Pascack Press

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VOLUME 30 ISSUE 36 | THE PASCACK VALLEY'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER | NOVEMBER 16, 2026

HILLSDALE



Hillsdale library assistant lands surplus Library of Congress titles

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WESTWOOD

Keeping an eye out for neighbors in need

Project with roots in pandemic offers Thanksgiving turkeys, year-round support

BY JOHN SNYDER
EDITOR@THEPRESSGROUP.NET

There are the annual community staples such as Hillsdale's Helping Hand Food Pantry, which is holding its annual turkey drive Saturday, Nov. 21, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at 349 Hillsdale Ave. Donations of frozen turkeys and Thanksgiving trimmings will help support local families in need this holiday season.

There also is a kind of giving that sees itself as more informally making quiet differences where it can: Westwood residents who need a Thanksgiving turkey or other assistance are encouraged to contact Westwood Gives Back, a community effort connecting

See GIVES on page 18

WHEELS WITHIN WHEELS

Meals on Wheels North Jersey fund honors Jeanne Martin's decades of service



Jeanne Martin is backed by members of her family at a highlight of the 2024 Meals on Wheels North Jersey gala, at Seasons in the Township of Washington. Martin had just been honored for her decades of service to the nonprofit and handed the reins to her successor, Janelle Largh. Now the organization has further honored her with the establishment of the Jeanne Martin Heart of Caring Fund, seeded by a generous gift from the Ciarlante-Kawasaki family. *John Snyder photo.*

BY JOHN SNYDER
EDITOR@THEPRESSGROUP.NET

WOODCLIFF LAKE — MEALS ON WHEELS North Jersey has established the Jeanne Martin Heart of Caring Fund to help seniors afford nutritious meals, with a $1,000 inaugural gift from the Ciarlante-Kawasaki family honoring the executive director who led the organization for two decades.

RoseAnn Ciarlante announced the fund and her family's contribution at the nonprofit's Oct. 1 Harvest Fundraising Gala at Seasons Catering in the Township of Washington.

For Martin, who retired in 2024, the recognition brings a mix of pride and embarrassment. "It's odd, you know, when you're honored with something. It is a great honor and it's an organization I care

Continued on page 8

MONTVALE

Hearing Nov. 18 weighs data center, housing plan for KPMG site

BY MICHAEL OLOHAN
OLOHAN@THEPRESSGROUP.NET

A judge will hear arguments Nov. 18 on whether Montvale's fourth-round affordable housing agreement should allow a data center and 50 affordable homes at the former KPMG site in place of a previously proposed 250-unit housing development.

The in-person "fairness hearing" is scheduled for 9 a.m. before Superior Court Judge Lina P. Corriston in Courtroom 332 of the Bergen County Justice Center in Hackensack. The public may attend.

The hearing concerns an amendment to the borough's affordable housing agreement. It is separate from the developer's zoning permit application for a nearly 322,000-square-foot data center.

H&R Montvale LLC, a partnership of Russo Development and S. Hekemian Group, previously proposed 250 homes, including 50 affordable units, on the former 34-acre KPMG property. The borough's amended plan, submitted in December 2025, instead proposed an enterprise data center and 50 affordable homes.

See HEARING on page 13

CURTAIN RISES

Two characters known as Guy and Girl are in for a string of memorably bad dates when the Park Ridge High School Little Theater Players present "Check Please" this month.

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Back in time...

In November 1901, the people of Hillsdale and Woodcliff were spooked. It was the season for hunting raccoons and trapping muskrats, but people were staying out of the forests and fields.

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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.

Scout says thanks on gathering space

To the editor:

EVERY WEEK, on my way to Scout meetings at River Vale Community Church, I passed an overgrown garden. My family attends the church, and when it came time to choose my Eagle Scout project, I saw an opportunity to turn that space into a place where people could gather.

I began the project in November 2025 and spent approximately a year creating a gathering area at River Vale Community Church with a fire pit, a 16-by-16-foot stone patio, and seating for 16 people.

I would like to thank everyone who helped make it possible. Icon Interiors in New York donated rebar, wood for the perimeter and weed barrier. Northern Valley Stone donated three yards of stone, and Rainflow Sprinklers donated 12 yards of dirt. Pinecrest Cedars donated four planters with string lights to finish the space.

Members of the congregation and community donated benches and chairs, and my mom and stepdad donated cushions. When I still needed more seating, I held a car wash fundraiser to raise the money to buy two benches and chairs. Thank you to everyone who supported it.

Members of Troop 335 and the community helped remove the old garden, dig trenches, place the wood, spread the gravel and assemble the furniture.

I wanted my project to give something back to the community where I live. Thanks to everyone's time, donations and hard work, the garden I used to walk past is now a gathering space for others to enjoy.

Logan Kidd
Troop 335
River Vale

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Landing assurance on stormwater, sanitary lines

BY MICHAEL OLOHAN
OLOHAN@THEPRESSGROUP.NET
WOODCLIFF LAKE

A former borough mayor received assurances Nov. 9 that future stormwater and sanitary waste infrastructure improvements — required by several large developments planned in town — will be addressed during future Planning Board hearings.

Moreover, council approved a separate stormwater management ordinance, which was required by the state environmental protection department (NJDEP) to be approved by January 2027.

Former mayor Josephine HIggins questioned whether existing infrastructure was capable of handling increased flows from stormwater runoff. Moreover, she also questioned if existing sanitary waste infrastructure could handle the new developments without costing existing homeowners more in property taxes.

Her comments were directed at the stormwater water management ordinance up for public hearing as well as pending developments.

Higgins pointed to ongoing development at the former BMW property, where 370 units are planned, and future development at the Hilton where 147 housing units, including 30 affordables, are proposed. Both properties are included in the borough's fourth round affordable housing plan. The BMW property includes 34 affordables and a 26-unit supportive housing complex, with 40 beds.

Higgins' main concern was making sure local taxpayers don't get stuck with higher taxes for infrastructure upgrades due to large developments. "We have got to have these (developers) put money aside to increase the diameter of sewer and water systems," she said. Higgins suggested that the council report back to residents on the issue.

Councilor Nicole Marsh, a Planning Board member, said that stormwater management is required of large developments and looked at during Planning Board reviews. She said developers are required to submit a stormwater management plan with their preliminary site plan application.

Also, council approved Ordinance 26-15, a 42-page stormwater control ordinance required by NJDEP that must be adopted before Jan. 29. 2027. Neglia Engineering prepared the ordinance, which was conditionally approved by Bergen County on Oct. 2. 2026.

The ordinance's purpose is to establish minimum stormwater management requirements and controls for "major development," as defined in the ordinance. The ordinance notes that a major development is an individual development or multiple developments that disturb one or more acres; create one quarter of an acre of motor-vehicle surface or impervious surface; or any combination of development or disturbance that impacts one-quarter acre or more.

In addition, the council approved two separate purchase orders to purchase bulk rock salt for winter use from two purchasing cooperatives, Somerset County Cooperative Pricing System and Bergen County Cooperative Pricing System. Council approved a contract for $50,000 via Somerset County and for $80,000 for Bergen County salt purchases.

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Kids enjoy the Hillsdale Volunteer Fire Department open house Oct. 20, via Anthony DeRosa.

New chapter begins at Fire Dept.

Volunteers share safety lessons, elect 2027 officers, and prepare to welcome Santa

HILLSDALE — Local volunteer firefighters welcomed families, brought fire safety lessons into classrooms, and elected their officers for 2027.

HFD fire prevention programming invited residents to get a closer look at firefighting equipment and learn about staying safe. Activities included a smoke house, a chance to spray a fire hose, fire prevention activities and apparatus displays. Hillsdale Volunteer Ambulance Service and Bergen County PSOC were

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Back in time...

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BACK IN TIME FEATURES



An early 20th century view of downtown Hillsdale from the present location of the park. The building shown, the Hillsdale House, still stands at Broadway and Hillsdale Avenue. At the time of this photo, it was a hotel. *Colorized with AI; the colors are interpretive. Compare with scan below.*

Armed with shotguns, the men went hunting…



The same photo from Pascack Historical Society's archive...



SPECIAL TO PASCACK PRESS
By Kristin Beuscher,
Historian,
Pascack Historical Society,
Park Ridge.
Call (201) 573-0307 or visit
PascackHistoricalSociety.org

In November 1901, the people of Hillsdale and Woodcliff (the "Lake" part of the name came later) were thoroughly spooked. It was the season for hunting raccoons and trapping muskrats, but people were staying out of the forests and fields. Word around town was that there was a ghost afoot. The reports made it into the New York newspapers.

"George Ellen, while returning from a visit to his sweetheart last night, says he was accosted by the ghost and that it followed him," wrote the New York Tribune on Nov. 20, 1901. "Other people have reported seeing the ghost, and, as there are no young people in the neighborhood of its haunts, the victims say they have not been joked."

Some said the ghost was that of an old farmer whose body had been found in his field near the Hillsdale-Woodcliff border in 1899.

One of the men who claimed to have seen the apparition was Caesar Snyder, who worked as a driver at Gardenier's livery stable. The stable was located in the center of Hillsdale, where the Bank of America building is now standing next to the park.

He told newspaper reporters that he and his brother, Alfred, were walking near Hillsdale when they saw a white object that at first appeared to be about the size of a cat. Caesar said as it approached it grew to the size of a man. They watched as it glided along a road and then disappeared over a fence.

Constable Bert Rawson believed a practical joker was at work, and he was determined to catch them.

"Rawson, with some of his companions, have decided to arm themselves with shotguns and watch nightly. Should they meet the ghost, they will first command a halt, and if this is not heeded, they will blaze away at it with their shotguns," the Brooklyn Daily Eagle reported.

Just three days later, Pascack's ghost mystery was solved. A search party did indeed keep watch for several nights on the road between Hillsdale and Woodcliff—and it's a good thing they didn't shoot.

The specter turned out to be an old man who was an employee at the Hillsdale House, a hotel located at Broadway and Hillsdale Avenue, opposite the train station.

The man in question, who had a long white beard and typically sported white overalls and a white cap, would take a shortcut through the woods on the way between Woodcliff and Hillsdale. In doing so, he passed behind a board fence. From the opposite side of the fence (the point of view of the Snyders and others), only the man's cap and whiskers were visible gliding over the top. Thus, the witnesses concluded that they had seen a ghost cat, which then—upon passing by the fence—shockingly transformed into a full-grown man.

The Rockland County Journal wrote, "It is fortunate that the owner of the white whiskers did not meet Constable Rawson, who had threatened to empty his shotgun at the spook the first time he saw him."

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Emerson and Cresskill to end football partnership a year early

Emerson and Cresskill will end their shared high school football program after four seasons, leaving open where students from either town will play in 2027. The districts announced the decision Oct. 29, a day after Cougars head coach Sal Aiello announced he was stepping down.

In a joint statement to families, the two administrations said they had agreed to forgo the fifth and final year of their football agreement. They gave no specific reason for ending it early. Each district said it would share plans for football, band and cheer in the coming weeks. Cresskill Public Schools announcement

A shortage of players first brought the longtime rivals together. In January 2023, while the co-op was still under discussion, Cresskill High School student journalists Eric Nam and Erin Park reported in *The Communique* that Emerson expected only 12 players for the coming fall. Cresskill expected about 20. Emerson had asked other schools in its conference about forming a co-op, and Cresskill responded, then-head coach Kevin Quinn told the student reporters.

Nam and Park also documented what the proposal meant beyond the roster. Families had questions about how Emerson players would get to practice in Cresskill. For the schools' marching bands and cheer squads, sharing a field on Friday nights raised a question of rehearsal time: When would students from the two towns get together to learn a halftime routine?

Aiello, who succeeded Quinn, announced his departure Oct. 28. The Cougars won three of their first four games under Aiello and went 4-13 over his two seasons. They finished 0-8 this fall, closing with a 6-0 loss at North Arlington on Oct. 23. The districts' statement did not mention his resignation.

The districts have yet to say how many players each school expects next fall or whether either plans to field a team of its own.

— *Staff report*

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Most valley towns outpace county at the polls

BY MICHAEL OLOHAN
OLOHAN@THEPRESSGROUP.NET

HACKENSACK

■ *Emerson posts highest local turnout; Montvale alone falls below county rate*

Six of the Pascack Valley's eight towns had greater than 50% voter turnout on Nov. 3, with Emerson topping all towns at more than 58% total voter turnout, according to midterm-election figures released by the Bergen County Clerk's Office.

Falling slightly below 50% turnout were Township of Washington at 49.9% and Montvale at 46.3%. Bergen County's countywide voter turnout was just over 47%, with 319,503 voters casting ballots out of 678,327 registered voters.



The County Clerk's Office reported Election Day turnout at 200,273; early in-person voting at 60,373; and mail-in ballots at 58,857.

Emerson tops the valley

Emerson's high voter turnout was likely the result of Pascack Valley's only contested mayoral race, featuring two-term Republican incumbent Mayor Danielle DiPaola versus Democrat Joseph Solimando III.

As of Nov. 5, 2:51 p.m., the unofficial race totals showed 1,670 votes for DiPaola and 1,573 for Solimando, a 97-vote difference. Locally, 3,290 of 5,663 registered voters (58.1%) voted in the Nov. 3 election.

DiPaola told us, "The voters of Emerson have spoken. Experience, stability and small-town values were important items on the line despite a trend in national politics. Our residents understand that we have been elected to do a job where we respect the interests of everyone regardless of party affiliation. We value the trust they have put in us over the last nine election cycles," said DiPaola, who begins her third four-year term in 2027.

Following Emerson (58.1%) in order of voter turnout was Woodcliff Lake at 55.24% (2,767 of 5,009 voters); Hillsdale at 53.95% (4,650 of 8,619 voters); Park Ridge at 53.79% (3,919 of 7,286 voters); Westwood at 52.78% (4,506 of 8,538 voters); River Vale at 52.19% (4,602 of 8,817 voters); Township of Washington at 49.89% (3,850 of 7,717 voters) and Montvale at 46.32% (3,503 of 7,563 voters).

Montvale fielded council incumbents running for re-election without opposition.

Overall countywide, early voting topped mail-in ballots. In the two Pascack Valley towns that host early voting polling places, Woodcliff Lake topped River Vale with 1,347 of 5,009 voters casting early ballots (26.89%) while in River Vale early voting turnout was 21.29%, with 1,877 of 8,817 voters casting ballots over a nine-day period before Nov. 3.

Early in-person voting started in New Jersey with the 2021 General Election.

Voters in all 70 Bergen County towns may cast ballots at any of the 10 early polling sites countywide.

Moreover, residents can access a Nov. 3 voting summary report and an election district by district report by visiting the clerk's office website.

The district report includes unofficial totals for early voting, vote by mail, and Election Day for all towns. The reports can be found at bergencountyclerk.gov/Election.

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‘Swim club’ decontamination plans underway

BY MICHAEL OLOHAN
OLOHAN@THEPRESSGROUP.NET

TOWNSHIP OF WASHINGTON

The township administrator told council Nov. 9 that although all investigation work and most future remediation costs will likely be covered by state funding, officials still don’t know what total remediation of the 6.1-acre site will cost or how long the environmental cleanup will take.

Administrator Mark DiCarlo told council Nov. 9 that Boswell Engineering had completed a preliminary site assessment and site investigation report on Swim Club contamination, totaling 3,010 pages, and that it will be submitted to the state Department of Environmental Protection.

However, DiCarlo added, “At this time, we are unable to identify a timeframe or cost for decontamination of the property.” The PCB contamination was first identified more than two years ago following a Boswell pre-demolition report on the swim club property.

Moreover, DiCarlo said the next required documents to be completed include the self-implementation plan and the remedial investigation report. DiCarlo said that both documents were “being worked on” and would be submitted to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency when completed.

See “PCB contamination found beyond former swim club site,” by Michael Olohan, Sept. 19, 2026, at thepressgroup.net. The township also has a webpage dedicated to the swim club acquisition, future uses and funds spent at twpofwashington.us/page/swim-club-property-plan.

DiCarlo said a grant previously received from the NJDEP Hazardous Discharge Site Remediation Fund will reimburse the township for 100% of the covered investigation costs. He noted that officials were also applying to the same state fund to reimburse up to 75% of the site’s remediation costs. He said the council has also applied to its Joint Insurance Fund to help cover remediation costs.

450 Pascack Road plans

The township engineer, Beckmeyer Engineering of East Rutherford, has submitted a proposal to oversee a design phase and public bidding to improve the township-owned property at 450 Pascack Road, which will include upgrades such as parking and passive recreation options, said the administrator at the Nov. 9 council meeting.

Administrator Mark DiCarlo said the engineer’s proposed work will be paid for fully by a previously received state DCA Local Recreation Improvement Grant. Pascack Press requested a copy of engineer Glenn Beckmeyer’s proposal, which was not attached to the agenda. No timeline for the engineer’s work or upcoming improvements was mentioned.

The prior DCA grant was for $66,000. However, $32,000 was spent on demolition and debris removal of the property’s former home and barn, and $10,000 on asbestos remediation prior to demolition, also funded by the grant.

DiCarlo said at a previous meeting that councilors preferred a parking lot adjoining Memorial Field and passive recreation options such as benches, a picnic area, landscaping, a butterfly garden and a rain garden.

DiCarlo said that grant writer David Biunno of GLD Associates will be submitting a Community Development Block Grant application to make Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) parking improvements. He said Biunno is also researching a grant for public electric vehicle charging stations at the parking lot if council approves.

Brook restoration ‘nearing completion’

In addition, DiCarlo said that the $700,000-plus Musquapsink Brook project, awarded to Downes Tree Service, is “nearing completion” with bank stabilization repairs near the Washington Avenue bridge. He said before-and-after photos will soon be posted on the township website. He noted that he and Mayor Peter Calamari walked the project area and were impressed by the improvements.

In late March, DiCarlo noted the township received a $600,000 federal grant, secured through Fifth District Congressman Josh Gottheimer’s office, to help fund Musquapsink Brook streambank restoration. More than three years ago, a Boswell brook condition report identified two severely eroded streambanks near sanitary waste manholes, which threatened to pollute the stream and foul water that heads toward Oradell Reservoir, a source of drinking water.

The project was awarded in April to Downes Tree Service to repair streambanks near two sanitary manholes, remove sediment shoals impacting brook flow and stabilize streambanks to prevent future erosion. Downes was the lowest responsible bidder at $669,280. Including an estimated $60,000 for Boswell Engineering’s bidding services and work site inspections, total project costs come to approximately $729,280.

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Martin:

FROM PAGE 1

so much about. To have it associated with my name — it's an odd feeling but it's wonderful," she told Pascack Press.

She preferred to focus on all those behind the scenes who've labored tirelessly for many years to make this work possible. There were volunteers who showed up, businesses that answered calls, a church with room to spare and a retired truck driver who turned out to be exactly the person she needed behind the wheel of the new van.

And there was Westwood's Lee Tremble. When Martin needed help, the longtime owner of the Iron Horse restaurant was often among her first calls. That happened when Pascack Valley Hospital, where Meals on Wheels was based when she became director, was preparing to close.

Martin recalled emerging from a board meeting to find hospital employees crying in the hallway. She had believed the meal program could stay through a change in hospital ownership. Now she needed a new plan.





A range of emotions as Janelle Larghi presides over the festivities at Seasons Catering in 2024 as Meals on Wheels North Jersey fetes veteran director Jeanne Martin on her retirement. *John Snyder photos.*

She gathered board members who were still nearby. The next day, driving past the Iron Horse, she made a deal with herself. If there was a parking space, she would stop and talk to Tremble.

All four spaces were open, she recalled."I guess this is a sign from God," she recalled saying.

Tremble reassured her that people would help. Martin began calling nursing facilities, and CareOne agreed to prepare meals. Equipment and coolers were carried or rolled across the parking lot to the neighboring facility.

CareOne took on part of the meal prep before the hospital closed, then assumed the full operation. Martin described the transition as nearly seamless.

The office needed its own home. Space was available at Westwood House, and the nonprofit moved its administrative operation there while meal preparation remained at CareOne.

When the pandemic hit, an office in senior housing and meal operations in nursing facilities presented an urgent concern. Volunteers needed to keep serving clients without putting vulnerable residents at risk.

Again, Martin consulted Tremble, who suggested the closed Westwood recreation center. Moving in proved more complicated than she expected. Martin recalled a call from the then-borough administrator questioning how the arrangement had been made.

"That was not the right way to do it," she admitted.

The organization nevertheless operated there from March through July. A supplier trucked in frozen meals. Masked workers and volunteers spread out in the large room to assemble five-meal packages for clients, along with milk, bread, fruit and dessert.

Martin needed another large freezer. Oberg & Lindquist told her none were available. She left her number anyway.

Less than half an hour later, she recalled, the store called back. A customer had canceled, and she was the only person on its waiting list who answered the phone. She bought the freezer. It arrived the next day.

That summer, the office returned to Westwood House. By then, Martin said, they knew more about distancing and how to manage the operation safely.

Keeping people fed was one challenge. Keeping them *connected* was another Clients could no longer interact with delivery volunteers as they once had. Martin worried about the isolation. Phone calls helped, but she also began putting together a music therapy program.

She approached Rotary friend Tom Ott, whose family's David's Fund supported work involving music. He agreed to fund the effort and connected her with a music therapist. A contact at the JCC in Tenafly helped connect the program with an initiative using iPads for seniors.

Music therapy went ahead over FaceTime. Other sessions took place in person, at a distance.

Martin recalled one man bundled against the winter cold on one side of his garage, with a music therapy student on the other.

The encounters opened windows into clients' lives. A retired music teacher shared his knowledge in a recorded lesson. Another man revisited his youthful involvement in school musical productions. A therapist researched photographs and assembled a book that his children would have after his death.

"It was a gift," Martin said.

She said the program has since diminished as funding changed. But its creation captured her way of working. Call someone, explain the need, and find the next connection.

That approach carried through other changes. Meals on Wheels arranged for meals to be prepared in Rockland County, improving quality and packaging, Martin said. She obtained a van through Bergen County's Community Development Block Grant program.

When Nick Marsico came in to volunteer, Martin asked what he had done before retiring. He had been a truck driver. She found her van driver.

As the organization grew, Martin began looking for more suitable office space. A volunteer who belonged to Christ Lutheran Church in Woodcliff Lake suggested its unused rooms.

In 2023, Meals on Wheels moved in. Benjamin Moore donated paint, Habitat for Humanity volunteers painted, and Ridgewood Moving helped get the nonprofit settled, Martin recalled.

"You have to talk to people," she said, "because you just don't know who's going to have an answer for you."

Ciarlante saw that firsthand while working with Martin on Westwood for All Ages.

"She showed me how to turn obstacles into opportunities through her daily work and community outreach on behalf of older residents," Ciarlante said.

Nearly 200 people attended the October gala. Among them was Margaret Cook-Levy, who helped found the organization in 1972 and enlisted Tremble in feeding neighbors more than half a century ago.

Cook-Levy's presence connected the organization's beginnings to the work Martin carried forward. When Janelle Larghi succeeded Martin in 2024, the nonprofit reported that its program had doubled during Martin's tenure. Today, it serves 31 towns through 19 delivery routes.

Tremble remains part of that work, organizing volunteer drivers who carry meals to outlying distribution points. Pastor Marc Stutzel of Christ Lutheran Church, which provides office space at below-market rates, accepted the gala's Gold Heart Contributor Award.

Martin's assessment of the people behind the operation is simple. "The volunteers are like the glue," she said. Their service helps keep meals affordable while the nonprofit pays for food, staff and transportation. The new fund will help close the gap for seniors facing financial hardship.

"Those who worked with Jeanne, either as staff or volunteers throughout her tenure here, will attest that her compassion and caring for our clients fueled everything she did as Executive Director," Larghi said. "This fund will help ensure her legacy continues."

Martin has her own answer to the obstacles that inevitably arise.

"We can figure it out," she said.

Donations may be made through the Jeanne Martin Heart of Caring Fund. For information about services or volunteering, call 201-358-0050 or visit mealsonwheelsnorthjersey.org.



Paying down debt vs. investing: the debt dilemma



ERIC KOHLMEIER

Advertisement

PAYING down debt is often difficult, and even more so in a challenging economic environment. You may be wondering which to tackle first — pay down your debt or invest for the future?

Balance is best

A balanced approach to wealth management serves both today's needs and tomorrow's goals. For some that may mean paying off some debt today while simultaneously investing for the future.

Your own needs and circumstances will be unique. The following guidelines can help you evaluate alternatives and find an approach that fits your situation and goals.

Don't forget your emergency fund

In addition to paying down debt and settling on an investment strategy, make it a priority to set up an emergency reserve. Traditional "rules of thumb" suggest setting aside three to six months or more of living expenses in traditional savings or very short-term, highly liquid, low-volatility investments.

While ideal, that goal may not be realistic for everyone. Start by building up a reserve of a month's expenses, and make it a goal to increase your emergency fund over time as resources permit.

Your future first

When making decisions about debt and investing, be a long-term thinker. Consider "what position do I want to be in 10 or 20 years from now?" Then evaluate what actions today will be most effective in helping you achieve your long-term financial goals.

For example, if you have high-interest debt that is compounding, this could eventually become a serious impediment to reaching your long-term goals. In contrast, you might not be in a hurry to retire low-interest debt, if the potential return on long-term investing would be greater.

When making decisions about debt reduction vs. investing, keep in mind that the need to eventually pay off principal is certain, but investment returns are not. Investment performance will vary over time, and it's possible to experience losses as well as gains. At the same time, it is well known that investors who start earlier can benefit from compounding and "time in the market."

If you have the opportunity to participate in a retirement plan at work, and your employer makes matching contributions, that could be a compelling reason to prioritize investing up to the amount that the employer will match.

But there are no magic numbers. That's why it's important to work with a financial advisor to create an investment strategy that fits your financial expectations for the future.

Prioritize your debts

With your emergency fund and investment strategy in place, you can begin deciding on a strategy for reducing your debts. But how do you decide which debts to pay down first?

Mathematically, it makes sense to focus on paying off high-interest debts like private student loans and credit-card debt first. Federal student loans and mortgages might be lower priorities because their rates are often lower and their terms longer. Vehicle loans might fall somewhere in the middle. Tax considerations may also come into play.

An alternative approach is to start with the smallest debt first. It might be motivating to get a "quick win" by paying off a smaller debt before beginning to chip away at a larger one.

Once you pay off one debt, add that payment amount to a different debt payment amount to accelerate its pay off.

It's personal

One last tip: Don't discount your emotions. If paying off a certain debt will help you feel more secure, you may want to follow your gut. Or discuss with a financial advisor before you decide. Also, identify some key milestones that you want to reach, and celebrate (modestly) when you achieve those goals!

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

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Ballet Arts and Patisserie Florentine invite families to celebrate the season at their inaugural Sugar Plum Brunch on Sunday, Dec. 6, from noon to 2 p.m. at Soldier Hill Golf Club, 99 Palisade Ave., Emerson.

Guests will enjoy brunch prepared by Patisserie Florentine, live music performed by members of the Adelphi Orchestra and a visit from the Sugar Plum Fairy. Inspired by The Nutcracker, the gathering brings together food, music and dance for an afternoon families can share.

Patisserie Florentine chef and owner Tomer Zilkha brings his love of cooking and hospitality to the celebration. He also serves as chair of the Hotel Restaurant Management Department at Bergen Community College, helping prepare the next generation of hospitality professionals.

Through Florentine Academy, Zilkha offers hands-on culinary classes for children and adults. Participants build kitchen skills, explore their creativity and discover the pleasure of preparing and sharing food. His team brings that same attention to its dining, catering and takeout offerings—and to the Sugar Plum Brunch.



Celebrating 50 years of dance excellence, Ballet Arts provides instruction and performance opportunities for dancers of all ages. The brunch offers families a chance to meet the school and enjoy a taste of its upcoming production of The Nutcracker, presented with the Adelphi Orchestra.



See The Nutcracker onstage

Ballet Arts and the Adelphi Orchestra will present The Nutcracker with local dancers, a guest artist from American Ballet Theatre's Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis School and live accompaniment by a professional orchestra.

Performances are Saturday, Dec. 12, at 7 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 13, at 2 p.m. at River Dell High School in Oradell.

For tickets and information about the brunch and ballet, visit balletartsnj.com/sugar-plum-brunch or call 201-970-7690.

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CELL SERVICE, TRAFFIC, PARKING WOES LOUD AND CLEAR IN PUBLIC COMMENTS

BY MICHAEL OLOHAN
OLOHAN@THEPRESSGROUP.NET

HILLSDALE

Residents raised concerns about unreliable cellular service in the eastern part of town, traffic near St. John's Academy and illegal parking on Hopper Street at the Nov. 10 council meeting.

Two residents, Rick Savino and Amelia Bauers, urged councilors not to forget about the poor cellular coverage for east side residents. Since the council voted 4-2 on April 14 to reject a 130-foot cell tower lease for Verizon at Stonybrook Swim Club, the borough administrator has been working behind the scenes with carriers on other potential solutions.

Councilors did not address concerns raised during public comments. However, we reached out to Administrator Mike Ghassali for updates. Ghassali told us no further presentations on cell service are planned in 2026. See also "AT&T evaluating Hillsdale monopole cell tower," by Michael Olohan, July 26, 2026, at thepressgroup.net.

Bauers called for more "transparency" from councilors and noted that Verizon had stated that the proposed cell tower would not likely solve all of the east side's coverage problems. She urged the council to "continue exploring alternatives" and identify the best solution, "not simply the most convenient and readily available one to provide reliable coverage in specific areas where residents need it."

Savino recalled a recent incident in which poor cell coverage prevented players from reaching emergency medical services. He said a woman injured her ankle playing softball at Beechwood Park, and due to poor service, they could not reach EMS or her husband to drive her home. Another player drove her home, Savino said.

Savino said that woman's story reminded him of an incident eight years ago, when he was EMS crew chief and a woman playing on the field opposite George White Middle School passed out at third base. Upon arrival, he said, EMS found the woman unconscious but with vital signs and transported her to the hospital. He said the field off Magnolia Avenue has good cell service, and his crew responded quickly to the scene.

"Please don't let this rest. I know there was a lot of discussion … studying it, what to do. Please, we need to solve the problem on the east side of town," Savino urged.

St. John's parking lot 'a new highway'

With construction occurring on a nearby four-story, 110,000-square-foot self-storage facility and a 72-space vehicle parking lot, the pastor at St. John's Church and Academy told council that throughout the day and evening, cars are "flying through" the church and school's property and parking areas.

He said "big trucks" often use their parking lots to turn around, which has created "some serious problems," including multiple parishioners almost being hit by vehicles. Displaying a map of the St. John's grounds, Pastor Peter Smutelovich said previous traffic report estimates were not accurate and that their property "is a new highway of Hillsdale."

During five prior hearings in 2025 before the Planning Board approved the self-storage facility and parking lot, the church opposed the facility, citing potential traffic and vehicle circulation concerns, in addition to testimony about likely increased flooding. See "Planning Board OKs self-storage building, vehicle lot — with conditions," by Michael Olohan, Nov. 20, 2025, at thepressgroup.net.

Ghassali told us that following Smutelovich's comments, he contacted the developer of the self-storage facility and asked that its trucks not use church property. He also asked for all trucks to slow down in the redevelopment zone.

Hopper Street parking problem

Hopper Street resident Gregory Perini said that although officials agreed to enforce one-side-only parking on Hopper Street, there's "way too many cars on way too many streets" during games held at the new Memorial Field. He said an accident occurred as a result of the congestion.

He said he understood that about 90 parking spaces would be created at the newly renovated field, but he counted only 79 spaces. He said the area is "woefully short on parking," noting that hundreds of cars and trucks search the area for parking on game days. He said he's even seen pickup trucks parked on residents' front lawns.

On Nov. 10, council adopted Ordinance 26-24, prohibiting parking on the western side of Hopper Street from Washington Avenue to the end of the street.

Perini said the ordinance would prevent him and visitors from parking in front of his Hopper Street home, and he opposed it. He recommended "permit parking" be allowed for residents in front of their homes, citing other permit parking arrangements operating locally.

He requested that police patrol the area and enforce parking laws, noting he's sent emails to most council members about the parking problems. He said some people park right next to stop signs, and often the first 20 to 30 cars arriving do not use the new Memorial Field parking lot.

Asked about the parking situation around Memorial Field, Ghassali said, "We passed an ordinance to allow only one-side parking on Hopper. We can't completely eliminate parking. That will just push cars to other streets."

PV THEATRE PREMIERES 'STONE CIRCLE STORIES' NOV. 19–21

HILLSDALE — A circle of stones sets the stage for comedy, chills and poignant moments in "Stone Circle Stories," a collection of 10 short plays premiering Nov. 19–21 at Pascack Valley High School.



Directed by longtime PV Theatre directors Tom and Merielle Lupfer, the production features 22 students. Each play takes place in and around the onstage stone circle, with featured roles throughout the cast.

Public performances are Thursday and Friday, Nov. 19 and 20, at 7 p.m., and Saturday, Nov. 21, at 1 and 7 p.m. Tickets are available at pvhstheatre.org.

A free senior citizen matinee is scheduled for Tuesday, Nov. 17, at 10 a.m. Doors open at 9:30 a.m., with refreshments available before the show. Reservations for that performance are not required.

All performances take place in the Joseph Poli, Jr. Auditorium at Pascack Valley High School, 200 Piermont Ave.







Bad dates take the stage at PRHS

PARK RIDGE—Two characters known simply as Guy and Girl are in for a string of memorably bad dates when the Park Ridge High School Little Theater Players present "Check Please" this month.

A performance for senior citizens is set for Wednesday, Nov. 11, at 3:45 p.m. Public performances are Friday and Saturday, Nov. 13 and 14, at 7 p.m. and Sunday, Nov. 15, at 2 p.m. All performances are in the Little Theatre at Park Ridge High School. Tickets are $5 for Park Ridge High School students and $10 for all others.





The cast and crew of "Check Please," coming to the Little Theatre at Park Ridge High School Nov. 11 and 13–15. Right: Members of the Park Ridge High School Theatre Honors Society help organize one-act festivals and the theater's annual Halloween food drive. *Photos by Michael Krenek.*

For Lorelei Mixon, tech and stage manager on the board of the school's Theatre Honors Society, part of the pleasure of working backstage is knowing whom to turn to when a problem has her stumped. "When I can't solve an issue, I'm confident that someone else will have the capabilities to-and will try their best to help."

The society is open to students who have participated in at least two high school shows. Members help organize the annual one-act festivals, car washes and bake sales. At Halloween, they work with the Tri-Boro Food Pantry on a food drive.

The students have also spoken up for the Little Theatre itself. Mixon said the society helped gather testimony from current students and alumni in support of renovating the space. The work is slated for next summer, she said.

Serving on the board with Mixon are student creative directors Niusha Golnabi and Trevor Plattel, tech manager Katelyn Levinson, stage manager Trent Plattel, advertising managers Olivia Sigliano and Kassie Yarenis, and community outreach manager Stephanie Vitale.

Other members are Connor Healey, Lexie Ivlev, Alexander LoGrande, William MacDonald, Viana Mattson, Xander Nakamura, Victoria Pontillo, Liam Shea, Molly Smith, J.P. Widmer and Shannon Zielinski.



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Hearing:

THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

Proposed Data Center & Affordable Housing



FROM PAGE 1

Pascack Press reported Nov. 9 that H&R Montvale had applied for a zoning permit for the data center. The borough's construction official said the property's zoning permits data centers and that one already operates on the site.

Fair Share Housing Center, a statewide affordable housing advocacy organization based in Cherry Hill, has opposed the amended plan since it was proposed. The group questions whether the data center provisions belong in an affordable housing settlement and whether the proposed homes would be on a suitable site.

Developer calls amendment fair and reasonable

S. Hekemian Group argues "Only one question is before the Court: is the Amended Agreement fair and reasonable to people in need of affordable housing?" the company wrote in its preliminary statement.

The developer contends that the amended agreement, Montvale's settlement with another challenger, Over the Hill Holdings, and credits carried over from the previous housing round together provide enough credits to meet the borough's applicable fourth-round requirements.

It also argues that Fair Share's efforts to secure more housing on the KPMG site and prevent a data center lack support in state law and relevant court decisions.

Citing a Sept. 3 court order, S. Hekemian Group maintains that the hearing's scope is narrow: the change between the settlement terms presented to the state's Affordable Housing Dispute Resolution Program and the finalized agreement. The company says the amendment satisfies the remaining substantive condition concerning the KPMG site.

Fair Share challenges agreement

Fair Share argues that the amendment goes beyond what an affordable housing settlement can approve.

In its opposition brief, the group calls it "an illegal attempt to bypass the normal land use and redevelopment processes to give a developer contractual rights to build a data center which cannot be approved as part of a Mount Laurel settlement."

Fair Share also contends that the agreement disregards the dispute resolution program's recommendation that approval be conditioned on removing the data center provisions, eliminating proposed tax incentives and increasing residential density on the KPMG site.

The group objects to a proposed payment-in-lieu-of-taxes agreement, or PILOT, arguing that it should not be approved through the affordable housing dispute resolution process.

Fair Share's concerns about placing affordable homes beside a data center include potential noise, air pollution from diesel generators, and additional water and energy use. It argues that the proposal fails to meet affordable housing site-suitability standards.

Spokesperson Jag Davies said Fair Share's submission includes an expert report from urban planner David Kinsey and opposing letters from Food and Water Watch, the state League of Conservation Voters and the New Jersey Environmental Justice Alliance.

Hearing remains scheduled

Fair Share sought a postponement until after the holidays, saying the hearing could take several days. The group argued that Thanksgiving and the annual State League of Municipalities conference could make consecutive hearing dates difficult to schedule and delay a ruling.

No postponement had been granted as of press time.

The parties and others interested in participating were invited to submit briefs or correspondence before the hearing.

Residents can review filings through New Jersey's eCourts Civil Part system under case number BER-L-000750-25.

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St. John's Academy Open House Nov. 17

— *Advertisement* —

St. John's Academy in Hillsdale is excited to announce its Fall Open House on Tuesday, Nov. 17 from 9 to 10:30 a.m.

Prospective families are invited to join them to tour their campus, meet their faculty and staff, and learn more about their school community. Register to attend via https://sjahillsdale.org/event/sja-open-house-2.

Welcoming families into their loving and faith filled community for the last 70 plus years, St. John's Academy began as a vision for Catholic education in the 1950s and has grown into a landmark of learning, faith and service that has educated thousands of students across generations.

While classrooms, technology, and teaching methods have evolved through the decades, the foundation of a St. John's Academy education has remained remarkably constant: academic excellence grounded in faith and the formation of the whole child.

With more than 360 students from over 50 ZIP codes, St. John's Academy is a thriving school community. As a Middle States Accredited, National Blue Ribbon School, St. John's Academy is committed to providing a challenging academic experience and preparing students for success beyond eighth grade. Dedicated teachers provide individualized attention, encourage students to reach their potential, and recognize that academic achievement is only one part of educating a child.

It is a mission that is carried out daily through a strong partnership between the school and home. Teachers and staff work alongside parents, and the greater parish community to create an environment where children can feel safe enough to take risks, confident enough to ask questions, and supported enough to discover who God is calling them to become.

For generations of alumni, the lessons learned at St. John's Academy have helped them navigate the challenges of high school, college, careers and parenthood.

Many remain connected to the Academy and St. John the Baptist Parish for years after graduation, with some even returning to SJA in entirely new roles — as parents, teachers, coaches, volunteers, and benefactors.

In addition to families with deep ties to St. John's Academy, many new families continue to become part of the SJA story each year, bringing new energy, talents, friendships, and traditions to an already strong community. Together, these families create the unique spirit that makes St. John's Academy such a special place.



More than seven decades after its doors first opened, St. John's Academy continues to demonstrate that the strongest education is the one that sets the foundation for a lifetime to come with faith at its center. The world around SJA has changed tremendously since the 1950s, and the Academy has grown and evolved along with it.

Its purpose remains rooted in the vision which it was founded upon: providing an exceptional education while helping children develop the faith, character, compassion, and confidence they will carry with them throughout their lives.

Seventy-one years and counting, St. John's Academy continues to educate minds, form hearts, strengthen faith, and build a foundation designed to last a lifetime.

Learn More

For more information regarding the Academy, call Mrs. Ann Mitchell, principal, at 201-664-6364, or visit us at www.sjahillsdale.org

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Broadway Stars Once Again Bring Christmas Magic to Hillsdale

'A Very Broadway Christmas Concert' returns Dec. 13

THE HOLIDAY SPIRIT is already stirring in Hillsdale, where anticipation is building for the return of "A Very Broadway Christmas Concert." Inquiries have been pouring into Saint John the Baptist Church, with many asking the same hopeful question: *Will the concert be back this year?* Now that the date has been announced and the performers revealed, anticipation has turned into excitement—and a sense of urgency: *How can we get our tickets before they sell out, as they did last year?*

The concert is scheduled for Sunday, Dec. 13 at 3:30 p.m. Every effort has been made to make the event convenient for all, allowing guests ample opportunity to travel, gather, celebrate, and enjoy an extraordinary artistic and spiritual experience. Excitement is already spreading throughout Northern New Jersey and the surrounding counties of New York.

"It is beautiful to witness how God-given gifts and talents can

— Advertisement —

inspire joy, beauty, and a deep sense of community. This has certainly been true of our "Very Broadway Christmas Concert"—a wonderful, faith-filled and joy-filled annual community event that reaches far beyond what we might ordinarily consider our own community," said Msgr. Peter Smutelovic, pastor of Saint John the Baptist Church, when asked about preparations for this year's concert.

Returning to lead the cast is acclaimed tenor Ciarán Sheehan, whose impressive Broadway career includes more than 1,000 performances as the Phantom in "The Phantom of the Opera," along with roles in "Les Misérables," "Camelot," and "Finian's Rainbow." A native of Dublin, Ireland, Sheehan brings both extraordinary vocal talent and heartfelt warmth to the stage.

Joining Ciarán this year are acclaimed tenor and Broadway performer John Cudia, distinguished Broadway actress and singer Kathy Voytko, talented pianist and singer James Gregory, and celebrated violinist and Irish fiddler Heather Bixler.



Together, these exceptional performers promise an unforgettable afternoon filled with beautiful music, cherished memories, and Christmas cheer.

"We're just as excited as the audience," said Sheehan. "There is something truly special about this concert. It lifts us both as artists and as people. The joy we experience in giving is matched only by the joy we see in the audience."

Tickets are now available at christmasconcert.stjohnhillsdale.org, through a secure, user-friendly platform that provides immediate purchase confirmation.

For those who prefer to pay by cash or check, tickets may also be purchased in person at the Saint John the Baptist Church Rectory Office, at 69 Valley St., Hillsdale. Office hours are Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4:30 p.m.

For artist biographies, concert updates, and additional information, visit the official concert website.

Don't miss this wonderful opportunity to welcome the Christmas season with an afternoon of Broadway's finest voices, beautiful music, and the joy of community!



EMERSON LANDS $5,000 GRANT FOR FD PLANNING

The borough has received a $5,000 Fire Service Grant from commercial property insurer FM to strengthen the fire department's pre-incident planning efforts, according to a Nov. 10 announcement.

The grant supports preparation before emergencies occur. The announcement did not specify what equipment, services or planning tools the borough will purchase with the funding.

"At FM, we believe the majority of property damage is preventable, not inevitable," said Michael Spaziani, assistant vice president and manager of the company's Fire Service Grant Program.

FM awards grants to fire departments and other organizations worldwide to support emergency preparedness, property protection and community resilience.

According to the company, awards consider an organization's funding needs and the potential impact of the grant.

There for neighbors



Courtesy photos

The Rotary Club and the Park Ridge Green Team hosted the fall community day.

PARK RIDGE

MORE THAN A DOZEN students from the Interact clubs at Park Ridge and Pascack Hills high schools painted pumpkins for residents of Lehmann Gardens on Oct. 17. Outside, volunteers planted 25 mums and cleaned up the grounds as part of the Park Ridge Rotary Club's ongoing work at the property.

The Rotary Club and the Park Ridge Green Team hosted the fall community day. Sussex Farms donated more than 30 pumpkins, enough for each resident to receive one. The students also offered face painting and temporary Halloween tattoos.

Bella Fiore and Park Ave. Supply donated mums and cornstalks. Residents and volunteers shared hot apple cider, cider doughnuts from Demarest Farms, hot dogs and chips. Council members Robert Metzdorf and Michael Mintz stopped by to visit.



For more information about the Park Ridge Rotary Club, email parkridgerotary@gmail.com or visit parkridgerotaryclub.org.

— Via Terry Ciulia

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From Library of Congress to Hillsdale's shelves

Library assistant's initiative draws trove of titles to children's and adult collections

HILLSDALE

A request from library assistant Kamila Sanchez has brought nearly 20 books from the Library of Congress to the shelves of the Hillsdale Free Public Library, adding authors and stories representing a range of identities and backgrounds.

The books arrived through the Library of Congress Surplus Book Program, which makes materials available to libraries, schools and other nonprofit institutions.

Sanchez helped arrange the donation with assistance from the office of U.S. Rep. Josh Gottheimer (D-5), which connected her with the federal program. She then facilitated the library's application, specifically requesting stories by authors whose varied backgrounds would help broaden the collection.

The additions span fiction, memoir, inspiration and cooking, with titles including Andrew Sean Greer's "Villa Coco," Abdulrazak Gurnah's "Theft" and runner Sara Hall's memoir, "For the Love of the Grind." Readers can also explore American communities in Peter Santenello's "Your Fellow Americans" or head into the kitchen with "Italian Cookies," "Bake It Gluten Free" and Jessica B. Harris's "A Kwanzaa Keepsake and Cookbook." Several selections are in large print.



Kamila Sanchez facilitated HFPL's application.

The Library of Congress, based in Washington, D.C., serves as the research library of Congress and the national library of the United States. Its vast collections preserve books, manuscripts, maps, photographs, films and sound recordings documenting American life and cultures around the world. Beyond supporting lawmakers, it makes many of those resources available to researchers and the public, including through its digital collections.

Library Director Dave Franz, told Pascack Press, "We are extremely grateful to the Library of Congress for this wonderful donation. A library's collection should reflect the many different voices, experiences, and perspectives in our community. These new books will introduce our patrons to a broad range of authors and stories, and we appreciate Ms. Sanchez's initiative in helping us make that hap-

See SHELVES on page 18

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Gives:

FROM PAGE 1

local families with food, clothing and support throughout the year.

The initiative brings together Coach Jimmy Wagner of Pascack Boxing, the Councilwoman Erin Collins, and the Westwood Police Department.

Wagner tells Pascack Press the group reaches families through food pantries, churches, home visits and direct deliveries. Its assistance extends beyond turkeys, toys, books and winter clothing to helping parents explore educational opportunities, helping teenagers find their first jobs and supporting families through job loss or other hardships.

"We visit folks, find out how things are going, find out what they need," he said.

For Wagner, the work grew from a moment when he needed help himself.

In 2020, isolated at home during the pandemic and struggling with his mental health, he accepted an invitation from Westwood police Sgt. Anthony Piccinich to meet for coffee and join him on patrol.



WAGNER

Over the next two hours, Wagner recalled, he watched Piccinich stop in freezing temperatures to offer people blankets and hoodies, then circle back with coffee, water and other necessities.

"We visit folks, find out how things are going, find out what they need..." — Coach Jimmy

On Old Hook Road, the officer checked on a group of young adults heading out for food, asking whether they needed a ride and encouraging them to get home safely.

A few days later, the two visited a veteran who was lonely, hungry and in need of conversation — and, Wagner recalled, a cup of coffee.

Wagner — an occasional contributor to these pages — credits those experiences with giving him connection and purpose during a difficult period and inspiring his commitment to helping neighbors.

Today, Wagner describes Westwood Gives Back as a group of friends united by concern for the community, supported by local officials, police, and families connected to Pascack Boxing. Piccinich retired Dec. 1, 2023.

For Wagner, whose family settled in Westwood 60 years ago, Thanksgiving is one occasion in a year-round effort to notice when a neighbor needs help and show up.

"Sometimes just our knock on the door can change a day for a family," he said.

Shelves:

FROM PAGE 17

pen."

The surplus program gives eligible institutions access to books and other materials that duplicate Library of Congress holdings or fall outside the scope of its collections. Through an application process, those materials can find new homes where they serve local educational and reading needs.

The Hillsdale Free Public Library is at 509 Hillsdale Ave. Visit hfpl.org or call 201-358-5072.

Jim Gerbig elected Post 162 commander

HILLSDALE—Jim Gerbig was elected commander of Post 162 by unanimous vote during the post's regular meeting on Nov. 7.

Gerbig, who had been serving as vice commander, was nominated by Past Commander Zoltán Horváth.



GERBIG

Following the election, Past Commander and Post Finance Officer Doug Frank administered the oath of office. The change in leadership follows two terms under Commander Tom Robinson.

Rotary taking orders amid 39th Annual Fresh Fruit Festival

The Park Ridge Rotary Club is accepting orders for its 39th annual Fresh Fruit Festival, featuring citrus from Indian River, Florida, along with fruit assortments and vegetables.

Orders are due Nov. 29. Pickup is Saturday, Dec. 5, from 10 a.m. to noon at Montvale Landscaping, 53 Craig Road, Montvale. Supplies are limited.

Seedless navel oranges and pink grapefruit are available for $50 per full carton or $33 per half carton. Full cartons weigh approximately 42 pounds. A half carton of mixed navel oranges and grapefruit costs $35. A trio box containing eight apples, eight pears and eight navel oranges costs $40. A 24-pound assortment of fresh vegetables is $50. Delivery options are also available, with separate pricing.

The club serves Park Ridge, Woodcliff Lake and Montvale. Order via freshfruitorder.org/ParkRidgeRotary. For help ordering or to request an order form by mail, call 201-280-2406.







Valley Chabad teens tell U.S. antisemitism envoy about Jewish life at school

WOODCLIFF LAKE — Jewish teens from Woodcliff Lake, River Vale and Upper Saddle River met with Rabbi Yehuda Kaploun, the U.S. special envoy to monitor and combat antisemitism, during an October leadership gathering in Washington.

The students told Kaploun about their experiences in school, according to Valley Chabad, whose CTeen chapter organized the local delegation.

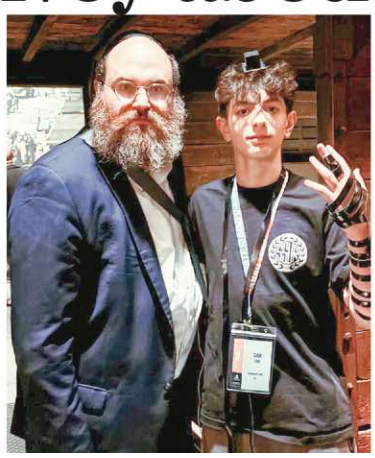
Organizers said the gathering drew 150 teens from 50 schools. The weekend began Oct. 23 with a visit to the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, where the students heard from Holocaust survivors. CTeen event listing

For Sam Tsipis, 15, of Woodcliff Lake, the hardest part of the visit was stepping inside a railcar of the kind used to deport Jews during the Holocaust.

There, he put on tefillin, small leather boxes containing passages from the Torah that are strapped to the arm and head for prayer. Museum description of the railcar

"Jews were taken away in cars just like it. And there we were, Jewish teens, praying inside," Sam said in remarks shared by Valley Chabad. "It showed me that we're still here."

For Tyler Zimmerman, a Pascack Valley High School sophomore from River Vale, a conversation about football brought the weekend back to his own school. Sam Salz, who played for Texas A&M, spoke to the teens on Shabbat about wearing a yarmulke on the field and sitting out games that fell on the Jewish Sabbath.



Sam Tsipis, 15, of Woodcliff Lake, wears *tefillin* inside a railcar at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington during a visit with Valley Chabad CTeen. Photo via Valley Chabad.

"I was really inspired by Sam. He played college football and never hid who he is," Tyler said. "If he can wear a yarmulke on the field, I can be proud of being Jewish at school."

The teens also took turns leading discussions and pitched ideas for Jewish community projects to a panel of rabbis. Over Shabbat, they encouraged one another to put their phones away for 25 hours. For Seth Posniack, 15, the invitation took some getting used to.

"I was nervous about giving up my phone for a whole day," Seth said. "Honestly, it ended up being the best part. I actually talked to people, made friends and got involved in the Shabbat program."

Rabbi Yosef Orenstein and his wife, Estie, lead Valley Chabad's teen program in Woodcliff Lake. Their group finished the trip Sunday with a visit to Chabad at the University of Maryland for a look at Jewish life on campus.

"I came with a few friends from home and left with friends from six states," said Adam Wachtel of Upper Saddle River.

We're online, too

In addition to this crisp newsprint, you can get your hands on Pascack Press via PDF at our website, PascackPress.com — which gives tips on writing effective press releases and taking awesome photos!





Club News! Let us promote your organization.
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Westwood's $20 senior parking permit offers an alternative to coins, apps

WESTWOOD RESIDENTS aged 70 and older can buy a $20 hangtag that lets them park in any borough space designated for hourly parking without feeding a meter or using an app. Council President Lauren Letizia said a single $20 payment now covers the rest of 2026 and all of 2027.

Councilwoman Cheryl Hodges, the borough's parking utility liaison, said the idea grew out of discussions about modernizing parking payments. Westwood is considering a cashless system, she said, but has no immediate plans to adopt one.

"When paying cash for parking, it is 25 cents for up to an hour," Hodges said. At that rate, the permit costs the same as 80 quarter payments. A driver who puts a quarter in the meter for each visit would break even on the 80th visit, even if some stops last only a few minutes. Drivers who buy the hangtag must still observe the time limit on the meter or lot sign.

The age cutoff drew questions after Letizia announced the program. Denise Cillo Egan asked why eligibility begins at 70 rather than 65. Hodges said the Parking Utility Advisory Board recommended age 70 and the council approved it. She did not give a reason for choosing that age. The advisory board's May 26 meeting minutes record its recommendation to the mayor and council.

Residents must sign a waiver when the permit is issued and display the hangtag when parking. Anyone who transfers a permit to another person loses the privilege for three years.

Residents can apply through the borough website or call the Parking Utility at 201-664-7100, ext. 121. — *Staff report*

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His own search for care inspires Braverly Health

As a child, Jonathan Kohlmeier struggled with selective mutism. His family struggled to find care until they found a clinician with experience treating it. "That care changed my life," he said.

Now Kohlmeier is working to make that search easier for other families. He is the co-founder and CEO of Braverly Health, a new telehealth company specializing in assessment and treatment for selective mutism in children, teens and young adults ages 3–24. New Jersey is the first state where the company is offering services.

Originally from New City in Rockland County, Kohlmeier now lives in New York City and says he has spent considerable time in Bergen County.

His father, Eric Kohlmeier, is senior financial advisor and managing director of investments at Wells Fargo in Park Ridge.

Jonathan Kohlmeier describes selective mutism as an anxiety disorder that is not widely known and is often misunderstood. Children may speak freely at home but be unable to speak in settings such as school.

"A child might go months or years without being able to ask to use the bathroom, answer a question in class, or join a conversation with friends because they are so anxious in social situations," he said.



KOHLMEIER

For families, finding a clinician experienced in treating the condition can present another obstacle. Specialized care may require traveling far from home — a barrier Braverly aims to address through telehealth.

"Through telehealth, Braverly aims to make that care more accessible to families in Bergen County and across New Jersey," Kohlmeier said. "We also support caregivers and collaborate with schools and existing providers when needed."

Kohlmeier founded the company with clinical psychologists Shelley Avny, PhD, and Zohra Chahal, PhD. According to Braverly, both bring experience providing selective mutism care, developing programs and training clinicians.

The company offers assessments and personalized behavioral treatment, tailoring care to each patient's age and clinical needs. Services can include caregiver coaching and coordination with schools or other providers.

For Kohlmeier, the launch builds on advocacy work that began when he was a teenager. He wrote a book about his experiences and has spoken at schools, conferences and professional development sessions to raise awareness of selective mutism.

He holds a master's degree in clinical psychology from Teachers College, Columbia University, and has served on the Selective Mutism Association's board of directors since 2020. His background also includes digital mental health operations.

Through that work, he has continued to hear from families whose experiences resemble his own.

"I still see countless families facing the same challenges finding the right help that my family faced when I was a child," he said. "Seeing families continue to face those same barriers is what led me to start Braverly."

The company plans to expand to additional states. For information about its services and exploring care, visit braverlyhealth.com.

Pascack Pi-oneers host blood drive Nov. 17

MONTVALE — The Pascack Pi-oneers FIRST Robotics Team 1676 and Pascack Hills High School Medical Club will host an American Red Cross blood drive Tuesday, Nov. 17, from 2 to 7 p.m. in the high school cafeteria, 225 W. Grand Ave.

Prospective donors should review the Red Cross's eligibility requirements before registering. Final eligibility is determined at the time of donation. Red Cross donor eligibility information.

To Register, Go To
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River Vale seniors meet Nov. 18

River Vale Sr. Friendship Club will hold its annual birthday celebration Nov. 18, featuring music and dancing with entertainer Peter Lieberman and birthday cake. Flyers for upcoming holiday events will also be available. Doors open at noon; the meeting begins at 12:30 p.m. New members are always welcome. For membership information, call Angie at 201-666-3888.

Westwood firefighter officers for 2027

The Westwood Volunteer Fire Department has elected its Board of Fire Officers for 2027, with Bryan Wiecenski as chief and Scott Stewart as deputy chief.

Also elected were Michael Griffin Jr., senior captain; Ryan Weaver, captain; Matthew Voorhis, first lieutenant; Brian Katz, second lieutenant; Matthew Velthaus, third lieutenant; and William Haffler, fourth lieutenant.

Helping Hand Food Pantry Turkey Drive Nov. 21

HILLSDALE — Helping Hand Food Pantry holds its annual turkey drive Saturday, Nov. 21, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at 349 Hillsdale Ave. Donations of frozen turkeys and Thanksgiving trimmings help support local families in need.

— Via Mark Loblanco

Park Ridge offers winter chess classes

Park Ridge Recreation will offer Friday chess classes Jan. 8 through Feb. 26 at the Community Center behind Borough Hall, 53 Park Ave.

Certified coaches will lead Foundation Chess for ages 5–14 from 5 to 5:50 p.m. and Intermediate Chess for ages 7–14 from 6 to 6:50 p.m. Participants can learn the basics, sharpen their strategies and enjoy friendly games.

For the flyer and registration information, visit parkridgeboro.com or call 201-573-1800, ext. 521.

Community Bible Study welcomes women

HILLSDALE — Community Bible Study welcomes women of all ages for interdenominational study through personal reading, small-group discussion, lectures and fellowship.

Participants meet Wednesdays from 9:15 to 11:15 a.m. at Pascack Bible Church, 181 Piermont Ave. An online group meets Tuesdays from 7 to 8:15 p.m. The program continues through May 19, 2027.

For more information, call Manda at 201-967-9343.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 24









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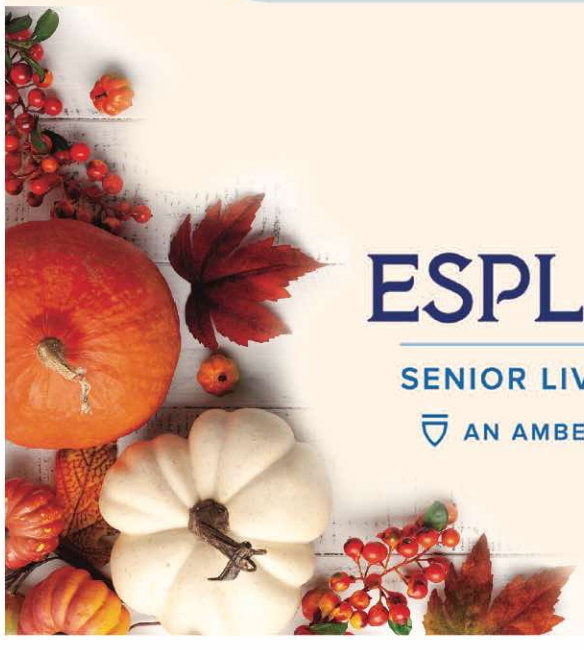
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Briefs:

FROM PAGE 22

Book donation bins offer free drop-off

Residents can donate books, CDs and DVDs at five BookDrop collection sites in the area. The bins accept hardcover and paperback books, including textbooks and children's books. Magazines, newspapers and encyclopedias are not accepted. Drop-off is free.

Locations include:

- Alpine: DPW yard on Hillside Avenue.
- Norwood: Borough Hall, 455 Broadway.
- Park Ridge: Recycling Center, 18 Sulak Lane.
- Tenafly: Recycling Center, 153 Grove St.
- Westwood: DPW, 235 Harrington Ave.

According to BookDrop, residents deposited approximately 28,900 pounds of books at these sites over the past year. The company says readable books are reused and books unsuitable for reuse are recycled as paper.

For more information and bin locations, visit bookdrop.com.

Westwood asks parents about preschool needs

The Westwood Recreation Department is asking borough parents of young children to share their preschool needs as it plans programs for the next school year. Parents can complete the survey at tinyurl.com/2026preschoolsurvey.

The department's state-licensed preschool holds classes on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Four-year-olds attend from 9 a.m. to noon and 3-year-olds from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. The program has prepared more than 350 children for kindergarten over 17 years, according to the department. Call 201-664-7882 or visit westwoodnj.gov/recreation.

Westwood gingerbread contest goes stars, stripes, holiday lights

WESTWOOD — Celebrate Westwood Arts Hub will hold its fourth annual gingerbread house contest Monday, Dec. 7, from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Westwood Community Center, 55 Jefferson Ave. This year's contest has its first official theme, "Stars, Stripes & Holiday Lights!"

Builders of all ages may enter a house made from scratch, assembled from a kit or constructed from cardboard. Entries should be decorated in advance and dropped off between 4 and 5:30 p.m. on the day of the contest.

Visitors can view the houses and vote alongside local judges from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Awards will be presented at 7:45 p.m. Sponsor Matt O'Hare of Coldwell Banker Realty NJ will provide gift cards to Westwood businesses as prizes in several categories.

Registration is $5 per entry, and space is limited. Register for the contest. For questions, email westwoodartshub@gmail.com.

Roundtable explores dementia care, caregiver support

WESTWOOD — Representatives of more than 15 community agencies joined Pascack Valley Medical Center staff Oct. 13 to discuss improving support for people with dementia and their caregivers.

CEO Michael Bell led "Connecting Care: A Community Conversation on Dementia." Educator and caregiver advocate Terry Ciulla organized the roundtable and guided the discussion.

Proposals included a shared resource directory, support groups, educational programs and dementia-friendly care training. Hospital staff will explore ways to connect families with community services before discharge. Funding and implementation remain under discussion.



CEO Michael Bell led the dementia roundtable organized by educator and caregiver advocate Terry Ciulla. Courtesy photo.

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 ecschool@emersonschools.org.

Bible study in Hillsdale

Community Bible Study is an interdenominational Bible Study for those seeking to learn more about God and His Word through personal study, small group discussion, class lectures, and fellowship. Join women of all ages on Wednesday mornings from 9:15 to 11:15 a.m. or online on Tuesday/Wednesday evenings from 7 to 8:15 p.m. We will be meeting at Pascack Bible Church, 181 Piermont Ave. from Sept. 16, 2026 – May 19, 2027. An Introductory Coffee will be held on Sept. 9 at 9:15 a.m. For more information, call Manda at 201-967-9343.

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CONTINUED ON PAGE 25

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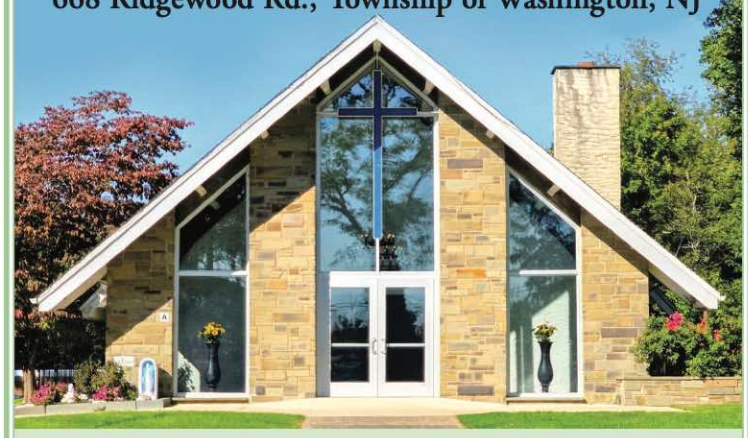
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Briefs:

FROM PAGE 24

Visitors can view the houses and vote alongside judges from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Awards will be presented at 7:45 p.m. Sponsor Matt O'Hare of Coldwell Banker Realty NJ will provide gift cards to Westwood businesses as prizes in several categories. Registration is $5 per entry. Email westwoodartshub@gmail.com.

Interfaith Thanksgiving Service Nov. 22

Upper Pascack Valley Clergy Council will sponsor its 58th annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Worship Service on Sunday, Nov. 22, at 7 p.m. at Christ Lutheran Church, 32 Pascack Road.

Clergy and leaders from faith communities throughout the Pascack Valley will lead the service, sharing Thanksgiving traditions and reflecting on their friendships and mutual support. The gathering has been a local tradition since 1968. All are welcome.

Cookies, Cocoa with Santa Dec. 4

PARK RIDGE — The Greater Pascack Valley Woman's Club and Park Ridge Elks Lodge 2234 will host Cookies and Cocoa with Santa on Friday, Dec. 4, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Elks Lodge on Sulak Lane.

The evening will feature games, crafts, stories and songs for children, plus tricky tray and 50/50 raffles for adults. Santa and Mrs. Claus will pose for photos; guests should bring a camera.

Tickets are $10 for children ages 1–10 and $15 for ages 11 and older. Proceeds will benefit local charities supported by the two organizations. Guests are encouraged to bring a nonperishable food item for the Tri Boro and Helping Hand food pantries.

Reservations must be received by Nov. 25. Send a check payable to the Greater Pascack Valley Woman's Club, along with contact information and the number and ages of children attending, to Greater Pascack Valley Woman's Club, P.O. Box 3, Park Ridge, NJ 07656.

Call 201-819-2457 or email gpvwc1990@gmail.com.

Medical, veterinary programs offered for grades K–3

PARK RIDGE — Park Ridge Recreation and Little Medical School will offer two after-school programs for students in kindergarten through third grade this winter.

Little Doctor School will meet Tuesdays, Jan. 12, 2027–March 9, from 3 to 4 p.m. Children will explore the human body and role-play as doctors using child-safe medical tools.

Little Veterinarian School will meet Wednesdays, Jan. 13–March 10, from 3 to 4 p.m. Participants will learn about animal anatomy, practice pet exams and explore animal care.

Certified instructors will lead both programs. Space is limited. A holiday gift discount is available through Dec. 1 using code EARLY27.

For details, see the flyer at parkridgeboro.com or call Park Ridge Recreation at 201-573-1800, ext. 521.

WLSA plans New Year's Eve party

The Woodcliff Lake Senior Association will host its annual New Year's Eve party Dec. 31 at noon at the Tice Senior Center, 411 Chestnut Ridge Road, Woodcliff Lake. The celebration includes lunch, music and dancing.

PASCACK VALLEY

Can't get out to Giulio's Restaurant? Prepare its signature dish at home

Giulio's Restaurant meets a full array of dining and entertaining needs. Giulio's welcomes walk-ins, but takes reservations and offers takeout.

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Enjoy making our Signature Dish at Home!

Salmon Giulio stuffed with crabmeat

What you'll need:

- 10 oz. Salmon Filet
- 3 tbs Colossal Crabmeat
- 1 tsp. honey mustard
- Dash of honey & balsamic vinegar
- 1 pepper diced
- Stalk celery diced
- Salt & pepper to taste

What to do:

Slice Salmon down center (lengthwise). Dice up peppers & celery add salt and pepper to taste.

Add honey mustard mix together w/crabmeat. Stuff in center of salmon. Cook 10 minutes at 375 degrees Fahrenheit.

Drizzle with a dash of honey & balsamic vinegar dressing

- Buon Appetito!

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Salmon Giulio stuffed with crabmeat

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National Diabetes Month a reminder to know your risk



BOOST YOUR BRAIN POWER

By Dr. Eric Kaplan, DC, DACNB, FACFN, FABVR

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November is National Diabetes Month. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's 2026 National Diabetes Statistics Report, approximately 40.1 million Americans have diabetes, and another 115.2 million adults have prediabetes. Many do not know they have either condition.

Diabetes affects how the body regulates glucose, or blood sugar. Insulin, a hormone produced by the pancreas, helps glucose enter cells to be used for energy.

Type 1 diabetes is an autoimmune disease in which the immune system attacks the insulin-producing cells in the pancreas. People with type 1 diabetes need insulin to survive. It is not caused by eating too much sugar or being physically inactive.

In type 2 diabetes, the body does not use insulin effectively and, over time, may not produce enough to keep blood sugar within a healthy range. Family history, age, excess weight, physical inactivity and other factors can increase risk. Type 2 diabetes can develop in children and teenagers as well as adults.

Food choices matter, but diabetes cannot be explained simply by how much sugar someone eats. Limiting sugary drinks and choosing foods that provide fiber and nutrients can help support blood sugar management and overall health.

Carbohydrates affect blood sugar, and both the amount and type matter. Beans, vegetables, whole grains and whole fruit provide nutrients and fiber. People with diabetes can work with their care team to find portions and meal patterns that meet their needs.

Physical activity also helps the body use insulin more effectively. Walking, swimming, dancing, cycling and resistance exercises can all contribute. People with diabetes should discuss an activity plan with their healthcare professional, particularly if they use medicines that can cause low blood sugar or have complications that affect exercise.

Over time, diabetes can damage blood vessels and nerves. Diabetic neuropathy may cause burning, tingling, numbness or pain, particularly in the feet. Loss of sensation can allow an injury to go unnoticed, while poor circulation can make healing more difficult.

Diabetes also increases the risk of vision loss, kidney disease and lower-limb amputations. Regular eye examinations, foot checks, kidney monitoring and blood sugar management help protect health.

Type 2 diabetes is also associated with an increased risk of dementia. Researchers are studying how blood vessel damage, insulin resistance and other factors may contribute to that relationship. Alzheimer's disease is a distinct condition, and "type 3 diabetes" is not an accepted medical diagnosis.

Medications such as semaglutide and tirzepatide are used to treat type 2 diabetes and, in certain formulations, obesity. They can improve blood sugar management and produce substantial weight loss in appropriate patients.

Some weight lost during treatment can come from lean body mass, which includes muscle and other tissues. That finding alone does not establish muscle damage or loss of strength. Patients should discuss nutrition, resistance exercise and monitoring with their prescribing clinician. Never stop or change prescribed medication without speaking with your healthcare professional.

This National Diabetes Month, ask your primary care clinician whether you should be screened. Established blood tests, such as A1C or fasting plasma glucose, are used to identify diabetes and prediabetes. If you already have diabetes, review your treatment plan and recommended screenings with your care team.

If you are interested in getting your brain and body examined for only $21 (normally $600), contact Kaplan Brain & Body at 201-261-2150 or info@kaplanbrainandbody.com. Visit www.kaplandc.com and follow me on social media for more practical health information.

Listen to Boost Your Brain Power with Dr. Eric Kaplan Saturdays from 8 to 9 a.m. on AM 970 and from 2 to 3 p.m. on AM 710. My book, Boost Your Brainpower: A Guide to Improving Your Memory and Focus, is available on Amazon.

Remember, you cannot exercise your way out of every health problem, but moving your body, eating thoughtfully and taking care of your metabolic health are powerful places to start. Your body is not a rental car. You only get one, so take care of the engine!



Fire:

FROM PAGE 4

also announced as guests, with doughnuts and cider from Demarest Farms.

Firefighters visited schools in town over a two-week period to teach students about fire prevention and share safety tips. The department thanked members who took time out of their days to help educate the next generation.

Meanwhile, members elected Chris Kelley chief for 2027. Joining him on the Board of Fire Officers are Deputy Chief Joe Solda III, Senior Captain Joe Solda Jr., Captain Ray Degroat, 1st Lieutenant Jimmy Voorhis Jr., 2nd Lieutenant Timmy Dinnell, 3rd Lieutenant DJ Blankenbush and 4th Lieutenant Aidan Peterson.

The officers will assume their positions Jan. 1, 2027. The department thanked outgoing Chief William Farrell for his dedication to the department and Hillsdale residents throughout his years as an officer, including the past two years as chief.

Looking ahead to the holidays, the department has announced its third annual Santa Breakfast at fire headquarters. The event will feature a Christmas-themed breakfast and a visit from Santa, with opportunities for children to pose for pictures.

Three seatings are planned: 7:45 a.m., 9:15 a.m. and 11 a.m. Space is limited, and reservations are required. Families should consult the Hillsdale Fire Department's social media announcements for information.

— Staff writer John Snyder





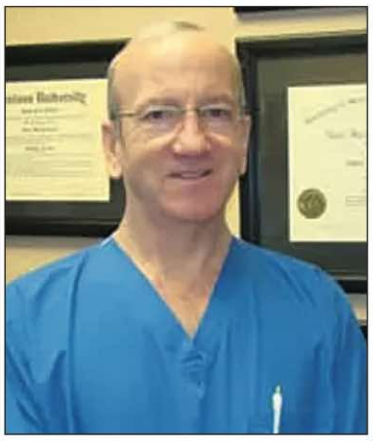
Why patients trust the Vein Center of Oradell

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There are vein specialists, and there are vascular surgeons. Luckily for his patients, James W. Geuder, M.D., is both. Dr. Geuder is a board-certified vascular surgeon specializing in varicose veins, venous disorders, spider vein treatment, and circulation disorders. He has practiced vascular surgery in Bergen County for 25 years.

Dr. Geuder is an attending surgeon at Hackensack University Medical Center and a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons. He has been consistently selected as a Top Doctor by Castle Connolly, a Best Doctor by *New York* magazine, and a Patients Choice and Most Compassionate Doctor by PatientsChoice.com.

When you call the Vein Center of Oradell, a professional will always answer your call and be happy to assist you. We work hard to provide a comfortable, friendly environment at the Vein Center of Oradell. We have an ICAVL-approved vascular lab that allows for immediate testing with an accurate diagnosis.



An important role as your doctor is to educate you about your condition and treatment options. It is important to understand what is wrong and what should be done.

Most vein procedures can be performed in the office and with local anesthesia, if necessary. Dr. Geuder also treats patients at Hackensack University Medical Center and outpatient surgery centers if anesthesia or more involved procedures are necessary.

"Many people tolerate varicose veins in spite of their discomfort and appearance," said Dr. Geuder. "The thought of vein stripping, anesthesia and recovery may seem worse than the problem."

He added, "Thanks to modern, non-invasive treatments – such as laser or VNUS closure – that is no longer the case. Patients have their treatments in the office under local anesthesia and return to normal activity afterward. It is very gratifying to see patients' symptoms and veins disappear after a minor office procedure."

For more information on Dr. Geuder and the Vein Center of Oradell, visit veincenteroforadell.com or call — we answer the phone! No recording.

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Vein Center of Oradell, 680 Kinderkamack Road, Oradell. (201) 262-VEIN (8346). Dr. Geuder has joined Hackensack Vascular Specialists. We have a second office at 211 Essex Street, Hackensack, NJ.



Dr. Geuder is a board-certified vascular surgeon specializing in varicose veins, venous disorders, spider vein treatment, and circulation disorders

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James W. Geuder, M.D.

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VEIN SPECIALISTS

Dr. James Geuder is a board certified vascular surgeon with over 26 years of experience treating vascular and vein problems in Bergen County. At The Vein Center of Oradell, Dr. Geuder personally examines, educates and treats all patients. The Vein Center of Oradell has an ICAVL-approved vascular lab, and they became the first vein center in New Jersey to be certified by the Intersocietal Accreditation Commission. Castle Connolly and *New York Magazine* consistently include Dr. Geuder on their "Best Doctor" list and he also has the Patients Choice Award which is based on patients' experience. The Vein Center of Oradell makes every effort to offer patients the most comfortable and friendly environment as they receive the best medical care. Please see our reviews on Facebook from the Bergen County Moms.

Our doctors are participating in most insurances including Aetna, Horizon, United Healthcare, Cigna and Oxford.

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Pascack Valley Medical Center earns four surgical excellence accreditations

Hackensack Meridian Pascack Valley Medical Center has earned accreditation from Surgical Review Corporation (SRC) as a Center of Excellence in four specialty areas: complex endometriosis care, fibroid care, minimally invasive gynecologic surgery and robotic surgery.

The accreditations recognize the hospital's commitment to patient safety, quality care and surgical excellence.

To earn the designations, Pascack Valley Medical Center underwent a comprehensive review of its clinical quality, patient outcomes, safety protocols and performance improvement practices. Not all hospitals and surgeons pursue accreditation, and not all organizations that undergo the review process receive the distinction.

"These four Center of Excellence accreditations reflect our commitment to providing women in Westwood and the surrounding communities with access to the highest standards of care," said Dr. Yitzhack Asulin, director of robotic surgery at Pascack Valley Medical Center and an SRC-designated master surgeon in robotic surgery and fibroid and endometriosis surgery.



Dr. Yitzhack Asulin and physician assistant Marigona Gashi of Hackensack Meridian Pascack Valley Medical Center.

"Endometriosis and fibroids can be complex and debilitating conditions, and these designations ensure that patients receive expert, comprehensive treatment close to home. By utilizing advanced surgical techniques and evidence-based care, we can help preserve fertility and support women in achieving their goals for future pregnancy when desired."

The accreditations reinforce the hospital's commitment to advancing women's health and minimally invasive surgical care. Through specialized expertise, advanced technology and evidence-based treatments, Pascack Valley Medical Center offers comprehensive care for complex gynecologic conditions while working to improve patient outcomes and recovery times.

Health care facilities and surgeons seeking SRC accreditation undergo an extensive assessment and inspection process. The review evaluates surgical volumes, facility resources and equipment, clinical pathways, standardized operating procedures, patient education practices and ongoing quality improvement efforts.

The process also provides opportunities for staff education and implementation of best practices to enhance patient care.

"We're proud to recognize Pascack Valley Medical Center for its commitment to advancing and providing quality care for all patients," said Gary M. Pratt, CEO of SRC. "These accreditations signal that this facility is among the best in these specialties and is dedicated to delivering the highest level of care possible."

The four accreditations support the hospital's efforts to expand access to advanced surgical care throughout the region, allowing patients to receive specialized treatment close to home.

Pascack Valley Medical Center is a 128-bed, full-service acute-care community hospital in Westwood. Its services include emergency care, maternity care, women's imaging, cardiac and pulmonary rehabilitation, joint replacement, wound care and intensive care.

Surgical Review Corporation, established in 2003, is an international nonprofit patient safety organization that accredits hospitals, surgeons and health care professionals meeting its standards.

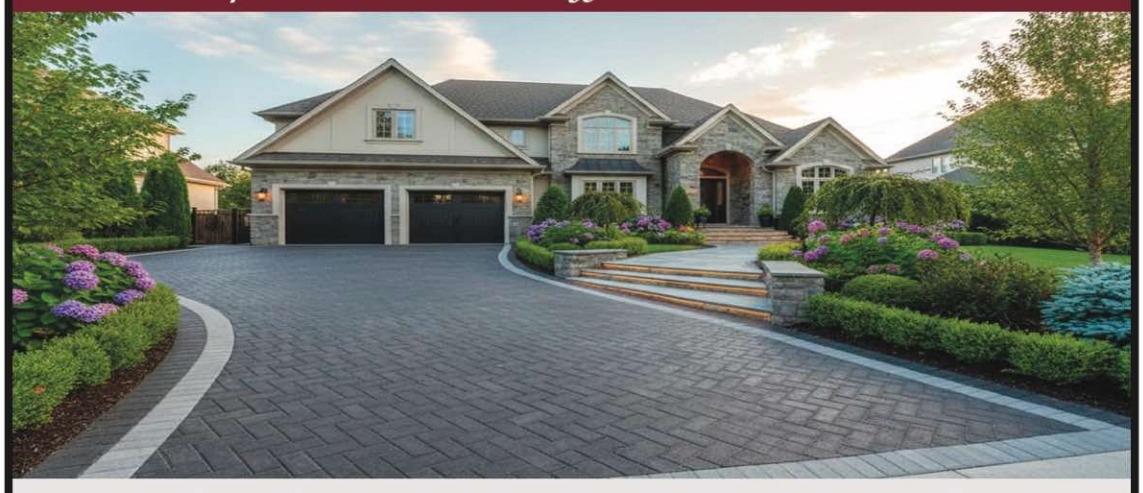
For more information, visit pascackmedicalcenter.com or surgicalreview.org.

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WELLS FARGO **Advisors**

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

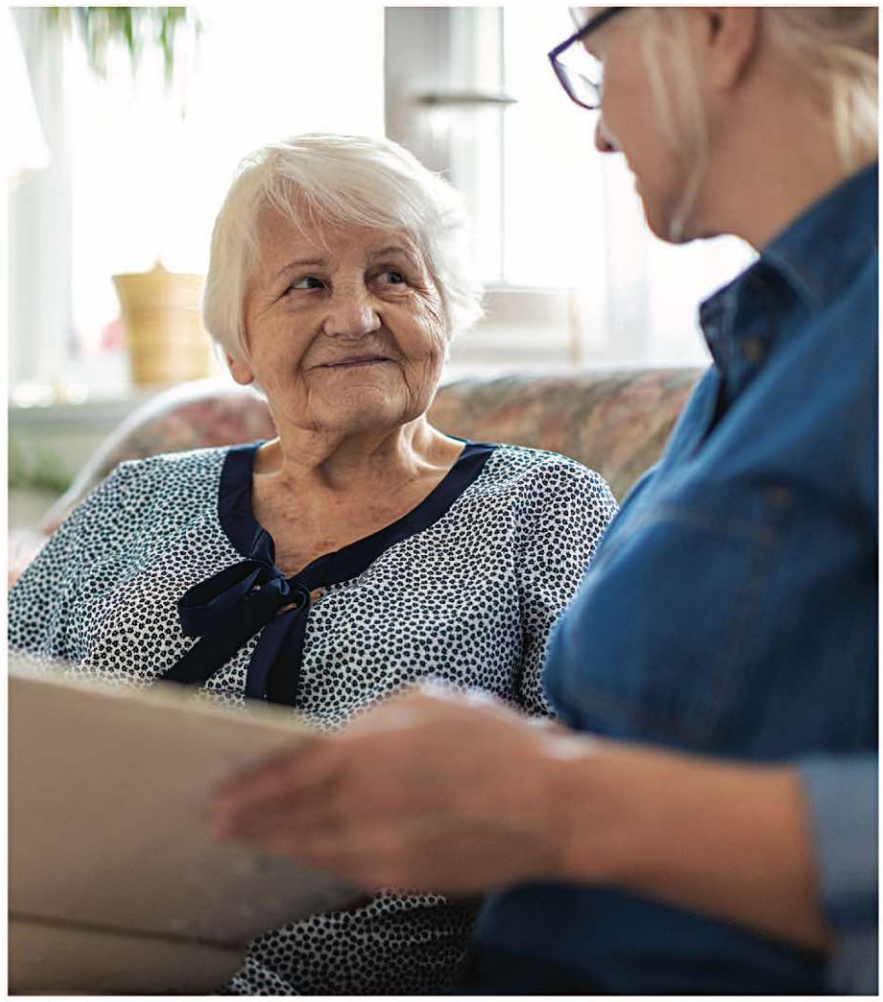
A personal experience – an important planning reminder.

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.





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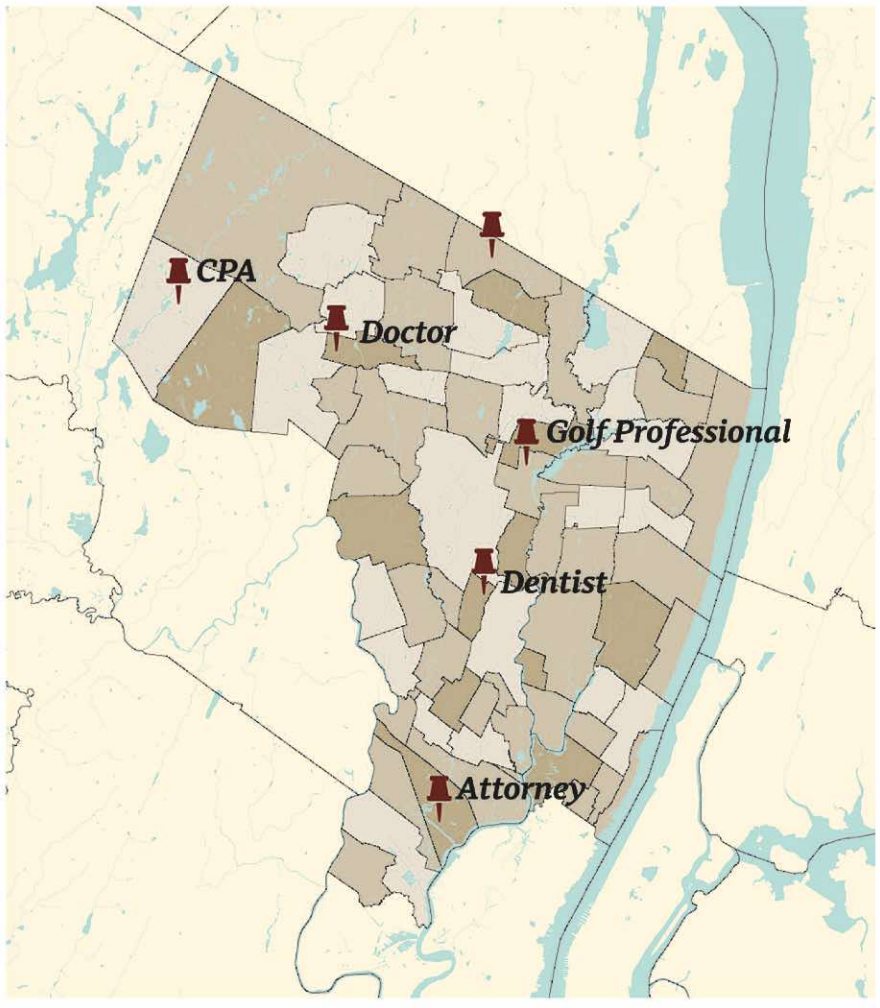
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OBITUARIES

Cecilia 'Ceil' REYNARD

Cecilia "Ceil" Renyard, a devoted mother, grandmother, sister, and friend, passed away on Oct. 30, 2026, at the age of 90.



Ceil was a loving and devoted mother whose family was the center of her world. She shared a lifetime of love, dedication, and cherished memories with those closest to her. Her greatest joy was spending time with her family.

For more than 30 years, Ceil worked at Pascack Valley Hospital in Westwood, dedicating much of her life to her work and helping others.

After retiring, Ceil enjoyed the simple pleasures of life, especially spending time with her family and working on crossword puzzles.

Ceil was predeceased by her beloved husband, George; her son, Guy; and her daughter-in-law, Martha (wife of Greg). She leaves behind her children, Joan, Tim (Elaine), and Greg; her granddaughter, Erika-Noelle; her great-granddog, Ren; and her sister, Terri Cavaliere (Frank).

Ceil's love and devotion to her family will remain in the hearts of those who knew and loved her. She leaves behind a legacy of family, memories, and a lifetime of love that will never be forgotten.

She will be deeply missed and forever loved.

Visitation was held at Becker Funeral Home, Westwood, on Nov. 3, followed by a religious ceremony. A committal service took place at Mt. Carmel Cemetery, Tenafly, Nov. 3.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions in her memory may be made to the American Lung Association and/or the American Heart Association.

Philip DE ANGUERA

Philip de Anguera, 97, of Woodcliff Lake, died peacefully on Oct. 8, 2026, with daughters Lynda and Kathe at his side.



Born Oct. 7, 1929, in Cincinnati to Philip Charles and Eva (Green) de Anguera, Phil developed lifelong passions for reading and music. He attended Walnut Hills High School, where he met his future wife, Audrey Daum. Their first date provided an early glimpse of their shared humor: When he asked her to make him a sandwich while he played cards, she included playing cards in it.

Phil received a scholarship to Harvard, earning a bachelor's degree in philosophy with a minor in religion. He enlisted in the Army Signal Corps in 1951 during the Korean War, serving as a cryptographer. He was a Mason and a member of Cincinnati's Order of Groundhogs.

He married Audrey Claire Daum on July 16, 1952. After the Army, he became vice president of Harrington Wilson Daum Corporation, the family's machine tools distribution business.

Phil and Audrey raised five children. He taught compassion, communication, listening, learning and humor by example. Family memories include bedtime stories and prayers, Christmas movies filmed with his 8mm camera, candid photographs, backyard projects, Scouting activities and homemade bread.

An enthusiastic music lover, Phil enjoyed classical works, big bands and performances by family members. He jokingly called his restful listening sessions practice for becoming a "Professional Napper." His interest in family history inspired daughter Andrea's genealogy research.

He especially enjoyed hearing son Phil John play guitar and son-in-law Eric Sinclair perform original songs. At Sunrise, he developed a friendship with pianist Clint Edwards through their musical interests.

After Audrey's death, Phil returned to Woodcliff Lake, living at Sunrise near daughter Lynda, who helped meet his needs and planned outings and family visits. He made friends, attended piano sessions and sometimes read to children at the neighboring KinderCare. For more than 10 years, he read nightly with daughter Kathe over FaceTime. He also founded a weekly poetry group at Sunrise, holding his final session the week before his death.

Phil was predeceased by his parents, wife Audrey, sister Jane Bowman and grandson Steven Brownlee.

He is survived by children Andrea Sinclair and husband Eric of Exeter, N.H.; Kathryn Klem of Boardman, Ohio; Phil John of Scipio Center, N.Y.; Lynda Koons of Westwood; and David of Syracuse, N.Y.

Survivors also include grandchildren Kristin Sinclair (Andrew Robertson), Thomas Sinclair (Luisa Godinez Puig), Kimberly Miller (Jonathan), Kathryn Rouse (Stephen), Michael Koons and Susanna Kearns (Steven); great-grandchildren Ivy and Luke Miller, Charlie Robertson, Molly Sinclair and Luisa Martina Puig-Sinclair; and niece Julia Bowman of Powell, Ohio.

A wake and sharing of memories was held on Oct. 13 at Becker Funeral Home in Westwood. Written memories may be submitted through the funeral home's website. For the full obituary, please visit Dignity Memorial.

Memorial donations honoring Phil's love of classical music may be made to Parlance Chamber Concerts, Inc., 138 Phelps Road, Ridgewood, NJ 07450.

Catherine Ann STILES

Catherine Ann Stiles, of Westwood, passed away peacefully on Monday, Nov. 2, 2026.

Beloved wife of the late John Stiles. Devoted mother of Michael Stiles and his wife, Francie; Donna Trainor; Colleen Stiles; and Sharon Davenport and her husband, Michael. Loving grandmother of Amanda and her husband, Michael Lorenzo; Danielle and her husband, Anthony Chiavelli; Michael Stiles; Kevin Trainor and his wife, Rachel; Adam Davenport; and Kristen Davenport. Cherished great-grandmother of Elijana Lorenzo and Sloane Trainor. She was predeceased by her parents, James and Gertrude Stephan, and her loving husband, John Stiles.

Catherine grew up in Guttenberg, N.J., and was a resident of Westwood for over 60 years.

The family received relatives and friends on Friday, Nov. 6 at Becker Funeral Home, Westwood. A service celebrating Catherine's life and faith was held on Saturday, Nov. 7 at the funeral home, with entombment following at Garden of Memories in the Township of Washington.

John ROTANTE

John Rotante, of Montvale, New Jersey, passed away peacefully in the comfort of his home on Nov. 2, 2026, holding the hand of his beloved wife, Louise, as he made his final journey.



Born in Brooklyn, N.Y., John was the son of Louis and Mary Rotante. He spent 30 years working for Pan American World Airways (Pan Am) before continuing his career at Verizon Wireless, where he eventually retired.

To know John was to love him. Often described as a saint by those fortunate enough to know him, John possessed a rare and genuine kindness. He was humble, gentle, selfless, and generous beyond measure. He never sought recognition for the goodness he brought into the world; it was simply who he was. His warmth and compassion left a lasting impression on everyone whose life he touched.

John had a passion for baseball and politics, and he loved a good conversation or friendly debate. Whether discussing the latest game or the state of the world, he always brought enthusiasm and his own unique perspective.

Above all, John's greatest joy was his family. He shared 64 wonderful years of marriage with his beloved wife, Louise, a lifetime of love, partnership, and unwavering devotion. He was a loving and devoted father to his son, Christopher, and his daughter-in-law, Jennifer, whom he loved as his own daughter.

He was also an incredibly proud grandfather to Niko and Damien, who brought him immeasurable happiness. His love for his family was unconditional, and he took great pride in the lives they built and the people they became. Whether sharing stories, laughter, or simply spending time together, John treasured every moment with his family.

John will be remembered for his extraordinary kindness, his gentle spirit, and the unconditional love he gave so freely. He had a beautiful way of making others feel valued and cared for, often through the simplest gestures. His legacy lives on in the memories he created, the lives he touched, and the love he leaves behind.

The world was a kinder place because John was in it, and those who were fortunate enough to love him will carry a piece of that kindness with them always.

Family and friends were invited to celebrate John's life on Saturday, Nov, 7 at Becker Funeral Home, Westwood. A repast followed.

In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests that donations be made in John's memory to the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network (PanCAN), supporting research, advocacy, and the fight against pancreatic cancer.

Irma P. SCHNOOR

Irma P. Schnoor, 94, of Westwood, formerly of Park Ridge and Toms River, passed away on Friday, Oct. 30, 2026.



Devoted mother of MaryAnn Dreeland; Bernard Schnoor and his wife, Heidi; and Ken Schnoor and his wife, Lucy. Adored grandmother of Amber Schnoor, Brian Dreeland, and Mark Dreeland, and great-grandmother of Eli and Emma Dreeland. She is also survived by her sisters, Edith Morgen and Elke Gotz; her brother, Heino, and his wife, Rosemary; and her sister-in-law, Elfrieda. She was predeceased by her beloved husband, Bernhard, and her brothers-in-law, Rolf Schnoor, Frank Morgen, and Peter Gotz.

Irma was born in Bremerhaven, Germany, on July 21, 1932, to Alwin and Anna Bohn. She came to the United States with her husband in 1954. She was a beautician in Germany and continued her trade, working out of her home. She loved her garden, cultivating her own roses, and working at Pier 17 Restaurant in Paramus. She was a member of Zion Lutheran Church, whose congregation, led by Pastor Pranschke, kept her spirits high, along with Chaplain Joe and the hospice team.

The family will receive guests at Becker Funeral Home, 219 Kinderkamack Road, Westwood, on Friday, Nov.13, from 4 to 8 p.m. A celebration of Irma's life and faith will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Nov. 14, at Zion Lutheran Church in Westwood.

Memorial contributions can be made in Irma's name to the Park Ridge Fire Department at parkridgefire.com/content/donate.

Joan P. SHAW

Joan P. Shaw, 88, of Schenectady, N.Y., formerly of Westwood, passed away on Friday, Nov. 6, 2026.



Joan is survived by her son, Thomas, and his wife, Julie; her grandchildren, Nate, Annabelle, and Eric; and her sister-in-law, Irene DeCastro (Richard). She was predeceased by her beloved husband, Thomas, and her parents, Marian Markawich and John Pancewitz.

Joan was a registered nurse for over 40 years. She was active with the Englewood Hospital School of Nursing Alumni Association, served as a bereavement counselor, and enjoyed spending summers at the Jersey Shore with her grandchildren.

The family will receive guests at Becker Funeral Home in Westwood, on Friday, Nov. 13, from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. A Mass celebrating Joan's life and faith will be held at St. Andrew R.C. Church in Westwood on Friday, Nov. 13, at 11 a.m., with entombment at George Washington Memorial Park in Paramus to follow.

Memorial contributions can be made in Joan's name to the American Cancer Society at cancer.org/DignityMemorial.

Ann M. LEBEAU

Ann M. LeBeau, of Woodcliff Lake, passed away on Sunday, Nov, 8, 2026. She was predeceased by her beloved husband of 55 years, James. Devoted mother of Thomas, Suzanne, Janet, John, and the late James. Loving grandmother of Kristen, John, Emily, Jennifer, and the late Thomas, and great-grandmother of Ellie, Nora, and Teddy. Devoted aunt to many nieces and nephews.



Ann was born and raised in Union City, N.J., before moving with her family to Woodcliff Lake, where she resided for 58 years. She was an active parishioner of Our Lady Mother of the Church since its inception, faithfully serving in various capacities over the years, including as a Eucharistic minister and C.C.D. teacher.

Visitation will be held at Becker Funeral Home, 219 Kinderkamack Road, Westwood, Nov. 12, from 4 to 8 p.m. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at Our Lady Mother of the Church, 209 Woodcliff Ave., Woodcliff Lake, on Nov.13 at 10 a.m. A committal service will be held at Ascension Cemetery, 650 Saddle River Road, Airmont, NY 10952, on Nov, 13 at 11:30 a.m.

Winter HOME IMPROVEMENT GUIDE

Club offers gratitude gathering Nov. 17

The Woman's Club of Westwood invites the public to "The Art of Gratitude," a free conversational gathering Tuesday, Nov. 17, from 7 to 9 p.m. at its clubhouse, 205 Kinderkamack Road.

Inspired by Thanksgiving, the program will combine personal reflection, group discussion and exercises intended to help participants bring gratitude into daily life.

To register, visit the events section at westwoodwomansclub.org.

Woman's Club fundraiser supports Westwood Cares

The Woman's Club of Westwood held a Halloween-themed fundraiser Oct. 27 to support Westwood Cares, a local organization helping elderly, disabled and ill neighbors in need.

Sponsored by Becker Funeral Home, the evening featured gallery-style readings by medium and astrologer Danielle Taverna, a 50/50 raffle, door prizes and vendors offering candles, crystals and readings.

Club second vice president Christine Green said the event was designed to bring neighbors together for a local cause.

"When we learned Westwood Cares needed assistance, we thought a fun, Halloween evening with friends, experiencing something a little different, might bring the community together to ultimately help neighbors who need it most," Green said.

For information about the club or membership, visit westwoodwomansclub.org or email CatherineLHanley@gmail.com.

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Seniors celebrate at annual county festival

BY JOHN SNYDER
EDITOR@THEPRESSGROUP.NET

PARAMUS

Beautiful weather, music and dancing marked Bergen County's Annual Senior Citizens Festival, held at Van Saun County Park on Sept. 24.

Bergen County Executive James J. Tedesco III and the Bergen County Board of Commissioners hosted the annual gathering through the county Department of Human Services' Division of Senior Services. Joining Tedesco were Commissioner Chairman Steven A. Tanelli, Vice Chairwoman Tracy S. Zur, Chair Pro Tempore Joan M. Voss, and Commissioners Mary J. Amoroso, Rafael Marte, Germaine M. Ortiz and Thomas J. Sullivan.

Also joining the celebration were U.S. Rep. Josh Gottheimer (NJ-5), state Sen. Holly Schepisi, Bergen County Prosecutor Mark Musella and Sheriff Anthony Cureton, among other state, county and local officials.

Gottheimer helped serve lunch and greeted and thanked local seniors and veterans for their contributions to the community. He spoke to seniors about his focus on combating scams targeting older Americans and protecting veterans benefits, Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid.

"Bergen County's Annual Senior Citizens Festival is one of the great North Jersey traditions, and there's nothing I enjoy more than spending the day with our Fifth District seniors," he said in part. "Bergen County seniors make invaluable contributions to our North Jersey community, and I'll always work to make their lives more affordable by cutting taxes, lowering the cost of prescription drugs and healthcare, and helping them access the Social Security they've earned."

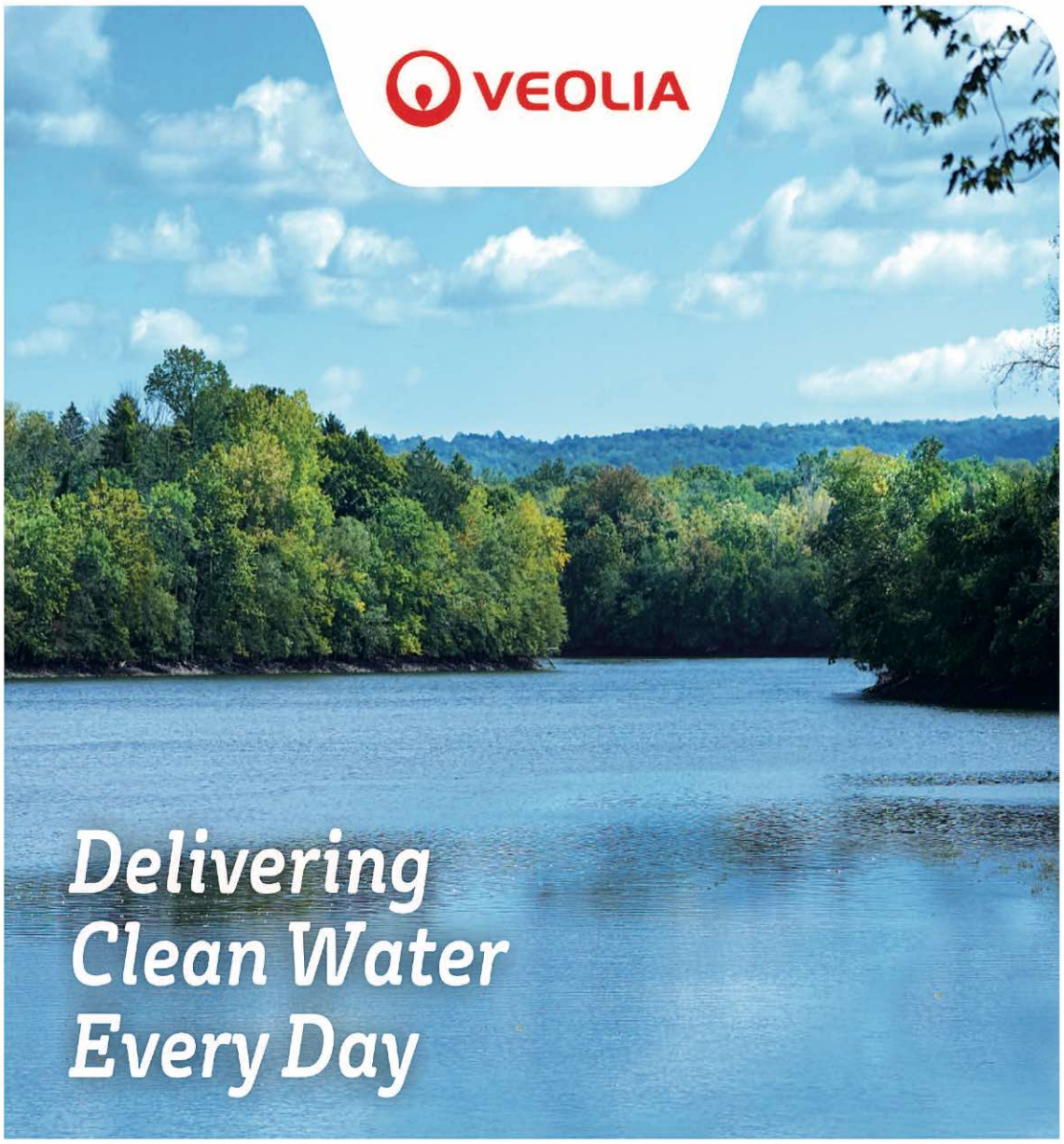


Alongside the dance moves were opportunities to learn about resources available to older adults and their families, and get involved, including those in the Pascack and Northern valleys. *John Snyder photo.*

Alongside the fun were opportunities to learn about resources available to older adults and their families, including those in the Pascack and Northern valleys.

Among the organizations and agencies represented were Bergen Volunteers, CBH Care, Holy Name, AARP, Applause Home Care, the Bergen County Prosecutor's Office, Women's Rights Information Center, Bergen County Veterans Services and the Division of Senior Services — just a fraction of the expertise and resources on hand.

The free festival, open to Bergen County residents 60 and older, ran from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and included lunch, music and entertainment, a craft fair and resource tables.



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Hills Valley Coalition plans programs on overdose prevention, youth anxiety, and A.I.

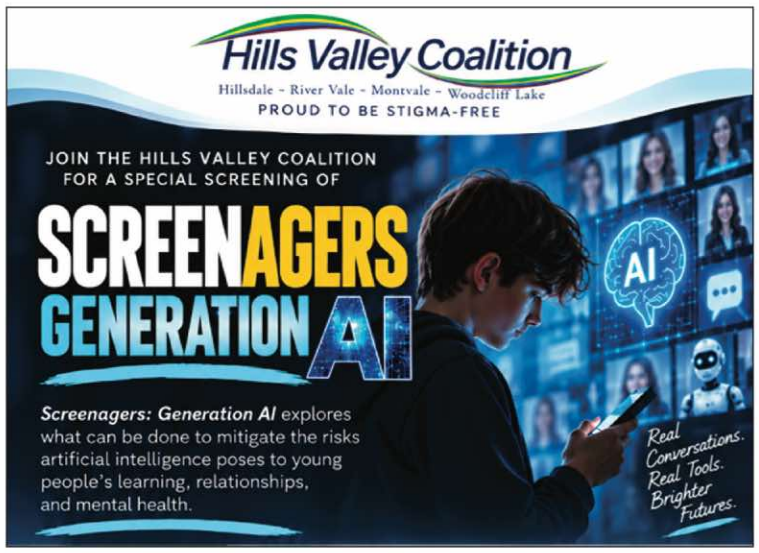
PASCACK VALLEY — Woodcliff Lake will unveil a box where anyone can pick up free naloxone anonymously, the first of three community programs the Hills Valley Coalition is helping present in November and December. Two gatherings in Montvale will give families a chance to discuss youth anxiety and how artificial intelligence is affecting children.

• **Nov. 10 — Woodcliff Lake Buster Box launch.** The borough, the coalition and Alumni in Recovery will introduce the Buster Box at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday at the Tice Senior Center in Woodcliff Lake. The box, dedicated to the memory of Max Lenowitz, will offer free naloxone, a medication that can reverse an opioid overdose.

The evening will cover current drug threats and the use of Narcan nasal spray. Speakers include Samantha Marri, Buster's sister, Ellen Carmody, co-director of parent programs for Alumni in Recovery, and Patrice Lenowitz, a Woodcliff Lake resident who helped advance Max's Law.

• **Nov. 23 — "The Anxious Generation" book discussion.** Parents, teachers and other residents are invited to discuss Jonathan Haidt's book at 7 p.m. Monday in the media center at Pascack Hills High School, 225 W. Grand Ave., Montvale. Participants are welcome whether or not they have read the book.

The discussion will focus on how anxiety affects young people at home and at school. It is part of a three-part book series presented by the coalition, The Balance Project and Wait Until 8th Pascack Valley.



• **Dec. 9 — "Screenagers: Generation AI."** The coalition will screen the film at 7 p.m. Wednesday at Pascack Hills High School. It explores how artificial intelligence can affect young people's learning, relationships and mental health. Afterward, pediatric speech-language pathologist Jodi Tesser will answer questions and lead a discussion about communication and emotional development.

The screening is free and open to parents, caregivers, educators and students in grades 6 and up. Registration is required.

Hills Valley Coalition, serving Hillsdale, River Vale, Montvale, and Woodcliff Lake, says it works to promote a stigma-free and substance-free environment. Visit HillsValleyCoalition.org

— Staff writer John Snyder

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Tools Toward Finding the Perfect Place to Retire

Dear Savvy Senior,

What resources can you recommend for researching good places to retire in the U.S.? My husband and I are interested in relocating to a warmer climate when we retire next year.

— Looking to Relocate

The Savvy Senior



By Jim Miller

Dear Looking,

It's exciting to think about relocating in retirement! Whether you're considering seasonal escapes or a permanent change, there are a wide variety of digital resources that can help you find and research new locations. Here are some tips and tools to help you get started.

Where to Retire?

Deciding where to relocate when you retire is a big decision. There are many factors to think about to ensure the move supports your lifestyle, financial goals, and overall well-being. To help you identify some good retirement locations you need to consider things like cost of living, climate, taxes, health care, housing, crime, access to social and recreational activities, access to transportation and proximity to family and friends.

If you're at the beginning of your search, a good starting point is BestPlaces.net. This site compiles demographic data from numerous reliable sources, updates it regularly and lets you easily compare cities using different criteria, such as housing cost, climate, crime, religious practice, voting patterns and education level. They even offer a 10-question "Where is the best place for me to live?" quiz, which may suggest some locations you may never have thought of.

There are also news and financial publications like U.S. News & World Report, Forbes, WalletHub, Bankrate and The Motley Fool that publish "best places to retire" ranking lists on their websites each year. These can give you an idea of popular retirement locations based on different sets of criteria.

Once you identify a few good spots, here are some additional resources that can help you dig a little deeper.

Cost of living: Affordability is often the No. 1 factor when deciding where to relocate. To research and compare the cost of living from your current location to where you would like to move, use the previously mentioned BestPlaces.net, the Economic Policy Institute Family Budget Calculator at EPI.org/resources/budget and/or Bankrate's cost of living calculator at Bankrate.com/real-estate/cost-of-living-calculator. And, because housing is a big expense, you can take a deeper dive into these costs at Zillow.com and Realtor.com.

Taxes: Some states are more tax friendly than others. To investigate how states treat retirees when it comes to income, sales, property and other taxes, see Kiplinger tax guide at Kiplinger.com – search "Taxes on Retirees: A State-by-State Guide."

Crime rate: To evaluate how safe a community or area is, the FBI Crime Data Explorer (cde.ucr.cjis.gov) allows you to explore crime statistics at the national, state, and local levels.

Climate: You can find U.S. climate/weather information at National Centers for Environmental Information at NCEI.noaa.gov. And to research climate change factors and the risks of extreme temperatures, wildfires, floods, hurricanes, severe storms, earthquakes and drought in different locations, use ClimateCheck.com and FEMA (Hazards.fema.gov/nri/map).

Health care: If you're enrolled or planning to enroll in original Medicare, check the coverage and availability of providers in your new location. Search by ZIP code for health care providers and facilities at Medicare.gov/care-compare, and check star ratings for quality of care. If you're enrolled in a Medicare Advantage plan and you move out of the coverage area, you'll need to find a new plan in your new area.

Transportation: If you plan to travel much, or expect frequent visits from your kids or grandkids, convenient access to an airport or train station is a big advantage.

Once you have narrowed down your choices, spend a couple weeks in each location at different times of the year so you can get a feel for the seasonal weather changes, and so you can carefully weigh the pros and cons of living there. You may find that you like the area more as a vacation spot than as a year-round residence.

It's also a good idea to rent for a year before buying a home or making a commitment to a retirement communitye.

Send your questions or comments to questions@savvysenior.org, or to Savvy Senior, P.O. Box 5443, Norman, OK 73070.

PV grad Lawlor scores: Athletics Hall of Fame

Christian Lawlor, a former Hillsdale resident and 2010 Pascack Valley High School graduate, has been inducted into Marywood University's Athletics Hall of Fame for his achievements in men's soccer.

Lawlor, who now lives in Westwood and teaches physical education in Harrington Park, was among seven honorees in the Scranton, Pennsylvania, university's 28th Hall of Fame class. The induction ceremony was Sept. 20 on campus.

A 2014 Marywood graduate, Lawlor helped the Pacers compile a 29-5-2 conference record over four seasons, earning four Eastern College Athletic Conference tournament appearances and reaching three Colonial States Athletic Conference championship games, according to the university.



LAWLOR

During his career, Lawlor set school records for goals, points, games played and starts, along with single-season records for goals, points and game-winning goals.

He earned first-team all-conference honors in each of his four seasons and was named the conference's Rookie of the Year in 2010. In 2013, he was selected to the National Soccer Coaches Association of America's all-region third team. He also earned a place on the conference's 25th Anniversary Team.

The other members of Marywood's newest Hall of Fame class were Emma Doughman and Paige Jablonski, women's cross country; Daniel Hull, men's soccer and baseball; Joe Listanski, men's tennis; Paige Madary, women's soccer; and former men's tennis coach Keith Hetsko.

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Help Wanted- Growing Landscaping Co. F/T Labor position Good hours, Experience preferred, but will train. Call 201-664-3130

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Want Business? Call (201) 664-2105

HELP WANTED

The Borough of Hillsdale is seeking a dependable, organized Part-Time Administrative Assistant for the Department of Public Works. Monday through Friday schedule. Duties include answering phones, assisting residents, data entry, processing purchase orders and invoices, maintaining records, and general clerical support. Qualifications: Prior administrative experience preferred. Familiarity with Edmunds Municipal Software strongly preferred. Must have excellent telephone and customer service skills, computer proficiency, organizational skills, and attention to detail. Municipal experience a plus. Salary commensurate with experience. Please submit resume/application to Barry Peterson, Superintendent of Public Works, at bpeterson@hillsdalenj.org or Borough of Hillsdale, 380 Hillsdale Avenue, Hillsdale, NJ 07642. Applications can be found on our website at www.hillsdalenj.org. The Borough of Hillsdale is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

TEAM PLAYERS WANTED

Professional Junk Removal Company seeks an enthusiastic and energetic individual to help join their growing team. Drivers license & transportation required. Call (201) 661-4940 for more details.

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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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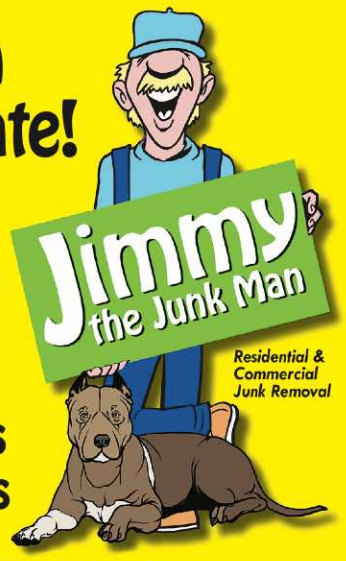
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