commissioner Vice Chair Tracy Silna Zur — also recognized her leadership with the Greater Pascack Valley and Mahwah Regional chambers of commerce and the advisory board of Visions Federal Credit Union.

Capparelli spoke through emotion as she thanked friends, colleagues, volunteers and family.

She credited the people who had supported her through difficult times as well as successes, and directed attention toward those whose daily work often receives little recognition.

"A community is more than a place where we live," she said. "It is a collection of people, stories, friendships, acts of kindness, and shared dreams."

She said, "You don't have to change the whole world to make a difference. Sometimes, you simply have to make a difference in one person's life."

State Sen. Holly Schepisi said Capparelli's remarks brought to mind her uncle, former Westwood Mayor Skip Kelley, whose name lives on in the chamber's scholarship program. She recalled how, beginning with the first local vigil over Sept. 11, he asked people to perform a random act of kindness the following day.

Wohl, CEO and owner of The Spine & Health Center of New Jersey, was recognized for his work in health care and for supporting local entrepreneurs through his LocalBizCast podcast.

He accepted the honor with a warning about the chamber's judgment in handing him a microphone. "Clearly the chamber did not do their due diligence and background checks," he joked.

Looking around the room, he

described the pleasure of seeing people from different chapters of his life together: kindergarten friends, college and chiropractic school classmates, professional colleagues, neighbors and family.

He spoke about helping patients regain their lives, giving business owners a place to tell their stories, and using humor to make difficult days a little easier.

"Success isn't just about what we accomplish," he said. "It's about what we help others accomplish."

His thanks became especially personal as he addressed his children, Hudson and Emma, his wife, Kelly, and his mother. He also remembered his late father, a man he described as kind, funny and able to make people feel good simply by being around them.

Their temperaments differed, Wohl said, but their aim was much the same: to leave people a little happier than they found them.

The dinner also helped support the work being celebrated. Rizzo described the gala night as the chamber's largest fundraiser of the year, with proceeds supporting scholarships and community initiatives and a portion of the evening's profits going to charities chosen by the honorees.

A silent auction drew on donations from local businesses and individuals.

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FROM PAGE 1

district's six Chinese classes and the Asian Culture Club, filled a coach bus for the Oct. 16 trip, teacher Liam O'Neill said. Once there, younger students had a scavenger hunt to guide them, while upperclassmen had a culinary assignment: try three or four different cuisines and explore the variety available within Chinatown.

The idea, O'Neill said, was "to show the richness, the diversity of China" through slices of life savored close to home.

"It's a lot to ask a teenager to engage a stranger on the street with a foreign language. But in a group and with a little guidance many of our students are able to do so. An important area in the city that is known to them but probably foreign suddenly becomes more familiar and accessible. This does wonders for their language acquisition," he said.

Freshmen and sophomores worked in small groups with a list of roughly 20 to 25 challenges. Some asked them to recognize language or find cultural landmarks, such as a house of worship. Others encouraged them to try something unfamiliar.

Asked which restaurants or regional cuisines the older students tried, and whether a particular dish got a memorable reaction, O'Neill said, "In class, we'll read about different regions and cuisines in China. Some are represented in Chinatown restaurants, such as spicy noodles, meat buns, or Beijing Duck. Of course, most students like Taiwanese bubble tea, too."

The haircut and foot massage were among the more adventurous options. The larger purpose,



**A view of Chinatown via
NYCTourism.org**

O'Neill said, was to get students acquainted with the neighborhood.

The trip also fell on his birthday — an occasion spent with students in a program that aims to make a challenging language approachable.

Asked how he and teaching colleague Debbie Yao prepare students for these trips and build on the experience afterward, he said, "We'll go to Chinatown at least once a year. Students master practical vocabulary ahead of time. Afterward, we'll use the photos and videos collected from their assigned scavenger hunts for future classroom experiences."

As with mastering any new language, he said, "Nothing compares to experiencing, firsthand, a different culture. Chinatown is great halfway step towards a full-immersion experience."

Students arrive in the district's Mandarin classes with different interests. Some see a possible connection to careers in international business. Others are drawn to East Asian culture. Still others have heard good things about the program itself, O'Neill said.

His own interest began with an unexpected turn.

As a college undergraduate preparing for medical school, O'Neill wanted to study abroad. He found a program in China focused on Chinese medicine and went for a semester in 1998.

"I went and I loved it," he

said.

What began as an opportunity connected to medicine became an interest reaching across history, politics, literature, economics, religion and the arts.

"It's like a light bulb went off," he said.

By the time he returned to China in 1999, he had changed his major. A grant supported research that included living in Buddhist monasteries and examining questions about religion and the state. He later became involved in human rights work, helping people who had fled persecution seek asylum and begin new lives, he said.

That experience helped set him on the path to teaching Chinese.

For his students, opportunities to connect language with people and places have extended beyond Manhattan. O'Neill — his students call him by his Chinese surname, Ouyang — said the program has made several trips to Taiwan, where students stay in a hotel and visit a sister school, Taipei Municipal Yangming High School.

On those trips, which last about eight or nine days, students spend at least one day at the school. Students from Yangming also join them on outings, he said.

(The school takes its name from philosopher Wang Yang-ming. Its motto—"Sincerity, Respect, Knowledge and Action"—reflects an emphasis on character, learning and putting knowledge into practice.)

Pascack Valley Regional High School District's Chinese program has changed in size over the years. O'Neil said it had 11 classes about six years ago, compared with six now. Enrollment has had its ups and downs, he said, though he sees signs of renewed growth.

— Staff writer John Snyder

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Helen:

FROM PAGE 1

worked as an executive secretary for the American Cancer Society and is especially proud of her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Her love of travel has taken

her to Spain, Portugal, England, China, Japan, Germany and Hawaii. These days, she enjoys reading, watching the morning news and socializing with friends at Brookdale.

She attributes her longevity to a positive mindset and taking good care of her diet.

Family members attending the celebration included her son, Hugo Delbove, and his wife.

Planting:

FROM PAGE 3

contacted by them. We intend to be a relevant resource prompting the borough as it addresses current-day issues," Rubel said.

He said the commission hopes to make Hillsdale more resilient and sustainable and help taxpayers save money through energy efficiency.

"Our intention is to be non-partisan. Our members have knowledge and experience in the sciences, native plantings, landscaping, engineering, businesses and project management, manag-

ing government programs, environmental protection and remediation, and public and worker health and safety," he said.

Members include Rubel,

David Cooper, Tracy Hanson, Meredith Kates, Owen Peacock, Scott Raymond, Anthony Reen, Rick Savino and Zarah Thanasides.



Helen Delbove, seated, celebrates her 102nd birthday at Brookdale Emerson on Oct. 23 with family, staff, Mayor Danielle DiPaola and Police Chief Mark Savino. The officials presented her with a resolution honoring the milestone.

Photo courtesy of Brookdale



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American Legion Boys State and Girls State delegates recognized at Post 153's Oct. 14 meeting are, from left, Scott Trajkoski, Selen Sari, Alyssa Giordano, Colin McNeil and David Han. Fellow delegate Derek Spaulding was unable to attend. *Tammy Levinson.*

American Legion Post 153 lauds Boys State, Girls State delegates

PARK RIDGE — American Legion Post 153 and its Auxiliary Unit 153 recognized participants in the 2026 Jersey Boys State and Jersey Girls State programs during the post's monthly meeting Oct. 14.

Delegates shared their experiences at the weeklong programs held in June. Jersey Boys State took place at Rider Univer-

sity, while Jersey Girls State was held at Centenary University. Auxiliary Unit 153 sponsored two delegates to Girls State this year.

Each participant received a framed Good Citizenship Citation from the post. Commander Ryan O'Hara commended the students for taking part in the programs, which introduce high

school students to government, civic responsibility and leadership.

High school juniors interested in attending the 2027 sessions are encouraged to apply through their school guidance offices beginning early next year. The post and auxiliary will review applications for both programs.

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Election Day: **NOV 3RD**

Letters:

FROM PAGE 7

and-greet with Gabriella Ianni and Dena Toms. They told me they had reviewed the expert opinions, watched the council debate, and followed the public discussion. They expressed a willingness to listen to qualified professionals and a commitment to doing what is necessary to address the problem as quickly as reasonably possible.

I am voting for candidates, not simply a political party. I want representatives who will listen, ask questions, consider the evidence, and work toward solutions rather than allow partisan differences to stand in the way of progress.

This is why I support Gabriella Ianni and Dena Toms for Borough Council. If you are frustrated by Hillsdale's poor cell service, I encourage you to consider supporting them as well. Public safety and the needs of our community should always come first.

Mark V. Cristaldi Jr.
Hillsdale

Collins, Rasmussen here for WW

To the editor:

I'M SUPPORTING Erin Collins and Kris Rasmussen for Westwood Council because I believe they understand what it means to be part of a community. Both have spent years giving their time to Westwood—not because they had to, but because they genuinely wanted to help.

Erin has done a stellar job serving our community for nearly a decade. If I started listing her accomplishments, I'd run out of space before I could explain why I also support Kris!

Like Erin, Kris gives back to the community without expecting anything in return. I think that says a lot about a person. Whether it's helping someone in an emergency, working with local kids, or being part of a team, Kris has always been willing to step up and get involved.

He also brings years of real-world work experience and understands the importance of listening to people, working through problems, and finding practical solutions. Those are qualities that matter when making decisions for our town.

Westwood means a lot to the people who live here, and Kris has shown through his years of volunteering that he truly cares about this community. His experience, willingness to serve, and commitment to Westwood would make him a valuable voice on the council.

I'm grateful for Erin's continued service and believe Kris would bring that same community-minded spirit to the council. For these reasons, I'm happy to support Erin Collins and Kris Rasmussen for Westwood Borough Council.

Erik Saavedra
Westwood

'Female representation matters for Hillsdale'

To the editor:

AS A REPUBLICAN, the actions of the current administration have forced me to question whether our party's new direction still reflects the values upon which this country was built. While national politics dominates the headlines, local elections must be about individuals, their willingness to listen, and their commitment to addressing the issues that matter most to residents.

With that in mind, I recently reached out to all candidates running for Hillsdale Council. I

appreciated receiving quick, thorough answers from Gabriella Ianni and Dena Toms. My outreach to the remaining candidates met hurdles: a scheduling conflict with one and no response from the other.

This experience reinforced something greater: the importance of female representation in local government. Right now, our Borough Council has only one female representative, a stark imbalance that makes adding more women to leadership roles an urgent necessity for our town. Women bring invaluable perspectives, professional backgrounds, and lived experiences to public service. Their active participation ensures that the conversations taking place within our borough hall truly reflect our community.

Real representation is not about suggesting one gender is inherently more qualified than another. Rather, it is about recognizing that diverse perspectives strengthen leadership, encourage thoughtful debate, and contribute to more inclusive, well-rounded decision-making.

As a law student, I have gained a deeper appreciation for civic responsibility, government accountability, and the importance of ensuring every voice is

heard. As a mother of two young boys, I know how crucial it is for our children to see women leading and shaping the communities in which they live.

Hillsdale is a wonderful town, but there is always room for improvement. It is time to welcome fresh perspectives, embrace new ideas, and prioritize timely action on the issues affecting our residents. We must expect our representatives to be accessible, responsive, and willing to engage across the political aisle.

Both Gabriella and Dena balance the responsibilities of raising families and successful careers, all while serving as dedicated volunteers in our schools and community. Hillsdale residents deserve elected officials who are willing to address difficult issues openly, communicate honestly about the challenges facing our town, and share the truth even when the news is not what we want to hear.

Given the political turmoil we face today, I refuse to simply toe the party line when it comes to our community's future. I am voting for Gabriella Ianni and Dena Toms for Hillsdale Council. You should too.

Carolyn Alejandra Amores
Hillsdale

Frustration over airport 'inaction'

To the editor:

FOR YEARS Bergen County residents in Congressman John Gottheimer's legislative district have been dealing with excessive, loud and low arrival air traffic into Teterboro Airport. Teterboro has exploded with private jet traffic, behaving more as a commercial airport than the "general aviation" airport it professes itself to be. Congressman Gottheimer has received countless phone calls, letters and emails, and has had conversations with residents requesting his help for relief.

This past summer, another Bergen County resident and I met with his director of constituent services, Kim Parra, at his Fair Lawn office. We provided documentation substantiating this quality of life and health and wellness issue that has plagued residents for years, and reminded the Congressman's office how many have reached out

CONTINUED ON PAGE 30



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Emerson Community School registration

EMERSON — Registration is open for Emerson Community School's fall 2026 session, offering low-cost afternoon and evening classes for adults and children. Run through Emerson Public Schools, the program is open to New Jersey and New York residents. Organizers encourage early registration because classes can fill quickly. For the brochure and registration, visit emersonschools.org/emerson-community-school. For information, email co-directors Erin Amicucci and Kate Gallucci at ecschooll@emersonschools.org.

Free rabies clinic in Montvale Nov. 7

The Board of Health will hold its annual free rabies vaccination clinic Saturday, Nov. 7, from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the DPW Garage, 1 Memorial Drive. The clinic is open to everyone, including nonresidents. Dogs must be on nonretractable leashes; cats must be in secure carriers. Proof of previous vaccination is required for a vaccine to be valid for three years.

Communities to honor veterans Nov. 11

Veterans Day ceremonies in Emerson, Hillsdale, Park Ridge, and the Township of Washington will honor those who served in the U.S. military Wednesday, Nov. 11. All four ceremonies begin at 11 a.m. *Other observances are taking shape as well; let us know and we'll update our list. As always, check with organizers for updates.*

• **Emerson:** The borough and American Legion Post 269 will hold a ceremony at the Emerson Senior Center. A complimentary breakfast for Emerson veterans and their families, provided by Emerson Community Policing, begins at 10 a.m. For information, call the Borough Clerk's Office at (201) 262-6086,

ext. 1200.

• **Hillsdale:** American Legion Post 162 will hold its ceremony at the memorial in Veterans Park in downtown Hillsdale. Veterans will raise new flags representing the military branches, including the U.S. Space Force. For information, visit americanlegionpost162.org.

• **Park Ridge:** American Legion Post 153 will hold its annual memorial service at the post on Ridge Avenue, honoring veterans living and deceased. Memorial wreaths will be presented and "Taps" will be played. Organizers encourage attendees to wear red, white and blue and residents to display the American flag.

• **Township of Washington:** The township will hold its ceremony at the Township of Washington Public Library. Township offices and the library will be closed for the holiday.

Dine at Davey's to benefit Montvale Public Library

The Friends of the Montvale Library will host a "Dining for Dollars" fundraiser at Davey's Irish Pub & Restaurant, 5 Park St., Monday, Nov. 2, through Thursday, Nov. 5. Davey's will donate a percentage of participating customers' lunch and dinner bills to the Friends of the Library. The family-owned restaurant, in operation since 1974, opens daily at noon.

To participate, diners must present a "Dining for Dollars" coupon before paying their bill. Coupons are available at the Montvale Library, from Friends of the Library members and online at montvalelibrarynj.org. For more information, call the library at (201) 391-5090.

Bring a toy to Domani, receive a dining discount

Domani Ristorante, 387 Washington Ave., Hillsdale, is partnering with the Knights of Columbus

Joseph F. Lamb Assembly to collect new, unwrapped toys and games for the Marine Toys for Tots program.

During the weeks of Nov. 8 and 15, individuals and families donating a toy or game will receive 15% off their dine-in or takeout bill. The family offer applies to parents and children only. The assembly comprises 11 Knights of Columbus councils in northern New Jersey. Donations will help provide Christmas gifts for children in need. Call Domani at 201-722-8881.

St. Andrew's 50+ Club meets Nov. 4

St. Andrew's 50+ Club will

meet Wednesday, Nov. 4, at noon in the gym. Entertainment will be provided by "Call Us Clowns," and cake and coffee will be served. New members are always welcome. Attendees are asked to bring an item or donation for the food pantry. For more information, call Elaine at 201-664-7037.

Free rabies clinic in Park Ridge Nov. 9

The borough will hold a free rabies vaccination clinic Monday, Nov. 9, at the Utility Garage, 15 Sulak Lane. Dogs will be vaccinated from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., followed by cats from 7:30 to 8 p.m. Dogs must

be leashed; retractable leashes are not permitted. Pet owners seeking a three-year vaccination must provide proof of prior rabies vaccination. The clinic is open to New Jersey residents only. For more information, contact Borough Hall at (201) 391-5673.

Westwood Senior Fellowship Club

The Westwood Senior Friendship Club next meets Tuesday, Nov. 10 at 11:30 a.m. at the Community Center, 55 Jefferson Ave. Cake and coffee will be served. Your \$40 admission to the Christmas party at Armando's will be collected.



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Families pour in for Veolia's second Touch-A-Truck — more than 1,700 guests

HAWORTH

The Haworth Water Treatment Plant opened its gates on Saturday for Veolia's second annual Touch-A-Truck event, welcoming more than 1,700 area residents for a behind-the-scenes look at the specialized vehicles, heavy machinery and essential services that help protect and support local communities.

Throughout the event, children and their families had the opportunity to explore Veolia's water operations fleet and learn more about the equipment used to ensure reliable service and superior water quality. Young visitors especially enjoyed climbing



aboard the vehicles, sitting in the driver's seats and imagining themselves operating the trucks and machinery.

More than 300 visitors also participated in guided tours of the facility, gaining insight into the plant's daily operations and the processes involved in treating and delivering safe, reliable water.

The event featured emergency response vehicles, including the fire and police departments of River Vale and Haworth, the Bergen County Sheriff's Office and the Bergen County Regional

SWAT Team. Visitors were able to get an up-close look at fire trucks, police cruisers, SWAT vehicles and other specialized emergency response equipment.

"The enthusiasm from the children and families who attended was wonderful to see," said Debra Vial, Veolia's director of communications. "This event gives our community an opportunity to learn about the important work happening at the water treatment plant while also meeting the local professionals who

CONTINUED ON PAGE 23

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Truck:

FROM PAGE 22

help keep our neighborhoods safe. We are grateful to everyone who helped make this event such a success.”



Home:

FROM PAGE 13

R-39, on hand for the celebration, pointed to the demand for housing equipped to serve adults with disabilities.

“Across New Jersey, adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities face extremely long waits for housing that meets their needs,” Schepisi said. “NCFL is addressing that need by expanding access to housing where adults with special needs can live with dignity, independence and a sense of community.”

Amy Scartocci, an assistant division director with the New

Jersey Division of Developmental Disabilities, attended the ceremony and emphasized the importance of partnerships that make additional community residences available.

“Community-based housing is central to our mission of supporting people with intellectual and developmental disabilities to live as independently as possible in the communities they call home,” Scartocci said.

In addition to its residences, NCFL operates day program centers in Paramus and Rochelle Park. Both offer speech, occupational and physical therapy, along with social, recreational and community activities. The agency also provides behavioral and nursing services.

Visit ncfl.net.

Rising Above Bakery to debut recipe book at Nov. 8 fundraiser

MONTVALE—At Rising Above Bakery, baking is an opportunity for young adults with disabilities to develop skills and connect with others. Now, the non-profit’s bakers have another accomplishment to share: their first cookie cookbook.

The Nyack-based organization will debut *Baked Side by Side: A Little Book of Cookies from Cookies & Sprinkles*, its annual fall fundraiser, scheduled for Nov. 8 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Fire & Oak in Montvale.

The brunch will feature interactive cookie-decorating stations and a live baking demonstration, giving guests a chance to participate while learning more about the bakery and its community. The cookbook collects cookie recipes created by and featuring the bakery’s own bakers.

Tickets are \$115 per person, with proceeds directly supporting Rising Above Bakery’s programs for young adults with disabilities. The organization serves families throughout Bergen County and neighboring Rockland County, New York.

Founded in January 2021 by licensed speech therapist Shiri Reuveni-Ullrich, Rising Above Bakery offers a bakery setting



where participants can build baking and social skills as part of an inclusive community. It operates out of the Rockland Community College building at 70 Main St. in Nyack.

The Montvale gathering will bring that community together around the bakers’ work, with the cookbook offering a new way to share their recipes beyond the bakery.

“Fall is fundraising season for so many organizations doing wonderful work in our community, and



Rising Above Bakery’s first cookbook features cookie recipes created by its bakers and debuts Nov. 8 in Montvale.

we’ve always been glad to give when asked,” said Reuveni-Ullrich, the organization’s founder and president. “This year, it’s our turn to ask. And we couldn’t be more excited to celebrate our bakers, debut their cookie cookbook, and bring our community together to do it.”

The public is invited to attend. Local businesses and individuals can also support the fundraiser through sponsorships, raffle baskets or in-kind donations.

For more information about Rising Above Bakery and ways to support its work, visit risingabovebakery.org.

— Staff writer
John Snyder

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Health, Wellness & Fitness Guide



Understanding pain: Finding a path to better movement



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By Dr. Eric Kaplan,
DC, DACNB,
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HAVE YOU ever bent down to pick up a sock and suddenly felt like you needed a crane to get back up? Or turned your head while driving and discovered your neck had the flexibility of a rusty door hinge? Pain has a way of reminding us that our bodies deserve attention.

October is National Chiropractic Health Month, making it a good time to understand why pain develops and what we can do about it. Pain can have several contributing factors, and an appropriate evaluation can help

guide treatment—even when a single cause cannot be identified.

Muscular pain can develop from overuse, strain or tension. Spending hours hunched over a computer, looking down at a phone or sleeping in an awkward position can leave muscles feeling tight and sore.

Posture may contribute to discomfort, although posture alone does not explain every case of pain. The goal is not to sit like a statue. It is to move regularly and avoid staying in one position all day.

A sedentary lifestyle can also affect how well we move and function. Research published in PeerJ in 2022 reviewed 16 studies involving more than 100,000 adults. It found an association between sedentary behavior and greater disability related to lower back pain, but did not find that

longer sedentary time increased the likelihood of developing lower back pain. The authors cautioned that the findings were tentative because of limitations in the underlying studies. Sitting is not automatically the enemy, but taking regular movement breaks is a practical habit.

Pain can also involve nerves, spinal discs and joints. A herniated or bulging disc may irritate or compress a nerve, sometimes causing pain, tingling, numbness or weakness that travels into an arm or leg. However, disc changes can also occur without symptoms. Arthritis and other joint conditions can cause stiffness and discomfort, sometimes with swelling. Injuries and changes in how we move may contribute as well.

Staying hydrated is important, especially during heat or

strenuous activity, but drinking extra water is not a treatment for every ache. Pain can have many contributing factors, including injuries, medical conditions, sleep problems and stress. The body is complicated, which is why guessing is not a treatment plan.

The nervous system also plays a central role. It helps us detect and respond to potential harm. Sometimes pain persists after an injury has healed, in part because the nervous system becomes more sensitive.

That does not mean the pain is imaginary. Pain is a real, complex experience influenced by physical, neurological, psychological and social factors.

So what should you do? An appropriate evaluation can help. A thorough history and physical examination can identify possible contributing factors and determine whether further testing or referral is needed. A specific structural cause is not always identifiable, and effective care does not always depend on finding one.

For low back pain, treatment may include education, therapeutic exercise, rehabilitation and other approaches suited to the individual. Guidelines generally discourage routine imaging when there are no signs of a serious underlying condition.

For chronic primary low back pain, the World Health Organization recommends individualized care that may include exercise, psychological therapies, certain medicines and some physical therapies. Spinal manipulation may be offered as part of that care, although the supporting evidence is uncertain. These recommendations do not apply equally to every type or cause of pain.

Movement is often an impor-

tant part of recovery. Walking, strengthening exercises and gradually returning to activities can help many people improve function. Take breaks from prolonged sitting, adjust your workstation for comfort, choose movements that suit your abilities and pay attention to sleep.

You do not have to become a marathon runner. Sometimes the first victory is simply getting off the couch before it starts recognizing you as permanent furniture.

Some symptoms require emergency care. Seek immediate emergency evaluation for back pain accompanied by new difficulty urinating, loss of bladder or bowel control, numbness around the groin or anus, or rapidly worsening leg weakness. Back pain following a serious accident also requires emergency evaluation. Fever or feeling generally unwell with back pain, or other new or worsening weakness, warrants urgent medical assessment.

For National Chiropractic Health Month, Kaplan Brain & Body is offering a physical and neurological examination for \$21, normally \$600. We will assess your symptoms, look for possible contributing factors and discuss an appropriate plan or referral based on the findings.

No examination can guarantee a single cause will be identified, but a careful evaluation is a sensible place to start.

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Westwood Regional forms committee to review technology use, screen time in schools

The Westwood Regional School District has formed a Digital Steering Committee to examine how technology is used in classrooms, with an emphasis on balancing digital instruction with traditional, hands-on learning.

The districtwide advisory group, comprising educators, students, parents, administrators and Board of Education members, held its first meeting Oct. 8. Its work will continue through the 2026–27 school year, with recommendations expected following a second meeting in April.

Rather than focusing simply on whether students should spend more or less time using technology, the committee is considering a central question: *Does this use of technology make teaching and*

learning better?

The district said the goal is to ensure technology strengthens instruction without replacing teachers, personal interaction or hands-on learning experiences.

The committee will examine three areas: educational screen time, student access to devices and appropriate integration of technology into classroom instruction.

Its screen-time review will consider not only how long students use devices but also the purpose, quality and context of that use, including whether screen time displaces other valuable learning activities.

The committee also will review student device needs across four grade-level groups:

kindergarten through second grade, grades 3–5, middle school and high school.

A third area of study will examine when digital tools improve learning, creativity, collaboration and accessibility, and when traditional approaches — including classroom discussion, handwriting, physical learning materials and laboratory work — may be more effective.

The district said its review will draw on educational research and policy guidance from the American Academy of Pediatrics, UNESCO and New Jersey's evolving digital wellness initiatives.

It also will distinguish between personal electronic devices, such as smartphones and smartwatches, and school-issued

instructional devices used for classroom learning.

Committee member Kate Capizzi, a digital arts teacher at Westwood Regional Middle School, praised the collaboration among students, staff and parents at the opening meeting.

"I am grateful for the opportunity to be part of this committee as we help shape how technology is thoughtfully and effectively used throughout our district," Capizzi said. "I kept thinking about the topics we discussed and how we can continue to make informed decisions that best support our students and teachers."

The committee includes district and school administrators, Board of Education members, teachers from various grade levels

and subject areas, parents representing elementary, middle and high schools, and middle and high school students.

Following the initial meeting, district administrators will review stakeholder feedback, examine classroom technology practices and gather additional information.

The committee is scheduled to reconvene April 6, 2027, to review findings, refine proposed district guidelines and develop recommendations for teacher training, student devices and a districtwide approach to digital learning.

The Westwood Regional School District serves students in Westwood and Washington Township from prekindergarten through 12th grade.

This Dracula gives back— Players host blood drive

ORADELL — Before taking the stage as Count Dracula, Cresskill actor James Perlas took a seat in a donor chair.

Perlas joined theater supporters and local residents Oct. 17 for a community blood drive hosted by Bergen County Players and Vitalant outside the Little Firehouse Theatre.

The event coincided with

preparations for the company's production of "Dracula: A Comedy of Terrors," giving its leading vampire a chance to play against type.

"Usually, Dracula is known for taking, but today was all about giving," Perlas said in a statement supplied by Bergen County Players. "It was wonderful to see so many people come



PERLAS

out to support Vitalant. It truly proves that our community has a lot of heart—and plenty of life-saving blood to go around."

Donors gave blood inside Vitalant's mobile unit outside the theater. According to organizers, the donations will help hospital patients across the region. A collection total was not provided.

Written by Gordon Greenberg and Steve Rosen, "Dracula: A Comedy of Terrors" reimagines Bram Stoker's vampire tale as a fast-paced comedy. The production opened Oct. 24 at the Little Firehouse Theatre, 298 Kinderkamack Road.

Bergen County Players is an all-volunteer community theater company. For tickets and performance information, visit bcplayers.org or call 201-261-4200.

Photo: Cresskill actor James Perlas in character as Dracula, from Bergen County Players' production. Via Richard Frant/Frant Visuals LLC



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Volunteers power a clean sweep in Hillsdale

APPROXIMATELY 25 volunteers joined Hillsdale's annual fall cleanup Saturday, Oct. 17, collecting litter from streets and parks near the downtown.

Participants included Pascack Valley High School Honor Society students and their adviser, Valerie Santo, along with residents and Environmental Commission members. Teams set out from Veterans Park with litter grabbers, gloves and collection bags supplied by the borough's Department of Public Works.

"Many volunteers happily were unable to fill their collection bags with trash because our town has become increasingly clean," said Environmental Commission member David Cooper, who led the effort. He credited residents' care and DPW crews' work.

The commission welcomes volunteers and generally meets at



Pascack Valley High School Honor Society students and many other volunteers join Hillsdale's annual fall downtown cleanup Oct. 17. *Anthony DeRosa photos*

Borough Hall on the third Monday of each month at 7 p.m. Meetings are open to the public. For more

information email hec@hillsdalenj.org.

— Via Fred Rubel



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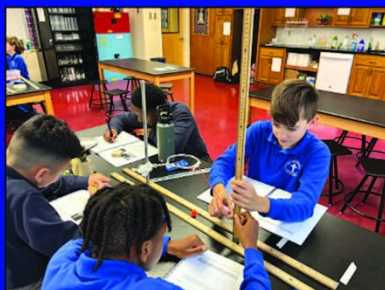


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When should you change your investment strategy?



ERIC KOHLMEIER

market events are likely to compel you to revisit your strategy. Here are some things to consider when they arise.

Dealing with life events

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- Job loss, retirement or early retirement
- Death of a loved one

These types of events may prompt you to revisit your investment strategy, and in fact, they may be good reasons to make changes. Do you need to reprioritize your investment goals, spending, or how much

debt you need to pay down?

Before you reallocate your investments, remember to plan with the same careful consideration you gave to creating your original investment strategy.

Responding to market action

In addition to life events, you may want to revisit your investment strategy during periods of market volatility. Is that college tuition, mortgage or vacation payment nearer than you anticipated, making you realize that you may need to be more conservatively invested?

It is worth noting that your time

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horizon for needing the money is the key factor here. Avoid making emotional decisions based on today’s 24/7/365 news cycle. It can be tempting to react to headlines when you might be better off simply riding out volatility if you have a longer time horizon.

That doesn’t mean you should never respond to market action. However, it’s often a good idea to think long and hard before you change — or, at the extreme, abandon — your strategy.

This article was written by Wells Fargo Advisors and provided courtesy of FA Eric Kohlmeier, Senior Financial Advisor, Managing Director – Investments in Park Ridge at 201-505-0472.

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It Happened To My Family. Could It Happen To Yours?

A personal experience – an important planning reminder.

When my aunt passed away in New York City, she left a significant bank account—with no beneficiary designated. I became the family member responsible for navigating the next steps, including the estate process.

Missing beneficiary designations can mean delays in accessing money, additional court procedures and expenses, and more work for loved ones during an already difficult time.

Reviewing beneficiaries across your retirement accounts, life insurance policies, and bank and investment accounts can help clarify your wishes and reduce avoidable complications.

Let’s review your beneficiaries. Call 201-505-0472 or email eric.kohlmeier@wellsfargo.com to schedule a meeting.



ERIC L. KOHLMEIER

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Managing Director - Investments
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Park Ridge, NJ 07656

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39 years in the business—28 at Wells Fargo Advisors

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Letters:

FROM PAGE 19

since he assumed office in 2016, with no help received. Most importantly, we advised of legislation introduced by former Congressman Steve Rothman (some of which became law as far ago as 2004) that we believe Teterboro, the Port Authority of NY/NJ, and the FAA continuously violate. Namely, a 100,000-pound weight limit on all aircraft, a prohibition of scheduled passenger services, and statutory monitoring of noise levels in the NY/NJ/Philadelphia region.

To her credit, Ms. Parra listened, was respectful, and promised to address our issue with Congressman Gottheimer and his legislative team. Unfortunately, Congressman Gottheimer has taken no action to date. He recently celebrated becoming a member of the Congressional Quiet Skies Caucus. But again no, action on his part. Congressman Gottheimer has had ten years to address this issue on behalf of his constituents and he has chosen inaction.

Audrey Herget
Park Ridge

▲ **Editor's note:** We reached out to Rep. Josh Gottheimer for comment. He replied: "Noise from Teterboro Airport has been a major issue for families in Park Ridge and in communities across Bergen County, and I've been working directly with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to fix it. In just the last weeks, I've met with the FAA multiple times to raise my constituents' concerns. That's been the case throughout my time in Congress, whenever these issues are raised."

He added, "I've also sent the

FAA letters demanding answers and joined the Quiet Skies Caucus to take on aircraft noise in Congress. My team also regularly attends Teterboro Airport Noise Abatement Advisory Committee (TANAAC) meetings and has provided consistent updates to many of my constituents, including Ms. Herget. I can assure you that I'm not backing down until our neighbors get relief."

On cannabis dispensaries in Hillsdale

To the editor:

WE WANT TO MAKE our position absolutely clear: Democratic Borough Council candidates Dena Toms and Gabriella Ianni support keeping marijuana dispensaries out of Hillsdale.

We fully support Borough Ordinance 21-08, adopted on June 14, 2021, which prohibits cannabis businesses, including retail dispensaries, from operating in Hillsdale. We have no intention of supporting efforts to overturn this ordinance, and no one has proposed doing so. In fact, a resident recently posed the question about dispensaries at a town council meeting and the mayor noted that he and everyone on the current council opposed having a dispensary in town.

As far as we're concerned, this is a non-issue, and our efforts should be spent looking at the type of business that would bring more value to Hillsdale. Hillsdale doesn't even have a local ice cream shop, so yes, we plan to work on that first!

We believe in thoughtful, responsible economic development that reflects the character

and values of our community, along with the type of businesses that our small town should attract. Our vision is to attract businesses that will strengthen our downtown, fill vacant storefronts, support and complement existing merchants and create a vibrant, welcoming district for residents, visitors and the entire family.

Most importantly, we believe positive economic development should help stabilize and expand Hillsdale's commercial tax base, reducing the pressures on us as taxpayers.

Our position is straightforward: Keep dispensaries out of Hillsdale and focus on the types of businesses that benefit all of Hillsdale.

Dena Toms, Gabriella Ianni
Democratic candidates for Hillsdale Borough Council

Solimando team for Emerson

To the editor:

VOTES FOR Joseph Solimando, Julia Guttilla, and Venessa Manzano are votes for the positive future of Emerson. This team cares about Emerson and all of its residents. They will listen to our voices and make impactful changes for the better.

They are a team with varying roots and backgrounds — Solimando and Guttilla have spent their entire lives in Emerson, providing them with a solid knowledge of how the town works and how to make effective changes. Manzano has lived in Emerson 14 years — long enough to become wonderfully involved in the community in many ways but still able to bring fresh eyes and a fresh perspective to this team.

This blend allows them to be well-rounded, level-headed and balanced — a shift for Emerson and something its residents truly need.

The platform issues they are focusing on support all Emersonians, regardless of political leanings. They are working to end the overdevelopment challenges that our borough has struggled with over recent years and to stop unnecessary spending. They plan to bring us together as a community, listening to all voices with respect and care. They also plan to improve borough communication to residents, focusing on greater clarity and improved timeliness.

Especially near and dear to my own heart, this team is focusing on inclusivity — making sure all residents have services and opportunities available to them. They are looking to expand the support of our seniors and community members with disabilities/support needs and to do so in such a way that the programs help connect community members versus othering them. They want neighbors to feel truly connected and supported.

I'm an active member of the Emerson community. I teach classes to kids, families and seniors at the Emerson library. I'm involved at the schools and with community events. My family has lived in Emerson for the past 12 years and we chose Emerson as the place we wanted to raise our children when we made our move from the Midwest. We want Emerson to be that place for others — a town where people want to raise their families and participate in the community. A place that feels welcoming to all — where people feel truly cared for, listened to and supported.

With Solimando, Guttilla, and Manzano as our borough

leaders, Emerson could become that town again.

Shelley Sontag
Emerson

It's time for Solimando, Guttilla, Manzano

To the editor:

OUR DAUGHTER Julia Guttilla has always had a keen ability to see both sides of issues and to come up with constructive criticism and more importantly, solutions. We believe she will make an excellent councilperson for the borough of Emerson.

As a former student in the Emerson school system, and now a parent of school-aged children, she has a genuine, strongly motivated desire to make our town a better place in any and all ways.

As a teacher with 20 years of experience, as a past president of her local union, and in her current position of contract negotiator, she is arguably a perfect person to sit on our council. She has always demonstrated a spirit of fairness, and a willingness to compromise, along with fighting for what is right.

As residents of Emerson for 43 years, we have had our own experiences in community service, and while we know it can be extremely rewarding, we also know it can be very challenging. We would never encourage her to pursue this position if we had any doubt in her ability to have a positive impact on the town.

The current administration has been in control for too long. No other town in the Pascack Valley has had as high an increase in their municipal tax rates since the current administration came into power. Joey, Julia, and Venessa will bring the change we so desperately need.

We endorse her wholeheartedly, will be voting for her in November, and hope you will consider doing the same.

Michael and Margie Guttilla
Emerson

Proud of our records: Letizia, Staples

To the editor:

WE CONSTANTLY HEAR how much people value Westwood's walkable neighborhoods, thriving downtown, community traditions, parks and green spaces, and the connections that make our town feel like home. We value those same things. They're why we chose to

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Letters:

FROM PAGE 30

make our lives here, why we got involved, and why we continue to dedicate our time to this community.

Whether we're catching up on the sidelines, chatting on the blacktop, walking the dogs, or running into neighbors downtown, conversations about what our fellow residents love about Westwood and hope for its future are a natural part of our everyday lives. They aren't new to us, nor are they limited to campaign season. And the things we love about Westwood aren't Republican or Democratic. They're the things we share as neighbors.

But preserving and building upon what makes Westwood special doesn't happen by accident. It takes thoughtful planning, informed decisions, and people willing to put in the work.

Between us, we've served on the Borough Council, Planning and Zoning boards, Historic Preservation Commission, and municipal committees. We've worked to strengthen historic preservation, support our downtown, improve parking, protect

our tree canopy and green spaces, expand community programming, and make local government more accessible.

We know that building community and planning responsibly go hand in hand.

That understanding matters now more than ever. As Trenton's affordable housing mandates and changing development regulations reshape local decisions, Westwood needs leaders who understand our neighborhoods, infrastructure, and the long-term consequences of development.

We can't opt out of these requirements, but we can do the homework, ask difficult questions, and advocate for solutions that respect Westwood's size, scale, and needs.

That same approach guides our commitment to responsible budgeting, flood mitigation, infrastructure improvements, and the services and public spaces residents rely on.

Good local government isn't about one person or one accomplishment. It's about listening, collaborating, understanding the details, and following through. It's about being accessible and accountable to the people we serve.

We're proud of the work

we've done, the relationships we've built, and the trust residents have placed in us. On Nov. 3, we ask for your votes to continue that work to preserve what makes Westwood home and plan for what comes next.

Lauren Letizia
Council president
Beth Staples
Prior councilmember
Westwood

Backing seniors in Park Ridge

To the editor:

I AM WRITING to correct a misleading statement in a recent campaign mailer sent by council candidates claiming that current council members seeking re-election voted against funding the Golden Age Club when they voted against the town budget tax increase.

That claim is simply not true. Councilman Mintz and myself voted against the proposed tax increase, not against funding the Golden Age Club. There is an important distinction, and resi-

dents deserve to know the facts rather than be misled by campaign rhetoric.

In fact, as the Golden Age Club's liaison I was instrumental in securing an additional \$4,000 for the Golden Age Club budget. This action clearly demonstrates our commitment to supporting the Club and the residents who depend on its great programs and services.

It is disappointing to see a campaign mailer suggest otherwise. Voters should be able to make informed decisions based on accurate information, not statements that distort the facts for political advantage.

Our community deserves an honest discussion about the town budget, taxers, and support for the Golden Age Club. Disagreeing with a tax increase does not mean opposing the programs and services that benefit our residents. The facts speak for themselves.

Councilman Mintz and myself support the Golden Age Club and its programs 100%! We will continue to support and stand with the Golden Age Club, its members and the taxpayers of Park Ridge.

I urge residents to look beyond the campaign rhetoric, ask questions, and seek the truth before drawing conclusions.

Robert C. Metzdorf
Park Ridge councilman

Endorsing Solimando ticket in Emerson

To the editor:

AS MAYOR OF BERGENFIELD, I know how much local leadership matters. Residents want leaders who listen, spend taxpayer

dollars responsibly, and follow through. I believe Joseph, Julia, and Venessa will bring that approach to Emerson.

Joseph's more than 15 years with the Bergen County Sheriff's Office have prepared him to make difficult decisions and understand a community's public safety needs. His experience as a detective will serve him well as mayor.

Julia has spent 16 years teaching history at Bergenfield High School and helping young people become engaged citizens.

Through her union leadership and negotiation work, she knows how to bring people together, work through disagreements, and balance employees' needs with the organization's resources.

Venessa offers substantial experience in fundraising, grants sourcing, nonprofit leadership, and building community partnerships, including supporting U.S. Naval commanding officers.

As founder and director of The Filipino School of New York and New Jersey, she has brought families, educators, and volunteers together around a common purpose. She knows how to turn dedication into meaningful work.

Their backgrounds differ, but their devotion to service and love for Emerson connect them. Together, they have much to offer Emerson, and I'm confident they will approach the work with common sense and respect for the people they represent.

Joseph, Julia, and Venessa have my wholehearted endorsement. I encourage Emerson residents to support them.

Arvin Amatorio, Esq.
Mayor of Bergenfield

CONTINUED ON PAGE 34

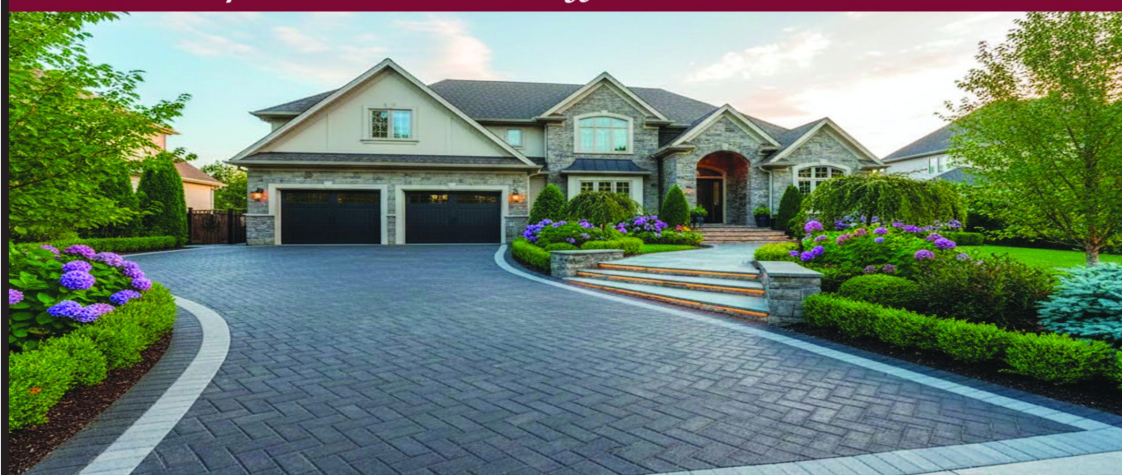
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HUMC women gather to plan projects, outreach

HILLSDALE — The women of Hillsdale United Methodist Church gathered Sunday, Oct. 18, for their general membership meeting, bringing members together for fellowship, discussion and planning for the months ahead. The group pictured represents a span of ages from 30-something to more than 100!

The meeting focused on upcoming projects and opportunities to support local beneficiaries through the group's outreach and service initiatives. Members shared ideas and discussed ways to continue making a positive difference in the community while strengthening the church's commitment to serving others.

Through their ongoing efforts, the women of Hillsdale United Methodist Church strive to put their faith into action by supporting meaningful causes, helping neighbors in need and building connections within the local community.



Hillsdale United Methodist Church is at 349 Hillsdale Ave. The church has served the community since 1876, offering opportunities for worship, fellowship and service to others.

The gathering provided an opportunity for members to collaborate, look ahead to future initiatives and renew their commitment to service and fellowship. One of the group's biggest fundraisers, the annual Holiday Boutique Vendor Sale, is coming up Saturday, Nov. 14, from 10

a.m. to 3 p.m. in the church's Fellowship Hall. The event offers free parking and admission, along with an opportunity to shop locally and support area small businesses. Organizers say the event traditionally draws a large turnout.

Hillsdale United Methodist Church is at 349 Hillsdale Ave. The church has served the community since 1876, offering opportunities for worship, fellowship and service to others.

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Letters:

FROM PAGE 32

Dell cheers Letizia, Staples in Westwood

To the editor:

THERE ARE SO MANY things I love about Westwood, but near the top of the list is how connected this community feels.

That doesn't happen by accident. It happens because people show up. They volunteer, coach, support our emergency services, serve on boards, and help their neighbors. But serving on council also requires preparation, sound judgment, and an understanding of how decisions made today will affect our town for years to come.

Long before Lauren joined the council, she helped found Celebrate Westwood to mark the bor-

ough's 125th anniversary, then kept creating opportunities for people to enjoy our parks, support our downtown and spend time together.

On the council, she has also worked to keep residents informed, including developing the idea for and then authoring Westwood's digital municipal magazine.

Both Lauren and Beth have dedicated years to serving on the Zoning and Planning drafting our Master Plan and reconsidering land use to adjust for modern climate, flooding, economic, and development conditions. They've spent years as members of the Historic Preservation Commission understanding the purpose of preserving Westwood's history through dedicated research and careful documentation, while understanding the neighborhoods around it.

Their shared experience is particularly relevant now, as Westwood responds to state affordable housing requirements and state statutes that will further limit local development control. These issues require people who will study the

details, understand how different properties relate to surrounding neighborhoods and work to preserve local priorities within the requirements imposed on us.

After all, we cannot have the community we love without the very foundations of what make Westwood home: safe streets, tree lined neighborhoods, beloved parks, and a bustling downtown.

Lauren brings that approach to her council responsibilities. Beth brings experience from her prior council service, municipal boards and nearly 30 years working for New Jersey assemblywomen. Her work helping residents navigate government and assisting with legislation gives her a valuable perspective on the relationship between decisions in Trenton and their consequences here at home.

What stands out to me about Lauren and Beth is how their community involvement informs their public service. They know Westwood through years of participation, and they bring that knowledge into the research, discussions and decisions that governing requires.

I ask you to join me in voting for Lauren Letizia and Beth Staples for Westwood Borough Council. They bring community connection, relevant experience, and the willingness to do the detailed work our town needs.

Beth Dell
Westwood councilmember

Re-elect Collins, and vote in Rasmussen

To the editor:

WHAT DOES it truly mean to serve others? It's showing up when no one is watching, doing the work when there's no recognition to be gained, and putting the community's needs ahead of personal ambition. True public service is not measured by how loudly someone advertises their accomplishments, but by the difference they make in others' lives.

In public life, it's easy to confuse visibility with service and self-promotion with leadership. But the most meaningful contributions are often made quietly, consistently, and with humility. They are reflected not in how often someone takes credit, but in how faithfully they show up, listen, collaborate, and do the work.

That's the kind of service Erin Collins and Kris Rasmussen have demonstrated throughout their years of professional, civic, and volunteer leadership in Westwood.

As Erin serves her third term on the Westwood Borough Council, she has dedicated nearly a decade of her time to responsibilities that span public safety, emergency management, recreation, land use, public properties, and local assistance. These are areas that require steady attention, thoughtful decisions, and a genuine commitment to the public good.

Erin's dedication extends well beyond the council chamber as a longtime volunteer around Westwood. She takes the lead in advancing conservation and sustainability efforts. She has coached girls' soccer and softball, led Girl Scout troops, taught Sunday school, and supported youth and community organizations.

She has also advocated for flood mitigation and addiction-recovery awareness, and supports community members in need.

I often wonder how she does so much—and I'm just as often shocked to find she does even more. I've come to realize that Erin is simply willing to contribute wherever there is a need, as a member of our community—not for applause.

Kris shares the same values and desire to serve the community. His career experience makes him a valuable asset in operations and finances, adding to Erin's expertise.

Leadership is about listening more than speaking, working

more than boasting, and remembering that the purpose of public office is to serve the people. Westwood benefits when its leaders approach their duties with experience, compassion, humility, and a willingness to do the often unseen work that moves a community forward. Both Erin Collins and Kris Rasmussen have demonstrated those qualities, time and time again.

Join me in voting for Erin Collins and her running mate, Kristian Rasmussen, on Nov. 3!

Lea Simone
Westwood

Not party but people: Osso, Ganter

To the editor:

AS A HILLSDALE resident, a father, local volunteer, and someone who has had the experience of running for Borough Council myself, I have come to believe something very strongly: local government should be about people and community far more than political labels.

That is the perspective I bring when I say I am proud to support Clemente Osso and Danielle Ganter for Hillsdale Borough Council.

I know Clem and Danielle personally. They are longtime Hillsdale residents, local small-business owners and, most importantly to me, genuinely good people who care deeply about this town. My support isn't about a party label. It's about the people I know them to be and the approach they will bring to serving Hillsdale.

They understand that every tax dollar ultimately comes from the families who live here and that residents deserve to know those dollars are being put to work for them. They also believe improving Hillsdale means examining all reasonable options, asking difficult questions, listening to different perspectives and not assuming there is only one acceptable solution.

Having run for council myself last year, I learned firsthand how quickly a local election can become more political than it needs to be. I made a conscious decision not to campaign against my opponents. Yet in the final week, my own words were used against me in a letter to the editor, without an opportunity for me to respond.

I don't mention that to relitigate last year's election. It reinforced for me what local elections should be about: the candidates, their ideas, their character, and what they hope to accomplish for our community.

Through my involvement with Hillsdale's soccer program, community events, tournaments and the Recreation Commission, I've had the privilege of

CONTINUED ON PAGE 35

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Letters:

FROM PAGE 34

working with and getting to know families throughout our community.

Those experiences continually remind me of something important: Hillsdale isn't a political party. Hillsdale is people. That's why I'm proud to support Clemente Osso and Danielle Ganter.

Louis Casale
Hillsdale

We need DiPaola for third term

To the editor:

I AM WRITING to express my strong support for Mayor Danielle DiPaola as she seeks reelection for a third term. Over the years, I have watched her lead our community with dedication, steadiness, and genuine care for the people of Emerson.

Mayor DiPaola consistently puts in countless hours behind the scenes to ensure our town runs efficiently. Whether it's addressing day-to-day concerns, responding quickly when issues arise, or working proactively to improve services, she approaches every responsibility with professionalism and commitment.

Her leadership has been proven time and again through her willingness to listen, her accessibility to residents, and her ability to navigate challenges with calm and clarity. Emerson is stronger because of her efforts, and her continued service would benefit all of us who call this town home.

I am grateful for the work she has done and the stability she brings to our local government. I fully support Mayor DiPaola for another term and look forward to seeing her continue the work she has devoted herself to so wholeheartedly.

Kathy Gallagher
Emerson

Manzano and the Solimando ticket in Emerson

To the editor:

AS A BERGENFIELD councilman, I am proud to endorse Venessa Manzano for the Emerson Borough Council. Her commitment to building and nurturing strong communities has been proven time and again over nearly

two decades. In the 10 years I have known her, she has been a tireless advocate for Filipino outreach and cultural promotion. I know she will bring the same passion, leadership, and dedication to serving the residents of Emerson.

The Solimando team is filled with capable leaders who possess exceptional track records. With them helping to shape the future, Emerson will shine even brighter!

Councilman
Salvador "Buddy" Deauna
Borough of Bergenfield

'It's about the work' — vote Osso, Ganter

To the editor:

FOR THE PAST 14 years, I have had the honor and privilege of serving the residents of Hillsdale as a member of the Borough Council. During that time, I have served alongside many different councilmembers from different political parties and with different backgrounds, personalities and approaches to public service.

I've seen councilmembers who understood that holding public office isn't about the title or the prestige — it's about doing the work. It means studying the issues, asking difficult questions, understanding the financial implications of decisions and sometimes making choices that aren't easy or popular.

That experience has also given me a pretty good understanding of the qualities I believe are needed to be an effective councilmember.

That is why I am supporting Clemente Osso and Danielle Ganter for Hillsdale Borough Council. Both bring strong educational and professional backgrounds and, importantly, meaningful business and financial experience. Those qualifications matter. Hillsdale will face some significant financial decisions in the next several years, and the people sitting at the Council dais will need to understand budgets, contracts, long-term costs and the consequences of the decisions they make.

Every candidate running for Borough Council has volunteered

their time to Hillsdale organizations and that commitment to our community is admirable. But serving on the Borough Council is a different responsibility. Volunteer experience is important, but it is not the only qualification that matters. We also need councilmembers who can evaluate complex issues, understand the numbers, exercise sound judgment and make decisions with the Borough's long-term interests in mind.

I trust Clemente and Danielle's judgment and I believe their experience would serve Hillsdale well at a time when the decisions we make today will have financial consequences for years to come.

That's why I encourage you to vote for Clemente Osso and Danielle Ganter for Hillsdale Borough Council.

Anthony DeRosa
Hillsdale councilman

DiPaola: Vote for us with confidence

To the editor:

SERVING AS MAYOR for the past eight years has been an honor beyond measure. I am incredibly proud of what the dedicated councilmembers and I have accomplished together: maintain-

ing public safety, delivering fiscal responsibility, providing excellent municipal services, and protecting The Family Town we all know and love.

This year, I am proud to support my running mates, Michael Timmerman and Ashley Rice, for reelection to the Emerson Council. As parents who have chosen to raise their young families in Emerson, both Michael and Ashley are committed to our community through their volunteerism, their thoughtful leadership, and their dedication to working collaboratively to meet the Borough's needs by putting Emerson residents first.

While we have accomplished much over the past eight years, there is still more work to do. I encourage everyone to check out our campaign literature, social media, and campaign website to learn more about our vision so that when you cast your ballot, you do so with confidence, knowing that you are entrusting the future of The Family Town to the team you know, trust, and believe in.

This Nov. 3, I ask for your continued support to reelect me, Danielle DiPaola, for mayor and Michael Timmerman and Ashley Rice for council.

From the bottom of my heart, thank you for your continued friendship and trust. I love this town and all of you and would be honored to continue to serve.

Most sincerely,
Danielle DiPaola
Mayor, Borough of Emerson

We need Solimando, Guttilla, Manzano

To the editor:

EMERSON CALLS ITSELF "The Family Town." We aspire to be a loving refuge for all, and that requires town leaders who treat every person in our borders with thoughtfulness and respect.

I am supporting Joseph Solimando III for Emerson Mayor and Julia Guttilla and Venessa Manzano for Emerson Council not just because of their extensive experience in public service, but because there's something even more important than experience: character.

I'm so proud of each of them, not just because they've accomplished things, but because every step of the way, they've treated everyone around them the way we all deserve to be treated.

My family, our Family Town, deserves nothing less.

Kate Stutzel, Emerson
Democratic vice chair

Thank You

Thank you to our readers for the honor of moderating your election letters this cycle. We appreciate your trust and your commitment to our communities. — Editor

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Carolyn E. Maikis CARTO

Carolyn Elizabeth Maikis Carto, 69, of Mansfield, Ohio, died Oct. 23, 2026, after a brief battle with cancer.



Born Dec. 25, 1956, in White Plains, New York, Carolyn grew up in Hillsdale, New Jersey, and graduated from Pascack Hills High School in 1975. She attended Ohio Wesleyan University in Delaware, Ohio, where she met her future husband, David D.

"Duffy" Carto.

After graduating in 1979 with a bachelor's degree in English, she moved to Cleveland while Duffy attended law school there. They married in New Jersey on Sept. 6, 1981, and spent the next 45 years together in Mansfield, raising their family.

Carolyn was a consummate hostess, devoted mother and the heart of her family. She found her greatest joy in the love she shared with her children and, in recent years, her cherished grandchildren, Elle and Colin.

Cooking was her passion, and she delighted in creating meals and

treats for family and friends, especially her renowned decorated sugar cookies.

She loved growing flowers, herbs and vegetables and always made sure the birds outside her kitchen window were well fed during the winter. She also loved reading, watching Christmas movies and doing crossword puzzles. Completing the Sunday New York Times puzzle in ink was child's play for Carolyn.

Carolyn served the Mansfield community as a volunteer, member and officer with local organizations, including the Mansfield Art Center, Richland County Foundation Women's Fund, Mansfield General and MedCentral Hospital Auxiliary, Wednesday Study Club, Heritage Garden Club and Alcoholics Anonymous.

Being a Christmas baby had its benefits: The family's holiday plans revolved around what

Carolyn wanted. But it was Carolyn herself who made Christmas special for everyone. She carried the Christmas spirit throughout the year, and those who knew her would likely say she was one of the nicest people they had ever met.

Family was everything to Carolyn. She was happiest with her children and grandchildren, planning each day, meal, trip and event around them.

In turn, her family was devoted to her. If she wanted to go to the Shiloh Ox Roast on a Friday night when there were other things to do, the family went to Shiloh.

While Carolyn was happy at home with her family on Ballylin Farm, she also loved to travel. Her destinations included Italy, Greece, Spain, Crete, France, Ireland, Scotland, Mexico and Canada.

She particularly enjoyed traveling with just her son or daughter, including trips to Paris, Montreal,

Nashville, Aspen, Santa Fe and along the East Coast. One of her favorite places was the beach in Lauderdale-by-the-Sea, Florida, where she spent hours reading on the Sea Colony seawall while contemplating which restaurant to visit that evening.

Carolyn, known as "CC" to her grandchildren, is survived by her husband, Duffy; son, David Carto, and his wife, Annalee; daughter, Anne Kurtis, and her husband, Evan; grandchildren, Elle and Colin Kurtis; brother, Robert Maikis, and his wife, Lori; and sisters, Susan Hans, and her husband, Mark, and Priscilla Cionni, and her husband, Rocco.

She is also survived by her nieces and nephews, Sarah Hans, Jack Hans, Leigh Ann Cionni, Andrew Crislip, Romano Cionni, Tom Hans, Jenny Maikis, Charlie Maikis, Michael Cionni, Matt Crislip, Jason Maikis, Connor Carto and Sam Carto; and in-laws, Amy and Scott Crislip, Tom and Laurie Carto, and Terry Carto.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Robert and Janet Maikis, and parents-in-law, David L. and Frances Carto.

Calling hours were Wednesday, Oct. 28, at the Marion Avenue Chapel of Snyder Funeral Home. Mass and funeral services will be at 10 a.m. Thursday, Oct. 29, at St. Peter's Catholic Church.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Mansfield Art Center, Kingwood Center Gardens or the Richland County Foundation Women's Fund.

The family thanks Carolyn's nurses and caregivers at Cleveland Clinic, OhioHealth, Cornerstone, Centerwell and Southern Care Hospice.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 37

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice of public Auction is hereby given that on November 6, 2026, at am, Ridgewood Moving Services will be offering the following storage units for sale by public auction, under the Uniform Commercial Code lien process to be held at 575 Corporate Drive, Suite 405, Mahwah, New Jersey 07430.

Mr. Marc Scott – being stored pursuant to Order No. 04-60028 dated December, 19,2019

Mr. Richard Vacari - being stored pursuant to Order No. 04-60028 dated April 7, 2026

Mr. & Mrs. Brian Rusi - being stored pursuant to Order No. 04-60028 dated January 24,2023

Mr. David McGregor - being stored pursuant to Order No. 04-60028 dated March 13,2021

Ann Gallucci - being stored pursuant to Order No. 04-60028 dated August 19, 2022

Deidre DiMauro - being stored pursuant to Order No. 04-60028 dated November 18,2016

The goods to be sold are generally household goods. The terms of the sale will be cash only. Ridgewood Moving Services reserves the right to refuse any and all bids as well as the right to reschedule the auction.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice of public Auction is hereby given that on November 20, 2026, at am, Ridgewood Moving Services will be offering the following storage units for sale by public auction, under the Uniform Commercial Code lien process to be held at 575 Corporate Drive, Suite 405, Mahwah, New Jersey 07430.

Mr. Douglas Collins Jr. – being stored pursuant to Order No. 04-60028 dated January 8, 2026

The goods to be sold are generally household goods. The terms of the sale will be cash only. Ridgewood Moving Services reserves the right to refuse any and all bids as well as the right to reschedule the auction.

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Busy Salon in Emerson has immediate opening for hair stylist & manicurist, following preferred. Call (845) 682-8047.

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Part-time bookkeeper to run accounting dept. for small sales office in Park Ridge, NJ. QuickBooks experience required, 3 days a week, flexible hours \$25 per hour. Please call (201) 930-0222 or send resumes to steve@riccisales.com

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Obits:

FROM PAGE 36

Ronald Gerard MANDERANO

Ronald Gerard Manderano passed away peacefully at home with his loving son holding his hand.



He was born Nov. 11, 1948, in Hoboken. Ronald lived in Guttenberg, Secaucus and, for more than 30 years, the Township of Washington in Bergen County.

Ronald was predeceased by his beloved wife, Toni Ann Manderano. He was the devoted father of Anthony Manderano and his wife, Erin, and his daughter, Dawn Manderano Stern, and her family.

Ronald was an Army veteran

who served with honor during the Vietnam War with the 1st Air Cavalry. Ronald worked as a printer at K Printing in Clifton, where he made many good friends.

The family receives guests at Becker Funeral Home, Westwood, on Wednesday, Oct. 21. A Mass celebrating Ronald's life and faith was held at St. Andrew R.C. Church in Westwood on Thursday, Oct. 22. Interment at Holy Cross Cemetery in North Arlington.

Bob WIPPER

Bob Wipper, 81, of the Township of Washington, passed away peacefully Oct. 19, surrounded by his family.



Born in Brooklyn, NY., Bob made his home in the township for 54 years, where he and his wife, Sandy, raised their family and built a life centered on faith, family and friends. A

devout Catholic, he was a longtime member of Our Lady of Good Counsel (OLGC) church and community.

With a degree in electrical engineering and an MBA, Bob spent decades building his career as a business leader at both Westinghouse and Sony Music Entertainment.

He never really clocked out of the engineering side, though. If you had an electrical problem, Bob was the man to call. If it was a technical or financial problem, a spreadsheet was sure to follow. Some of his proudest work was done at OLGC, where his electrical expertise helped enhance the church for the

whole community.

Bob had a dry, measured sense of humor and an unwavering desire to help anyone who needed it. He will be dearly missed by all who knew him. The family hopes you'll remember him with a good story and a laugh, the way he would have wanted.

Bob was predeceased by his beloved wife of 55 years, Sandy, who passed away in 2024, and by his brothers James and David.

He is survived by his children Rob and his wife, Margaret, Jen and James; his grandchildren Larissa Sevoid, L'Ceondra Lopez, Gabrielle Wipper-Holmes, Samantha McDaniel and Bella Wipper;

and his great-grandchildren Eddie "EJ" Lopez Jr. and Rowan Wipper-Holmes.

He is also survived by his sisters Irene and Susan and by his best friends Dick and Delores Smith and Alex Hazen, whose wife, Barbara, preceded Bob in death.

The family will celebrate Bob's life and faith with a Mass at Our Lady of Good Counsel on Saturday, Nov. 7, at 11:30 a.m. Interment will follow at George Washington Memorial Park in Paramus. All friends and family are welcome. Flowers may be sent to Our Lady of Good Counsel.



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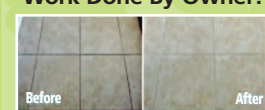
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