



Happy Holidays

Heritage Hills Newsletter

DECEMBER 2020



Heritage Hills Society Information

Address 8 Heritage Hills, Somers, New York 10589

Website www.hhsociety.org

Television..... Channel 12

CONTACT INFORMATION – EMAIL

Society society@hhsociety.org

Activities Office..... activities@hhsociety.org

CONTACT INFORMATION – TELEPHONE

Security 276-2592

Bus..... 276-2877

Society Office 276-2908

Library..... 276-7655

Activities Office..... 276-2636

Fitness Center 669-5028

Hours of Operation

Activities Center 9 to 11 am, noon to 4 pm, and 5 to 7 pm

Fitness Center & Gym Monday to Saturday 8 am to noon, and 1 to 4 pm
Monday, Wednesday, Friday additional 5 to 8 pm

Fine Arts Center Group instruction and free time are
scheduled by the Activities Office at 276-2908

Library Monday and Friday 1 to 4 pm

Bus Service - Operates on Weekdays Only (except holidays)

Goldens Bridge MetroNorth Station Trips

Morning to/from:

5:15, 5:45, 6:45, 7:35, and 8:35 – **Reservation Required**

Evening return only: 5:35, 6:35, and 8:35 – **No Reservation Required**

Midday Local Trips – Reservations Required

HH Pick-up: 8:45, 9:45, 10:45, 11:45, 12:45, 1:45, 2:45

Return Pick-up: 10, 11, 12, 1, 2, 3, 3:45

UTILITIES CONTACT INFORMATION

EMERGENCIES **9-1-1**

Comcast 866-478-7266

ConEd 800-752-6633

NYSEG 800-572-1131

Verizon 800-922-0204

Water/Sewer Your Condo Mgt. Co.

SERVICES FOR SENIORS

TOWN OF SOMERS SENIOR SERVICES

Barbara Taberer, Director - 232-0807

Hot Lunch

Delivered to shut-ins, Monday thru Friday

Meals leave Van Tassell House for delivery starting at 11:30 am

Call 232-0807

Suggested contribution: **\$2**

Adult Transportation - For Medical Appointments Only

Door-to-door, round trip, accessible/assisted

Tuesday thru Thursday, 10 am to 3 pm

Call for details – 232-0807

Suggested round-trip donation: **\$10**

OTHER SENIOR SERVICES

RideConnect - 242-7433

Transportation services seven days a week. Call to register.

EPIC - 800-332-3742. NYS Senior Prescription Reduction

My Second Home - 241-0770

Geriatric Day Care Intergenerational Program

Westchester County Senior Programs and Services

Geri Crisco 813-6300

Referral agency for senior services including legal - 949-1305

Social Services: 995-5889

SERVICES FOR ALL AGES, INCLUDING SENIORS

AA - 949-1200. Info and literature National Council on Alcoholism

Adult Protection Services Intake - Natalie Siler 995-2259.

Cancer Care - 800-ACS-2345

Northern Westchester Hospital - 242-8115

Putnam Hospital - 845-279-5711

The Dominican Sisters - Family Health Service 941-1654

Long- and short-term registered nurses.

Hospice - 666-4228 - Visiting Nurse Association State-certified program
providing home health care and emotional support for terminally ill patients
and their families

Project Time Out / Jewish Community Services - 761-0600 - Provides
in-home respite services matching families with trained sitters/companions.
Contact Judy Fink, Coordinator, ext. 340; Carol Kobroff, Respite Specialist, ext. 310

Transportation for Cancer Treatments (free):

American Cancer Society Road to Recovery program. 1-800-227-2345

Transportation for Disabled Residents - County Office of Transportation 813-7777

Para-Transit - 995-7272 provides modified vans with ramp for curb-to-curb service.
Fare \$5 each way. Medical pre-authorization required. For eligibility call 995-2960.

Private Ambulette Services

Superior Brewster 845-278-6992

CLC Trans 241-0112

Ambulance: Westchester EMS 866-666-9367. Accepts Medicare.

Westchester County Office for the Disabled, includes hearing-defect

Lighthouse Inc. - New York City 212-821-9200. For sight impaired.

Veterans Guide to VA Health Care Benefits -

VA Hudson Valley Health Care System - 800-269-8749

Monday through Friday 8 am - 4 pm

Visiting Nurse Association of Hudson Valley

666-7616 - 8:30 am - 5 pm - Home care aides nursing, Nutrition consultation

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PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED FOR ACCESS TO THE ACTIVITIES CENTER, FITNESS CENTER, AND GYM, WHERE MASKS COVERING BOTH THE NOSE AND MOUTH AND SAFE SOCIAL DISTANCING PRACTICES ARE REQUIRED AT ALL TIMES.



By Joyce Spector

BRAYER ANGELS—VIDEO AND DISCUSSION

Friday, December 4, at 1 pm in the Activities Center

Club Shalom welcomes Randy Freeman, a Heritage Hills resident and New York State Coordinator for *Braver Angels*, the nation's largest grassroots organization hoping to unite both political parties in a working alliance to depolarize America. This organization is planning an initiative called "With Malice Toward None," which hopes to seize the post-election moment through transparent discussions with others, regardless of who one's candidate of choice is/was. Our program consists of a short video about *Braver Angels* followed by an interactive discussion. Please join us for this free program.

You must register in advance for up to two seats by November 31. Due to social distancing attendance is limited. To reserve your seat(s) please call Alan Tepper at 342-3279 and give your name, phone number, and email address (if no one answers, please leave a message with that information). If you have any questions, call Nancy at 519-7622 or Joyce at 419-7230. You can also contact us at HHClubShalom@gmail.com.

ANNUAL CHANUKAH PARTY

Friday, December 18, at 1 pm in the Activities Center

Our annual Chanukah Party will look somewhat different this year, but the "show must go on." Although we cannot have our usual talent—i.e., Rabbi, children singing, latkes, and applesauce—we hope you will join us by celebrating this very different version of our annual

Chanukah program. Our entertainment for this event is lively DVD of a Chanukah concert that aired on PBS a few years ago.

This is a free event and due to the Covid mandates attendance is limited. You must register in advance for up to two seats by December 12. To reserve your seat(s), please call Alan Tepper at 342-3279 and give your name, phone number, unit number, and email address (if no one answers, please leave a message with that information). If you have any questions, call Nancy at 519-7622 or Joyce at 419-7230. You can also contact us at HHClubShalom@gmail.com.

* * *



MARINE CORPS RESERVE



Beginning December 1

Although we cannot host our usual Toys For Tots event, we are once again collecting unwrapped toys for distribution by the United States Marine Corps Reserve to children in our area. Place your donations in the bins in the lobby area inside the main entrance to the Activities Center.

ON THE COVER

Last winter, Cheryl Milde captured this lovely image of the snow laden trees on the side of her unit in Condo 26.

WE OOPSSED!

Regarding the article about our white tail deer neighbors that appeared on page 26 of the November issue, one of our resident's aides alerted us to the fact that, according to the New York State Codes and Regulations Part 186 as of March 20, 2020, "It is illegal to intentionally feed wild deer or moose in New York."

HERITAGE HILLS NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

Administrator: Susan Statkowski-Rivalski; Graphic Editor: Annette Bensen
Writers/Editors/Photographers: Terry Clifford, Eric Felderman,
Cindy Kennedy, Shirley Kesselman, Karl Milde, Stan Herz Pearlman,
Elizabeth Royston, Keri Reitman Schnapper

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COMING EVENTS

SOCIETY BOARD MONTHLY MEETING

Wednesday, December 16, at 1:30 pm in the Heritage Room

If restrictions don't change, and you would like to attend this meeting in person, please send an email to the Activities Office at Activities@hhsociety.org to make a reservation. Bear in mind that, because of space limitations due to Covid-19 restrictions, only 20 residents may be allowed to attend in person.

The meeting will be broadcast LIVE on Channel 12 and rebroadcast daily on that channel at 2 and 7 pm.

If you have questions but can't attend, please send them to Society@hhsociety.org, and they will be answered at the meeting. You must provide your name and unit number.

* * *

INDEPENDENT AND FOREIGN FILM CLUB

Submitted by Stephen Klepner

THE EAGLE HUNTRESS

Thursday, December 17, at 12:30 pm in the Heritage Room. FREE

This *Los Angeles Times* and *The New York Times* Critic's Pick film follows Aisholpan as she trains to become the first female in twelve generations of her Kazakh family to become an eagle hunter. Unfortunately, we will not have Bill Costanzo with us to lead a post-film discussion.

Attendees must register in advance—no walk-ins permitted. First come, first served, with a maximum of 40 attendees. **Register no earlier than December 3**, preferably by email to spk010@yahoo.com, with the subject line *IFFC*. No email? Call 845-297-7066.

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SOMERS VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT'S CANDY CANE RUN

Submitted by Jonathan Mackey, MPA
Chief of Department, Somers Fire District

Saturday, December 19



Our Somers Volunteer Department's Truck #183 will bring Santa to the following locations in and nearby Heritage Hills:

10:55 am Somers Intermediate/Middle School

11:35 am Heritage Hills Activities Center

11:45 am Heritage Route 202 Center

Noon Somers Town Centre
(in front of the Post Office)

12:15 pm Fireman's Field on Route 202

Social Distance measures will be followed at all times.



THE NEWSLETTER WELCOMES ARTICLES AND PHOTOS FROM HERITAGE HILLS RESIDENTS

OUR DEADLINE IS THE 6TH OF THE MONTH.

If we print your submission, your name will be indicated. We cannot guarantee that every submission will be used, and all submissions are subject to being edited for format, length, acceptability of language, and suitability of content.

Submissions should be in email attachment format (preferably *Word*) or by hand or mail to the Heritage Hills Activities Office or Society Office at 8 Heritage Hills, Somers, NY 10589.



OUR EMAIL ADDRESS IS: HHillsNewsletter@gmail.com.

When Submitting Photos:

If you take a picture using your phone instead of a camera, please use the highest resolution.

Unless it's a scenic vista, concentrate on faces. Most photographs are taken from too far away, and when the image is cropped, the faces will be blurred. Get closer.

Please do not incorporate art or a photo in a *Word* file. Attach it and *Word* files to emails as separate items.

We cannot use anything taken from the internet without authorization from the source.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES & EVENTS Produced by the Activities Office

Phone: 276-2636 or go to activities@hhsociety.org

Advance registration is required.

At all times while insider the Activities Center, masks covering both the nose and mouth must be worn, and safe social distancing must be practiced.

For general information or to book a space for your group/club, contact Andrew Kaplan in the Activities Office by email at activities@hhsociety.org or by phone at 276-2636.

ARTS & CRAFTS

Needlecraft Club: Charitable needlecraft group meets Wednesdays at noon in the Game Room. All skill levels welcome. To register, call Linda at 277-2776.

Painting with Judika: Create a different painting in each class once a month. Step-by-step instructions given, and everyone leaves with a masterpiece! Saturday, December 19; Thursday, January 21, and Thursday, February 18 at 5 pm in the Activities Center. \$40 per class includes all supplies. Bring your mask and your creative spirit! To register, call Judika at 438-6750.

Woodcraft Club: The shop is available Monday through Saturday from 9 am to 4 pm. For information and to register, contact Club President Ed at 276-0671 or 552-2303.

EXERCISE

Hikers & Walkers: Weekly hikes from September to June. Information and our schedule are available at hhsociety.org / Activities / All Activities / Hikers and Walkers.

FAMILY NETWORK GROUP

Arranges organized family-oriented gatherings, days and evenings, several times a year. Go to [Facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com) to join the group "Heritage Hills Family Network" or email keri.reitman@gmail.com.

FUN & GAMES

Bridge—Duplicate: Temporarily playing online at [Bridgibase](https://www.bridgibase.com) Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays at 12:30 pm and Fridays at 10 am. For information, call Joyce at 276-2497.

GARDEN CLUB

For information about the club, including arranging for the use of garden squares in our Community Garden, go to hhsociety.org / Activities / All Activities / Heritage Hills Garden Club.

HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE

Blood Pressure Screenings With a Smile: The second Friday of the month (December 11) at 9, 9:20, 9:40, 10, 10:20, and 10:40 am. Your temperature will be taken. To register, contact Nurse Ellie Eidam at elliebob1@gmail.com or 617-2109.

Dementia Caregivers Support Group: A support group that provides an opportunity to be with others who understand the daily struggles of caring for loved ones with these conditions. Meets the first Thursday of the month at 1 pm in the Game Room of the Activities Center. To register, call 617-9328 or email facilitator Linda Ludwig, Psy.D. at ludwiglr@aol.com.

Spousal/Partner Bereavement Group: A support group that provides an opportunity to be with others who have lost a spouse or partner. In-person meetings take place every other Thursday at noon in the Activities Center (8-person maximum). To register, call 617-9328 or email facilitator Lind Ludwig, Psy.D. at ludwiglr@aol.com. Zoom meetings take place every other Tuesday at a time to be determined. To register, email Monica at mhobosn@northwell.edu. For more information, call Rosemary at 617-9660.

LIBRARY

To reserve and arrange to pick up a book Monday and Friday from noon to 4 pm, call 276-7655. For information on the collection, visit the webpage at hhsociety.org / Heritage Hills Library, or call 276-7655.

MORNING DISCUSSION GROUP

Discussion group on current event topics. Mondays and Thursdays from 9:30 to 11 am. For information, email Ken Benjamin at kenbenja@aol.com or call 617-9817.

SPORTS

Bocce: April through October: Wednesdays at 1 pm and Saturdays at 9:30 am. More information will be available in the spring.

Tennis: All tennis reservations are made via the Committee webpage under Activities at hhsociety.org. For general information, at hhsociety.org go to Activities, All Activities, Recreation, Tennis Committee, or call Barry at 617-9259. For information about the Tennis Committee, call Jan at 276-2106.

WRITERS WORKSHOP

Workshops on Google Meet! Beginning on Monday, January 4, and Saturday, January 9, at 1 pm. Email Linda Spear, workshop facilitator, to arrange to join us! Lindaspear211@gmail.com

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Subaru of America, Inc. donates \$250 to a charity of the customer's choice for every new Subaru vehicle sold or leased from Nov. 19, 2020 – Jan. 4, 2021. In addition, participating retailers may choose to match or supplement the \$250 donation from Subaru. Charities that can be selected include ASPCA®, Make-A-Wish®, Meals on Wheels America, National Park Foundation and our hometown charity, Danbury Hospital in support of their pediatric unit.

The Subaru Share the Love event is in its 13th year and is continuing its tradition of giving back to the community. At Subaru, we give back not because it's good for business, but because it's the right thing to do.

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November 19th through
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SOCIETY NEWS

SOCIETY OFFICE HOURS

9 am to 1 pm. You may contact the office by phone at 276-2908 or by email at society@HHSociety.org.

EAST HILL GOLF COURSE ELECTION RESULTS

The majority of owners voted to pursue the purchase of the East Hill Golf Course. Of the 1,583 votes cast, 1,521 were valid. 1,294 voted "Yes" and 165 voted "No."

SUMMARY OF PORTIONS OF OCTOBER 21, 2020 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

The full transcript of this meeting can be found on the Society website.

DOM RUBINO, PRESIDENT

- Opened the meeting at 1:30 pm, greeting all in attendance and watching on Channel 12.
- Announced the resignation of Bob Lundry, Board member for over ten years, who had been especially helpful with Heritage Hills past history and thanked him for all his work over the years. He will be missed.
- Requested that emails to Society regarding the East Hill Golf Course and other questions be submitted.

DEICA RUIZ, SECRETARY

Meeting attendance list—Present: Gloria Anderson; Gene Archer; Annette Bensen; Bob Ettinger; Ed Goldfarb; Bill Harden, Ann Harper; Jack Mattes; Mark Packer; Patricia Ploss; Dom Rubino; Deica Ruiz; John Milligan, Property Manager; Dave Jacobsen, and Security Site Supervisor. Absent: Bruce Prince and Richard Tortorella

TREASURER'S REPORT—BILL HARDEN

- | | | |
|-------------------------|----------|-----------|
| • September financials: | Income | \$441,561 |
| | Expenses | -405,458 |
| | Surplus | \$ 35,311 |
- 2020 Surplus to date, to be used by year-end on major projects: \$209,579.
 - Reminder: Clubs who have paid to an individual \$600 or more during the year must get a W-9 from that individual and forward it to Mary Beth at Heritage Management so we can report this to the IRS.

ACTIVITIES REOPENING—GLORIA ANDERSON, CHAIR

- Most facilities are open on a limited basis, we have capacity restrictions and masks must be worn. Attendance is light, as majority of residents seem reluctant to be inside despite all the precautions we have been taking.
- Shuttle bus service will be expanded effective November 4th to include mid-day trips for local shopping and doctor visits. An email blast will be sent the beginning of November. [See separate item on page 9.]

- Due to COVID-19, facility use is restricted to residents only—guests, home health aides, or owners of rented units are not permitted to use the facilities at this time. Current ID cards must be presented, reservations must be made, and masks must be worn.

ACTIVITIES—ANN HARPER, CHAIR

- Some Clubs and Activities have resumed. Club Shalom and the Independent Film Club have shown films in the Heritage Room and everything went smoothly. Other clubs who rely on outside speakers, have decided to stay with Zoom for the time being. Several book clubs have met live. The only class we currently have live is "Gushing with Paint."
- Check the Newsletter for up to date information and make sure that you are signed up to receive the email blasts that announce everything that is taking place. If you are not receiving them, please check your spam folder; and if you are not signed up, contact Andrew in the Activities Office.

COMCAST COMMITTEE—GLORIA ANDERSON, CHAIR

- Our TV and Internet services in Heritage Hills are provided by Comcast Xfinity. They are a monopoly and operate in HH by virtue of entering into a franchise agreement with the Town of Somers. HH is in not a party to that contract, which is now up for renewal and the Town has invited members of the Comcast Committee of the Society Board to meet to provide our input regarding issues that are important to us and that should be included in the renewed franchise agreement. We have made additions to the contract and have sent them to the Town to review. Gene Archer and I hope to meet with Town Supervisor Morrissey and Councilman Anthony Ciriaco to discuss the renewal Contract. The franchise agreement usually runs for a 10-year period. It's due to be renewed shortly, we will be working on it, and you will be kept updated as we go along. Currently it's either Comcast or nothing, unless you request and get a variance from your Condo to place a Dish onto your roof or deck and receive "Direct TV."
- In the future, 5G may become available but we don't believe that's going to be for a number of years, and it would take significant capital investment to put up all the antennae that would be required for 5G and HH would have to pay for those antennae.

COMMUNITY AFFAIRS—JACK MATTES, CHAIR

- Census—Our percentage rate for self-response closed at 75.9%, and this rate will rise once individuals who responded to in-person census takers are added, increasing the dollars we get in federal funds for the state of New York and the Town of Somers.
- Somers Telecommunications Task Force—5G is something to look at down the road. We are dedicated to improving Telecommunication efforts here, specifically in Northern Westchester. There is a coalition of local towns, Somers included, acting in concert in helping to receive better security and improved communication during an emergency.

FITNESS CENTER—ANNETTE BENSEN, CHAIR

- The Fitness Center is mostly used between 8 and 11 am. The rest of the day is light—the afternoons are very light, about 5 reservations per day. So far, we have had 0 to 5 people in the evenings on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays.
- The Gym has been open since the second week of October, and we have had two pickleball groups.

WEBSITE STUDY UPDATE—ANNETTE BENSEN, CHAIR

- We are looking into an upgrade for our website. If you have any questions or recommendations, please contact me.
- If you have never logged on to the website, you won't receive email blasts. Please call Andrew if you are having problems logging in, or send an email to Activities with my name in the subject line and it will be forwarded to me

LANDSCAPING—PATRICIA PLOSS, CHAIR

- We are Planning to meet again in February for spring flowers.
- We are looking at two special projects for next year—rejuvenation of our main entrance, and an area off Pool 1 next to the paddle tennis courts.
- I would like to thank Westchester Properties for reseeding the grass area outside the Activities center at no charge.

SECURITY—DAVE JACOBSEN, HEAD OF SECURITY

- Walkers should wear something white or reflective and walk against traffic so you can see cars coming toward you. Drivers, please be aware of our walkers on the road and the leaves on the ground.
- There is still a group entering unlocked cars and taking items, therefore please lock your cars at night. No locked cars have been broken into. Please take in all personal items, laptops, and bags.
- It is important that everyone obey the Stop signs.

HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE—FLO BRODLEY

- We are producing email blasts to provide important information rather than having small meetings.
- Blood pressure screenings are taking place each month thanks to Nurse Ellie Eidam. There were 16 screenings in September and 12 in October.
- Currently, Medicare has begun its Open Enrollment Period which runs from October 15 until December 7. Email blasts are providing information on Medicare Parts B and D, Medigap/Supplemental Plans, Emergency Care, and on Advanced Directives and Hospice Care to help you navigate through the enrollment period regarding your current and future health plan needs.

JOHN MILLIGAN—PROPERTY MANAGER

- Shuttle Buses [also see separate item after this summary]
 - Starting Wednesday, November 4, midday bus service will resume for shopping trips (Acme and DeCicco's), two pharmacies (CVS and Somers) and doctors' offices (Caremount Offices, Bailey Court, and Mill Pond). Email blasts will be sent out with schedules.

- A new shuttle bus has been placed in service. We have a three-bus fleet. Normally, we purchase a new bus every year, but next year one will not be necessary due to the mileage we saved during the pandemic which will save us \$60,000.

• Capital Projects

- Condos 12 and 19 paving projects are complete, and miscellaneous paving repairs will be completed soon.
- At Pool #2, replacement equipment has arrived and should be completed by mid to late November, after which there will be an inspection.

- Road work: Yearly we repair 25 to 30 catch basins. We also replaced over 150 feet of guard rail on the East Hill. There is over a mile and a half of guard rails on the property and we address them on an as-needed basis.

- Building related repairs: Air conditioning units have been replaced in the lower level of the Activities Center and a couple at Lake Lodge. In the past 3-4 years we have replaced all A/C units in both buildings, and now most are new or almost new.

- Tennis Courts: Five nets have been replaced. We have agreed with requests to allow courts #6 and #7 nets to remain up throughout the winter due to the hard surfaces which can withstand the elements. No shoveling or desalting is permitted on these surfaces, so courts can be used when they are clean of snow. Locks are required due to dog walking, roller blading, and bicycle use on our courts. When you make tennis reservations you will see the code to the locks.

- Street lights: Our new LED lights are reliable, however the sensors at the top of the pole do need replacing. Our Security staff provides a street light report twice a week and our electrician is quick in responding with replacements. We have over 400 street lights and have yet to have a failure of the LED fixtures; only sensors and the components within the fixtures have needed replacements. Two solar lights are left on the property, located on the West Hill. We have a master map of the locations of the poles with 3-digit numbers on the pole which makes it easy for residents to report if there is a light out.

- Salt Storage Barn: A new canopy will be installed to protect the salt from moisture.

- Lake Lodge: Shingle roof areas will be replaced due to minor leaks.

* * *

SHUTTLE BUS

Midday service has been restored for shopping and doctor's office trips. Heritage hills residents only. Must show ID upon request. Resumption of transportation of health care workers and housekeepers will be considered as regional health circumstances permit.

Every other seat is available, in a staggered configuration, lowering the passenger capacity to a maximum of seven, and face masks must be worn at all times while entering or seated on the bus.

Drivers will wipe down all surfaces touched by passengers with sanitizing wipes after every run. The bus will be completely sanitized

using electrostatic cleaning equipment every morning before a bus goes on its initial run or at the end of each day

Stops; Activities Center, DeCicco & Sons, CVS Pharmacy, Burke Rehabilitation, Somers Pharmacy, Bailey Court Offices, Caremount offices, Mill Pond offices, Acme.

Reservations are required. Call 276-2877 at least one hour prior to pick-up.

Schedule

Pickup in HH*	Arrive at Activities Center & Pickup for Returns**
8:45 am	10 am
9:45 am	11 am
10:45 am	noon
11:45 am	1 pm
12:45 pm	2 pm
1:45 pm	3 pm
2:45 pm	3:45 pm

* To shopping, medical, and Activities Center areas **from** units and Activities Center.

** To units from shopping, medical, and Activities Center areas.

* * *

OCTOBER SECURITY CALL REPORT

During the month of October our Security staff received and responded to a total of 250 calls regarding the following matters:

Medical	81
Security	115 (fire/carbon monoxide alarms, open garage doors, other security concerns)
Service	42 (including 30 lift assists, 4 persons locked out, and 8 welfare checks)
Maintenance	3 (2 water main breaks, 1 sewer issue)
Car Accidents	1
Parking Violations	8 (in handicapped spaces, fire lanes, A roads, or B roads)

* * *

HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE UPDATE

Submitted by Flo Brodley

The Heritage Hills Health & Safety Committee has been offering programs and services for several decades with one intent, that of keeping our residents up to date on the latest information to assist their needs within the community.

Nurses like Ellie Eidam have administered and will continue to hold the blood pressure screenings program throughout the winter months and checks home machines when asked. We thank our Committee members for keeping this program running in safe order.

Although we haven't been able to produce our usual in-person schedule of programs, we've been addressing the needs of the community in other ways, as follows:

- We held the first outdoor Flu Clinic at which 104 residents were vaccinated, and we are grateful Northern Westchester Hospital, their nurses, and staff for provided the expertise and the tents which allowed for a festive and safe atmosphere. Also, we publicly thank are our Heritage Hills Maintenance and Security staffs for their assistance in this unusual endeavor, as well as our fine group of resident volunteers for their help and caring hearts.
- Since the Medicare Open Enrollment Period began on October 15, the Committee has sent updates on a variety of subjects to inform and assist residents in choosing the most beneficial health plans for 2021. We hope that the information will give Medicare beneficiaries, as well as those first entering Medicare, the best way of reviewing each brochure online, at their leisure, before making critical decisions.
- Our groups for Bereavement and Alzheimer's/Dementia Caretakers, online and in-person, make it possible to continue supporting residents while staying sequestered.
- In addition, we've been transmitting information from hospitals, lawyers, and other authorities to offer residents the most up-to-date videos and webinars on a variety of topics to help them through this difficult period...this we will continue to do.

The Committee thanks the Society Board for their continued praise and support of this Committee. Thanks also goes to the Newsletter Committee and Activities Center staff for their ongoing hard work on our behalf. As always, we encourage those with health and safety backgrounds to contact me at flo613@comcast.net if they wish to join our Committee.

We will continue to serve through the winter and look forward to being together with our friends and neighbors soon. The members of our committee—Alicia Brescia, Flo Brodley, Ellie Eidam, Peggy DeGasperis, Barbara George, Rosemary Glassman, Leslie Guttman, Dave Jacobsen, Mona Moriber, Eileen Plastino, and Susan Savitt—wish everyone a Happy, Healthy, and Safe holiday season and look forward to a better New Year!

* * *

ZOOM MEETING OPTION ADDED FOR SPOUSE/PARTNER BEREAVEMENT GROUP

Submitted by Rosemary Glassman

A Zoom meeting option has been added to the Health & Safety Committee's in-person sessions that take place at the Activities Center alternate Thursdays. The Zoom sessions will occur every other Tuesday at a time to be determined. Especially during these challenging times of Covid, isolation can affect one physically and emotionally. Together we will navigate grief symptoms, the change in lifestyle, and coping mechanisms while hopefully providing a comfortable, healing environment. To register, please email Monica at mhobson@northwell.edu. If you have any questions, call Rosemary at 617-9660.

HLibrary

Submitted by Larry Daitch

MONTHLY EMAILS

We are sending monthly emails to all HHLibrary readers who have provided us with their contact information. The email includes advance information on the following months' New Books list so that readers can reserve books ahead of time. In the same email you will also find direct links to (1) the Most Borrowed Books list from 2017 to 2020, (2) all New Books from the present year, and (3) the Book Search section of our web pages. This should give readers a broad range of books to choose from when they reserve books. We have already sent out the October and November emails with positive results.

In order to receive this once-a-month email, you must provide us with your name, phone number, unit number, and email address. Please call the HHLibrary at 276-7655 any time with your information. If no one is in the library, simply leave the information on our voice mail, or email the information to the library at heritagehillslibrary@gmail.com.

INFORMATION ON CHANNEL 12

The HHLibrary is now showing book information on channel 12, including the New Books for the coming month and web page instructions.

DECEMBER NEW BOOK LIST

The following books are located on the shelves of our NEW BOOKS section.

Newly Published Books

Biography

Obama, Barach *A Promised Land*

Fiction

Hilderbrand, Elin *Troubles in Paradise*

Picoult, Jody *The Book of Two Ways*

Rumaan, Alam *Leave the World Behind*

Sparks, Nicholas *The Return*

Mystery

Banville, John *Snow*

French, Tana *The Searcher*

Grisham, John *A Time for Mercy*

Horowitz, Anthony *Moonflower Murders*

Morrow, Bradford *The Forger's Daughter*

Patterson, James *Three Women Disappear*

Non-Fiction

Cooper, Becky *We Keep the Dead Close*

Wiedeman, Reeves *Billion Dollar Loser*

Newly Acquired Books

Fiction

Hunter, Georgia *We Were the Lucky Ones*

Mystery

Baldacci, David *King and Maxwell*



Brown, Sandra *Unspeakable*
 Chamberlain, Diane *Big Lies in a Small Town*
 Cussler, Clive *The Oracle*
 Hoag, Tami *Kill the Messenger*
 Johnston, Tim *The Current*
 Woods, Stuart *Contraband*

* * *

HERITAGE HILLS WOMEN'S CLUB

Submitted by Phyllis Bradbury

We're Still Here!

The Heritage Hills Women's Club is continuing to adhere to the Covid-19 restrictions, and, unfortunately, has been unable to organize a compliant meeting. Our intention is to resume meetings as soon as possible. We welcome any suggestions for the coming year. Recommendations/comments can be sent by email to me (Phyllis Bradbury) at bradburypa@yahoo.com or call me at 617-9672.

We wish everyone safe, healthy, and Happy Holidays.

* * *

THE SINGLES CLUB

Submitted by Diane Purr

The Singles Club Board wishes everyone a safe, healthy, and happy holiday season.

Wear your masks, wash your hands, and think good thoughts for next year.

* * *

A HOLIDAY MESSAGE FROM THE TRAVEL CLUB

By Elaine Soliman

Happy Holidays and All the Best in the New Year!

All of us on the Travel Club board are looking forward to planning some new adventures and interesting trips. We are anxious to see all our travel companions and friends we have made over the years and to renew old friendships.

We will resume travels as soon as it is safe!! Let's hope 2021 is a better year!

* * *



HERITAGE HILLS COMMUNITY THEATER

Submitted by Diana Richter

The Heritage Hills Community Theater wishes all its members and supporters a joyous Hanukkah and a glorious Christmas, with mask wearing and social distancing no hindrance to the love and warmth we share at this bright shining time of year.

EAST HILL MEN'S GOLF ASSOCIATION

Text and photo by Harvey Friedman

OCTOBER TOURNAMENT RESULTS

October 9: Alternate Shot—1st, 2nd, and 3rd Low Net by Flight

- A Flight: 1st: Ed Yee & Bob Briganti
2nd: Ray Omerod & Jack O'Hanlon
3rd: Rich O'Brien & Yogi Santa-Donato
- B Flight: 1st: Harvey Friedman & Jerry Bessen
2nd: John Mahoney & Charlie Kravetz
3rd: Bob McVeigh & Phil Trocchio

October 23: Stroke Play Two-Man Team Total Net Score—1st, 2nd, 3rd Low Net

- 1st: Yogi Santa-Donato & Jack O'Hanlon
2nd: Jerry Bessen & Sandy Lieberman
3rd: Bob Kenney & Al Zaffiro

November 6: Two-Man Team Best Ball—1st, 2nd, 3rd Low Net

- 1st: Ray Ormerod & Sandy Lieberman
2nd: Bob Briganti & Vin Marrone
3rd: Yogi Santa-Donato & Jerry Bessen

ANNUAL AWARDS LUNCHEON

An awards luncheon was held at Traditions Restaurant on October 16, attended by 19 members plus three guests from Somers National Golf Club—Majority Owner Quintin Lew, Golf Pro Rich Corsetti, and General Manager Chris Martin. Mr. Lew presented the 2021 plans for the Golf Club and answered questions from the membership.

The following EHMGA members were honored for their accomplishments in the Match Play and Club Championship tournaments:

Match Play

A Flight Champion Mike Walker and Runner-up Yogi Santa-Donato
B Flight Champion Jerry Bessen and Runner-up: Al Longhitano

Club Championship

Club Champion Bob Briganti, B Flight Champion Al Longhitano, A Flight Low Net: Barry Kestenberg, and B Flight Low Net: John Mahoney

Special Trophy

Awarded to Mike Walker, seen here, for his par round.



PICKLEBALL—INDOORS PLAY IS BACK

By Denise Elliott and Mary Anne Finella

WHERE: Indoor Pickleball Court in the Gym.

WHEN: Monday to Saturday: from 8 am to noon, and from 1 to 4 pm—seven 50-minute sessions.

Monday, Wednesday, and Friday: from 5 to 8 pm—three 50-minute sessions.

RULES: Up to four resident players per session—no non-residents or spectators. Name and unit number for all players must be provided at the time of pre-registration. Heritage Hills ID cards required for all players. Masks must be worn.

REGISTER: For Tuesday thru Saturday play, register a day in advance. For Monday play, register on Friday. Contact the Activities Office by email at activities@hhsociety.org or call 276-2636.

WALK-INS: Allowed for any unreserved time slot on a first-come, first-served basis.

INQUIRIES: Contact Denise Elliott by email at Denisele2010@yahoo.com or by phone at 582-1515; or contact Mary Anne Finella by email at Mafella2801@gmail.com

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Funeral Director

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Source: HGMLS, 1/1/19-12/31/19, total dollar volume of Single Family homes and Condominiums sold by agent, Somers school district; HGMLS 1/1/9-12/31/19, total volume Condominiums sold by agent, Somers.



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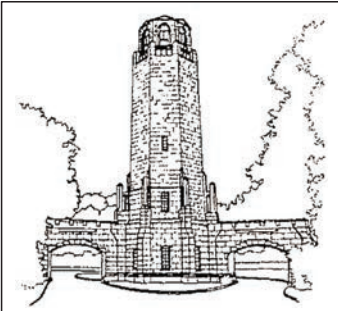
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SOMERS VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

FILL THE PANTRY

Submitted by Robert Weinstein

Wednesday, December 2, from 5 to 7 pm



The Somers Volunteer Fire Department is assisting St. Luke's Church in its effort to fill the Somers Food Pantry. Please bring your donations to the Somers Fire House on Route 202 across from the main entrance to Heritage Hills on the date and at the time indicated above.

* * *

SOMERS LIBRARY VIRTUAL PROGRAMS

Programs are funded by the Friends of the Somers Library through your donations.

Registration in advance at www.somerslibrary.org or call the library at 232-5717. You will receive an invitation prior to the start of the program.

ALAN SKLAR READS DYLAN THOMAS' *A CHILD'S CHRISTMAS IN WALES*

Monday, December 7, from 7 to 8 pm

Join us as Alan Sklar, professional narrator, corporate spokesman, and actor with years of experience reads this funny and touching short story—an anecdotal remembrance of a Christmas from the viewpoint of a young boy, portraying a nostalgic and simpler time.

JAZZ, AN AMERICAN ART

Thursday, December 10, from 6:30 to 8:30 pm

During this lecture, Barry Wiesenfeld, an internationally recognized musician and teacher who has performed on Grammy-nominated recordings and with award-winning artists and more, covers the history, styles, and some major contributors to jazz music, which was born in America. The talk will include the components which are common to all eras as well as those which are unique to a particular style, and compare the elements found in both jazz and classical music and gain a deeper understanding of what makes jazz tick. We'll listen to many examples—toe-tapping will be unavoidable.

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HALLOWEEN IN HERITAGE

By Keri Reitman

Our young residents had great fun celebrating Halloween here this year.

Thank you to the residents and units who registered with the Tricounty Network to have Trick-or-Treat visit their units!

See you next year!



**HALLOWEEN 2020
ORANGE HILLS**

by Susan Schnapper

**and their families
celebrating Halloween**

**Residents of the 80+
and their families
Trick-or-Treaters**



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WEB# HL2785902 | \$347,000



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So much potential. This end unit features two-bedrooms and bonus.

WEB# HL2784262 | \$375,000



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WEB# HL2783312 | \$400,000



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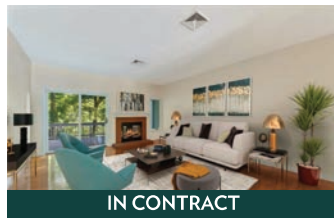


IN CONTRACT

YORK

Three-bedroom end unit located on a quiet cul-de-sac in desirable Heritage.

WEB# HL2776362 | \$460,000



IN CONTRACT

ARMONK

Lovely two-bedroom, two-bath, one level end unit featuring gas heat.

WEB# HL2761082 | \$469,000



IN CONTRACT

YORK

This three-bedroom, two-and-a-half bath Condo lives like a Single Family.

WEB# HL2788182 | \$472,500



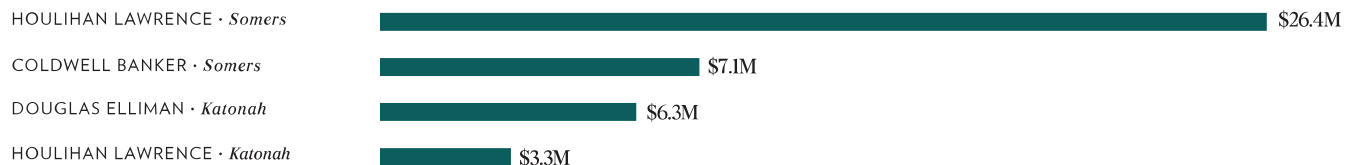
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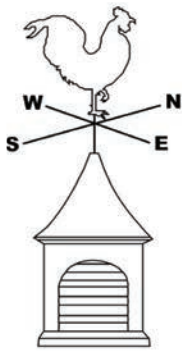
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2020 Heritage Hills Sales | TOTAL DOLLAR VOLUME SOLD



Source: HGMLS, 1/1/2020 – 10/27/2020, Condominiums, total volume sold by office, city/town Somers



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ON THE ROAD AGAIN

Text and photos by Terry Clifford



The summer was fading, so we decided New York State is safer than any place in our country. Why not drive to the Finger Lakes, a place on my bucket list for many years? The vision of seeing the Finger Lakes from the air more than ten years ago put the region on my list of places to visit. While I have literally traveled the world, visited every continent except Antarctica, and many states within our wonderful country, it took a pandemic to get me to this place so close to home.

Jack and I are admirers of beautiful glass works so we combined a trip to Corning, New York, and the Finger Lakes region. The internet is a good mechanism for exploring where to go, how to get there, and what to see.



We chose a four-night stay at a small four-bedroom B&B with a highly rated restaurant in Hammondsport, New York at the southern tip of Keuka Lake. While the room was adequate the restaurant was gourmet.

A half hour away in Corning, New York is the Corning Museum of Glass. The museum is dedicated to the art, history, and science of glass. It was founded in 1951 by Corning Glass Works and currently has a collection of more than 50,000 magnificent glass objects, some over 3,500 years old. We spent more than four hours exploring the museum and attending two incredible glass blowing demonstrations. The Innovation Hot Shop demonstrated traditional glass blowing and how colors are intertwined to make an object. The Flameworking Demo allowed us to view how the glassmaker made intricate glass figurines.



Corning also houses The Rockwell Museum, a Smithsonian affiliate, featuring American artists. This museum sponsors the "Alley Art Project" a partnership between The Rockwell Museum and the High School Learning Center of Corning. Students research and study art, learn about symbolism and design, and combine artmaking with creative writing and the connection between history, science, nature, and art.

Hammondsport, Corning, and Keuka are country towns with craft shops and interesting building facades good for walking and stretching your legs. The Finger Lakes Region is well known for its wineries. Twenty miles north of Hammondsport on Keuka Lake, we enjoyed a delightful wine tasting and chose some red and white wines to bring home. Driving through the countryside we missed our turn back to Hammondsport and drove on a dirt road through Mennonite farm country where cows were remarkably close to the car door. Back in Hammondsport we visited the Glenn Curtiss Museum of transportation, a 60,000 square foot facility housing a fascinating collection of vintage aircraft, motorcycles, motor bikes, automobiles, and aircraft engines.



Each day we spent in the region felt like a gift. October was the right time to visit, as the leaves were changing, the landscape became more beautiful each day. Driving home we were happy and pleased with our getaway. We felt safe since everyone was respectful of social distancing, wearing masks,

and adhering to the number of persons allowed in each place we visited, but there is no place like home.

* * *

HERITAGE HILLS LOCAL SHUTTLE BUS SERVICE RETURNS

By MaryAnne McMullen

That announcement was music to my ears. I couldn't wait to thank the Reopening Committee (Gloria Anderson) and inform my fellow riders of the news.

So, on Tuesday, November 10, I made my call to HH Dispatch to request a ride and say "Hi" to Donna, whom I hadn't spoken with since March.

Rides for the local service start at 8:45 am and continue on an hourly basis up to 2:45 pm, with return pick-ups being on the hour, except the last one which is at 3:45 pm. I selected 12:45 pm as my pick-up time (pick-up locations are the same spots as before Covid 19—A and B roads). I was going to the Fitness Center for a 1 pm appointment for one hour, so my return pick-up time was at 2 pm. The rules for boarding the Shuttle Bus are: Wear a mask; show, if requested, your HH ID; and select one of the available seats (there are only seven seats available). Reservations must be made one hour in advance (call 276-2877). Scheduled stops are the same as before, with the exception of Heritage Route 202 Center and Lake Lodge (which has not opened as of this date): Activities Center, DeCicco & Sons, CVS, Burke Rehab, Somers Pharmacy, Bailey Court, CareMount, Mill Pond, and Acme.

As I mentioned above, my trip was to visit the Fitness Center which is open from 8 am to noon and 1 pm to 4 pm Monday thru Saturday, and also 5 to 8 pm Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. Access is now granted on a walk-in basis (no reservation required) and space is limited to maintain social distancing. Before entering, you will speak with the

due diligence officer and answer a series of questions via a form. You must show your ID and use it to enter the Fitness Center, and you must wear a mask at all times while in the building. You can only use the Fitness Center for one hour, and you must wipe down equipment before and after use.

Both the Shuttle Bus and Fitness Center systems run smoothly, and I enjoyed my one-hour work-out and am very grateful I am once again able to get to and use the Fitness Center and go shopping, thanks to our Shuttle Bus service.

* * *

WHEN WE WERE YOUNG

By Stan Herz Pearlman

Coming of age in the 1950s and 1960s, when the times were a-changin', I was not much of a Bob Dylan fan. I knew that he was "hot," but I did not like his wailing renditions. Nor did I understand his words, and even when he was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature in 2016, I could only assume that his prose made more sense when translated into Swedish.

But once I started watching on Netflix *No Direction Home: Bob Dylan*, I was returned to a world of fifty years ago. This two-part, 3 ½ hour 2005 documentary was directed by Martin Scorsese. Throughout the movie there is a close-up of a then 65-year-old Dylan reminiscing directly into the camera, with very intimate reflections of a movement, a mood, and its expressions.

But it was the film scenes between Dylan's musings that brought me back to a young age. There were the glimpses of 1940s Minnesota that hinted at the unease that would turn a Robert Zimmerman into a Bob Dylan.

Greenwich Village was exactly as I remembered the folk clubs that drew me there as a young college student. The Clancy Brothers with Tommy Makem, returned me to the night I saw them with a date at Brooklyn College.

Dylan had close relationships with Pete Seeger, Johnny Cash, and Joan Baez, among others. Mary Travers was mentioned as being someplace in Florida trying out with a couple of guys. Their reflections and stories filled out a picture of a very complex person. Baez introduced Dylan to the folk scene, but she felt abandoned when he found his own fame. Seeger threatened to pull the plug when Dylan switched from acoustic guitar to electric at the Newport Folk Festival. And a very young Peter Yarrow had to coax Dylan back onto the stage.

Perhaps the most telling scene, and most trying, comes when Dylan is in front of fans asking him questions. He is clearly uncomfortable, confrontational in his responses, and perhaps ready to explode. To see this film is to understand that the questions were so shallow, and his performances and intellect so deep.

Dylan looked so very young throughout the period covered in the documentary, a mere child reaching maturity whose voice and lyrics seemed too old for him.

Dylan will shortly turn eighty. And although he is still active in the 21st century, for me he is frozen in time back in my college years.

* * *

VOTING 2020—MY STORY

By Karl Milde

Everyone has a story about voting this year. Here's mine.

Voting in Somers started at noon on Saturday, October 24 at the Somers Town Hall – the one with "Old Bet" at the top of the pole out in front. My wife, Cheryl, and I went there at 11:30 am, thinking we would beat the rush. Get in, get it done, and get out.

As we drove up we saw the line. It wound all around the parking lot and up the street (Route 202) as far as Il Forno's. We figured those were just the early birds. We'd come back later when the crowd thinned out. We returned at three o'clock, but the line was still there, and it was longer. Okay. We'll come back on Sunday we told ourselves. Everyone wants to vote on the first day, right?

Voting was also scheduled to start at noon that day, so again we went at 11:30 am. From the corner of Routes 202 and 100, waiting for the light to change, we saw people crossing Route 202 carrying chairs, and we saw a long line had already formed. The nearby parking lots were full.

On Monday morning, voting was scheduled to start at 8 am. We were getting serious now. WE WERE DETERMINED TO DO THIS THING! We left before 8 am with high hopes of getting in and out quickly. But when we arrived, there was that pesky line again, extending around the parking lot and down the road.

Having come this far, we thought we should at least check out the staging area. We pulled into the Town Hall parking lot to see the signs with instructions for voting. We'd come back later knowing what to expect. We drove through the parking lot and, as luck would have it, saw someone pulling out of the spot closest to the building door. We pulled in wondering what to do next.

I said to Cheryl, "What the heck. Let's get out and look around." We put on our rubber gloves, donned our masks, and stepped out of the car. I grabbed our absentee ballots from the back seat and, seeing someone coming out of the building, I asked innocently, "Can we drop these off?" "Oh, sure. Go inside, ahead of the line. There's a box." Cheryl followed me in and watched as I dropped the two ballots into a slot on the top of a big blue box.

As we came out, we saw a woman in line with her own ballot in hand. She must have been waiting at least an hour. "I can just drop this off?" she asked incredulously. "Yes," I said. "There's a sign right there, next to the door. You can go right in."

The whole voting process, from the time we arrived to the time we drove away, took five minutes.

* * *

BUYING AND SELLING ONLINE, A PROFITABLE HOBBY

Text by Shirley Kesselman, photos by Willa Reichbach

Twenty-five years ago, resident Willa Reichbach spotted a set of dishes she admired while visiting the home of a friend. In fact, she owned four settings of exactly the same pattern. Willa decided she'd like enough place settings to serve twelve and asked her friend if she could buy her set. The friend declined but suggested Willa try to obtain additional settings on eBay. Although Willa had never used eBay, she went there on her computer and began bidding to obtain the dishes she wanted. Dinner plate by dinner plate, soup bowl by soup bowl, she completed her desired twelve place settings in a year. Willa was hooked on eBay.

Initially Willa was a buyer on eBay. Once she retired, she began selling. It was a way to clear out unwanted possessions. To this day she continues to sell, online, clothing and articles she is no longer using. In addition, Willa keeps an eye out for items she believes will sell when she occasionally visits thrift stores as well as antique and collectibles stores. She says, "I'm doing this for fun, not for living expenses."



While eBay is the world's largest and most frequently used online auction site, there are others. Through the years Willa has learned on which marketplaces she might best sell jewelry, handbags, clothing, and sterling silver. "Buyers want to purchase goods with recognizable names," she says. "Designer jewelry by David Yurman and clothing by Eileen Fisher sell," Willa explains. She enjoys researching the history of a designer whose product she has seen and likes.

Although much of Willa's sales earn her pin money, she is proud of several that brought a big profit. In a thrift store, for instance, she found a pocketbook that sold for \$20. She thought she recognized it as a Ferragamo design. When she touched the soft woven leather, she felt sure she was right. After purchasing it she sold it online for \$450.

eBay and similar marketplaces provide online detailed instruction regarding use of their site. Willa adds: (1) Compare what you want to buy or sell with prices others post for the same item. Find out the amount of the most recent sale. Set a competitive price when selling. If buying you will have an idea of what to bid. (2) When selling, be patient. Often it takes a while to make a sale. (3) When buying, check the return policy. If the seller doesn't take returns don't deal with them. She elaborates, "A pocketbook I purchased looked as pictured but had a foul odor. I returned it."

Willa takes pleasure in buying from and selling to people all over the world. If in pursuing her hobby Willa comes across an item she can



use, she bids on and buys it. She becomes excited when she makes a sale. "It's a great hobby for times of imposed, limited social activity, like now, and for sedentary types, like me," she exclaims.

* * *

WESTCHESTER COUNTY SENIOR HALL OF FAME 2020 INDUCTEE, JACK MATTES

Text and photo by Terry Clifford

Jack Mattes will be one of the 50 recipients inducted into the Westchester County Senior Hall of Fame on Thursday, December 4, 2020 at 11:30 am. You may view this event for free on that date from the Seniorcitizens.westchestergov.com website, Facebook, and You Tube.



Per the Hall of Fame website, "The Senior Hall of Fame – now in its 38th year – is a tribute to older adults who have generously given their time and energy to improve the quality of life in their communities or the County at large," which Jack has done for many years.

Jack has been a pillar of the Heritage Hills Community almost from moving in 17 years ago. He became a member of the Condo 6 Board of Managers within the first year. He began as a Board Member, Landscape & Maintenance Chair, became Vice President, and then President. These positions allowed him to strengthen financial and maintenance procedures for the Condo.

He was elected to the Heritage Hills Society Board in 2013 and served as Treasurer and First Vice President strengthening the Boards financial position by reducing arrears and improved cash flow. He is currently Chairperson of the Society Boards Community Affairs Committee, which allowed him to interact with Westchester County and the Town of Somers to encourage residents in the Somers Community to fill out their census forms by internet, phone, paper form, or with an enumerator who would come to your home to fill out the form. To this end Somers improved the results compared to the last census was held ten years ago. The census numbers determine the amount of money the federal government allows for our State, County, and Town to support schools, health care, police protection, etc.

The Heritage Hills Art Show has been organized and put together by Jack and his team for the past ten years. He also chaired the Heritage Hills Bowling league for many years until he turned it over to Joe Thornley. In October, Jack organized a food donation event in Heritage Hills for the Somers Food Pantry at St Luke's which brought in a great deal of food and monetary donations.

Jack is currently a member of the Somers Tele-Communications Task Force, the Somers Community Council, and the Somers Emergency Preparedness Committee.

We congratulate Jack on receiving this recognition from Westchester County.



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NEARBY NATURE WALKS

Text and photos by Shirley Kesselman

WINTER NATURE WALK SAFETY

“Winter walking or hiking should be safe and fun as long as some precautions are taken,” says Jane Smalley, President of our Heritage Hills Hikers and Walkers Club. Following are her recommendations:

- Wear layers that can be removed as needed. Your bottom layer should be made from a wicking fabric such as wool and some synthetics that will absorb sweat and keep your skin dry. Cotton clothing should not be worn during winter as there is loss of insulation when wet.
- Wear a hat. Keep your head covered so that you don’t lose critical body heat.
- Remember to apply sunscreen. The sun’s glare can reflect powerfully off snow.
- Carry a water bottle, high energy snacks, sunglasses, and hand warmers which are available at sporting goods stores and on the internet.
- Consider wearing traction aides such as Microspikes when walking in snowy and/or icy weather.
- Hiking poles are used by most members of the Hikers and Walkers Club. These distribute weight and protect one’s joints.

The Hikers and Walkers Club is currently taking trips Saturday and Sunday mornings. Call Andrew at the Activities Center for an up-to-date schedule or Jane at 276-0413. She is happy to answer questions you have about the club.

GREENWICH AUDUBON CENTER



When my friend and frequent walking companion, Judy Weber, suggested we walk at the Greenwich Audubon Center I was surprised. Why look for birds in December? However, birding is not our reason for walking. We want the exercise while enjoying the sights, sounds, and smells of the out-of-doors. Sighting birds is just one element, a bonus, of that.

The seven miles of trails at the Audubon Center are hard packed soil and relatively easy to navigate. They pass through forests and fields. There is swamp, a river, and a pond. I am particularly impressed by the 80- to 100-foot height of many of the trees at the Center. Red Oak trees, for example, can grow to over 80 feet. Exceedingly strong and durable, I’ve learned they can live for 500 years.



Not all birds migrate. At the Greenwich Audubon Center in winter one might sight house finches, house sparrows, tufted titmice, American goldfinches, and downy woodpeckers, among other birds.

Unfortunately, the wonderful shop and other buildings at the Audubon Center are closed due to Covid. However, the trails remain open.

The Center can be accessed by traveling south on I-684 and exiting at NY 22, Armonk. Go north on NY 22 to a stoplight, then turn right onto NY 433. In 2.5 miles the Center is on the left. Parking is plentiful. When I visited late October the \$6 admission was suspended.

A sign at the Greenwich Audubon Center reads:

“One generation passeth away and another generation cometh, but the earth abideth for ever.” *Ecclesiastes*

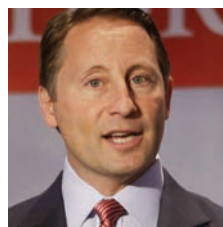
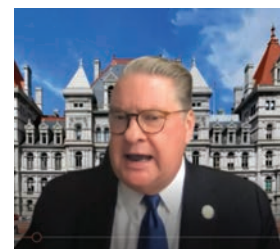
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STATE SENATOR PETER HARCKHAM AND ROB ASTORINO APPEAR AT MORNING DISCUSSION GROUP MEETING

Submitted by Ken Benjamin

On October 26, in the middle of their respective hotly contested campaigns in the 40th District, first term State Senator Peter Harckham and his opponent, Rob Astorino, former Westchester County Executive for eight years, spoke at separate times during the Heritage Hills Morning Discussion Group Zoom meeting to address the group and answer members’ questions.

Two years ago, Senator Harckham narrowly defeated Senator Terrence Murphy in the 2018 Democratic wave election across New York. Senator Harckham had been a member of the Westchester County Board of Legislators and Assistant Director of the New York State Office of Community Renewal.



Ron Astorino is also a former member of the Westchester County Board of Legislatures, in addition to being former Westchester County Executive. He ran for Governor in 2014 but lost to Governor Cuomo. In his bid for a third term as County Executive in 2017, he was defeated by George Latimer.

The meeting drew quite a crowd that day—attendance was more than double the norm. After the candidates said their respective goodbyes, members indicated they were delighted that both candidates had answered all their questions forthrightly, versus the usual candidate responses one sees from more state-wide or national level politicians.

* * *

THOUGHTS ON THE 2020 HOLIDAY SEASON

By Nan Caldwell

Without those usual Christmas guests,
That turkey roast, both legs and breast
Will last till winter's snow is done
Unless you buy a two pound one.
Department stores are catching hell,
But Amazon is doing well.
You'll get warm fuzzies shopping there—
You've helped make Jeff a trillionaire!
What if that reindeer in the song—
The one that did poor Grandma wrong—
Would change his target, bringing cheer,
And do the Chipmunks in this year?
Together with our festive tasks,
We're scrubbing hands and wearing masks
In hopes that twenty-one awaits
With peace in all the fifty states.

* * *

ANOTHER WALK ACROSS THE HUDSON RIVER

Text and photos by Karl and Cheryl Milde

If you read the article A WALK ACROSS THE NEWEST BRIDGE in the November Newsletter and liked that walk, there's another, similar walk which, believe it or not, is even more spectacular. It's the now-famous *Walkway Over the Hudson*—a steel cantilever bridge spanning the Hudson River between Poughkeepsie, on our side of the river, and Highland, New York, on the west bank.

Beautifully maintained by New York State as one of its many historic parks, this 1.3-mile bridge offers fabulous views from high over the scenic Hudson Valley.

If you're a history buff, you can find a wealth of information at walkway.org/about-us/our-story/.

Briefly, the bridge was built in 1889 to transport raw materials from the west to industrial centers in the east and to enable passenger trains to travel from Boston and points north to Philadelphia and points south without passing through congested New York City. At the time of its opening it was the longest bridge in the world!

During WWII, the bridge was painted black to make it less visible. In point of fact, due to the high quality of steel used in its construction, it does not need to be painted. The absence of paint over its lifetime, other than that one time, has kept the steel in the good condition it is in today.

In 1974, sparks from a train's brakes caused wooden railroad ties on the bridge to catch fire. By the time the fire was discovered and extinguished, the tracks were unusable. The bridge was abandoned and remained so until, with private, state, and federal funding, it was reconstructed as the current Walkway, which opened in 2009 and since then has become so popular it attracts over 500,000 visitors a year.

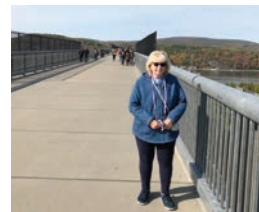
Getting there is easy. Take I-84 to the Taconic Parkway north. Just past the "Taste NY" store in the center divider, take the exit for Route 55 west toward Poughkeepsie, and follow the signs to the *Walkway over the Hudson*. Park in the lot on Washington Street and walk up the steps.



Masks are required. You should also wear rubber gloves because you may need to touch the guard rail. Feel free to bring your dog. He/she will enjoy meeting the many others on the bridge.

The *Walkway* is open from 7 am to sunset every day. Bikes are permitted but they are speed-limited, and the *Walkway* is plenty wide (15 feet or so). Just enjoy the scenery as well as the exercise as you walk along at your own pace.

If you decide to leave these lovely Heritage Hills and walk on the wild side in this time of COVID-19, you can either walk across the Hudson on the *Walkway* or the *Mario M. Cuomo/Tappan Zee Bridge*. Either is a great choice.



* * *

HAIKU FOR DECEMBER

Verse and photo by Sue Shea

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THE BOOK SHELF

By Cindy Kennedy

Earlier this year, Colson Whitehead won his second Pulitzer Prize for his searing novel *The Nickel Boys*. His first Pulitzer winner, *The Underground Railroad*, also dealt with racial injustice, albeit a century earlier.

The Nickel Boys is set in the Jim Crow south of the early 1960s. Its title characters are boys who were sent to Nickel Academy, a brutal reformatory. (Mr. Whitehead based his novel on the infamous Dozier School for Boys in Florida.) Nickel Academy's malevolent Superintendent Maynard Spencer oversaw a corrupt and abusive staff. Although the reform school had a mixed-race population, its segregated Black boys faced harsher punishments.

Central to the novel's plot is the friendship forged between two Black boys, Elwood and Turner, who bond at Nickel Academy. Elwood, a studious high school senior from Tallahassee, aspired to attend college. Raised by his widowed grandmother, Elwood was inspired by the speeches of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. to see the best in people.

Hitching a ride to take a night class, Elwood was picked up by an African American man driving a brilliant-green '61 Plymouth Fury. As the man careened down the country road, the red lights of a cop car flashed in his rearview mirror. Pulled over, the driver was arrested for car theft, and Elwood was sent to Nickel Academy. Told "if you go along, you'll get along," Elwood resolved to follow the rules and get released early. Soon after his arrival at the reformatory, Elwood met Turner, a rough-edged orphan from Houston who lived by his wits. At first, Elwood mystifies him: "Turner had never met a kid like Elwood before. *Sturdy*, even though the Tallahassee boy looked soft, conducted himself like a goody-goody, and had an irritating tendency to preach. He talked like a white college boy and read books when he didn't have to."

Superintendent Spencer concocted a crooked kick-back scheme, directing his employee Harper to sell boxes of the school's food supplies and necessities to town merchants and then give him the profits. Harper ordered Elwood and Turner to work with him on the "Community Service" project. As the boys transported the stolen goods, Elwood kept a running list of the transactions. Hoping to expose the dishonest Superintendent, Elwood wanted to write to local newspapers, but the more cynical Turner tried to dissuade him. What the boys ultimately agreed to do would determine their fates.

The Nickel Boys, indeed, is a disquieting tale. During an interview, Colson Whitehead explained his motivation for writing it: "There are corners of America that we never see, never think about and never hear about. There are people walking around with stories no one cared to listen to. And if we put the effort in, maybe we can discover them."

(Note: *The Nickel Boys* is part of the Heritage Hills Library and Somers Library collections. For a list of new books at the Heritage Hills Library, please see page 11.)



HOW DOES YOUR GARDEN GROW?

THE COMMUNITY GARDEN "GARDEN LEADER VOLUNTEERS"

Text by Karl Milde, photo by Regina Blakeslee

Since the time Adam and Eve ate the apple in the Garden of Eden, mankind has tried to work with nature by growing things. I think gardening is in our DNA.

Heritage Hills residents join the Garden Club for many reasons. First and foremost, they want to work the soil in one, or even two, of the 10' x 10' "garden squares" in the Community Garden across the road from Lake Lodge. A second reason is to grow food that is nutritious and delicious. And a third is to satisfy their thirst for knowledge about gardening.

When I moved to Heritage Hills about three years ago, one of the first things I did was join the Garden Club. Happily, garden squares were available then (no waiting list!) and I was assigned space A10, right near the front gate. That's been my spot ever since.

That first year my thirst for knowledge was nicely assuaged by the annual Garden Club lecture in late April. I sat in the first row and asked question after question during the Q&A.

The second year I took it upon myself to recruit the annual lecturer: Andrea Kish, a Cornell Cooperative Extension ("CCE") Master Gardener who was passionate about "Heirloom Tomatoes." The Heritage Room was full, and everyone loved learning about the fascinating history of these plants.

This year, the April lecture was cancelled for obvious reasons, but the scheduled lecturer, Regina Blakeslee, agreed to speak at the annual meeting in October. Like Andrea, Regina is a CCE Master Gardener. She's also a "Horticultural Therapist" and a "Sustainable Biodynamic Beekeeper."

Regina calls herself a "Community Garden Leader," and lead us she did. First, in preparation, she asked to walk through the Community Garden in advance to get acquainted with what we were doing.

I firmly believe Regina's talk was a turning point in the Garden Club's history. Suffice it to say Regina greatly inspired all of those present to the extent that, following her presentation, six members decided to learn from her more about the "science of sustainable and regenerative gardening" and to then share their new knowledge within our gardening community.

Regina, their teacher and mentor, has called them her "Garden Leader Volunteers." She is presently conducting a free five-week course of study for them with topics entitled (1) Getting Started with Healthy Soil, (2) Planning the Garden, (3) Planting the Garden, (4) Caring for the Growing Garden, and (5) Harvesting and Using the Bounty. She led



Monarch Butterfly

the first two courses on site in the Community Garden. The last three will be held during the winter, either in person or via Zoom.

Come spring, the Garden Leader Volunteers will fan out and share what they have learned to those Club members who thirst for new knowledge. The hope is that this knowledge will sprout and, pardon the term, spread like weeds.

* * *

FIT-BITS

By Mary Tedesco

FINDING BALANCE WITHIN

A balanced life is a healthy life. Not everyone finds balance in the same way. Being extreme in any one direction will most likely lead to imbalance within you.

There are five areas that are important to keep in balance:

Spirituality

Mind

Body

Relationships

Work

We are all a work in progress no matter what age. When we are completely honest with ourselves, we will know and feel where we are off balance. Our intuition will speak to us.

It is work, but if we listen to the signals within, we can pay attention and make some positive changes towards a healthy, balanced life.

Spend an hour on a rainy day and ask yourself these questions:

- 1) Do I feel I am thriving or surviving?
- 2) How am I feeling emotionally—drained or upbeat?
- 3) How does my body feel—do I feel that I am holding stress somewhere?
- 4) Are my relationships helping me to thrive or hurting me?
- 5) Do I need to spend time on healing any area of my life?
- 6) How is my job, schoolwork, or class?
- 7) What am I spending the most time doing? Is this truly helpful for my health and wellbeing?

Spend ten minutes contemplating each question. Make a deal with yourself to be honest. Identify three areas where you need improvement ...write them down and get to it! Commit to living a healthier more balanced life.



HERITAGE HILLS HOME WELLNESS IS A PROPANE OR NATURAL GAS EMERGENCY STANDBY GENERATOR IN YOUR FUTURE?

By Karl Milde

Storms happen—hurricanes in the summer and fall, snowstorms in winter—and poof. You are suddenly plunged into darkness and your electric appliances stop working. The HVAC, refrigerator, stove, washing machine, and your TV are all silent. Your phone and your computer may work, provided the phone is on a landline and your computer's a laptop with a charged battery, but you probably won't have Internet. You'll only be able to open your garage door manually.



There's a solution to this vexing problem: Install an emergency standby generator, if generators are permitted by your Condo.

Gasoline-powered generators designed for home use are not permitted in Heritage Hills due to the danger of spillage and consequent fire threat if the gasoline is not handled properly. That leaves natural gas, if your Condo unit is so equipped, and propane, if it is not so equipped.

Generators that run on natural gas or propane come in many sizes, starting from 7.5kW. A 15kW unit is sufficient to power almost anything you have in your unit, but not all at the same time. A 22kW generator should be sufficient to power everything at once.

Units in Condos 1 through 19 have no natural gas available. Some units in Condos 20 through 30 do not have it because their original owners opted out when the units were built. If you own a unit without natural gas, you will need to install a propane tank large enough to run your generator for a week or more. Such propane tanks are now permitted in a number of Condos, provided the generator and tank conform to the Condo's strict regulations.

Condo regulations for both natural gas and propane-powered generators are identical. As you might expect, the generators must be installed by licensed plumbers and electricians. They cannot be placed in front of a unit, under decks, or inside garages/car ports; and they are subject to Somers Town Codes regarding their distances from a building and building windows.

Propane tanks must be above ground and placed at least ten feet from both the generator and an air-conditioner compressor unit. They also cannot be located inside any living area or in garages or car ports, or on decks. They may be either horizontal tanks or interconnected vertical tanks up to a certain maximum size. At least one Condo requires that the tank(s) be painted light green. If visible from neighboring units or from the road, both the generator and propane tank(s) need to be screened by suitable shrubbery, or by a lattice, to form a visual and an acoustic shield.

To accomplish all of this you should budget at least \$15k for a 15kW generator. It's expensive, to be sure, but the resale value of your unit may immediately increase by that amount, and the peace of mind of having a standby generator is, as they say, priceless.

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Call Katie 914 522 3901



By Ann Harden



By Sue Shea

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MARTHA "MARTI" LOWENFELD

Real Estate Associate Broker Broker, CRS, SRES

Cell: 914-420-1850 Home: 914-277-4350

email: mlowenfeld@houlihanlawrence.com

Total units sold by Hudson Gateway MLS agents from 1/1/2020 to 11/10/2020

	2020	2019	2018	2017
TOTAL SOLD	107 (\$227,500-\$829,000)	135 (\$245,000-\$835,000)	108 (\$225,000-\$739,000)	109 (\$248,000-\$880,000)

Units sold by MLS agents from January 1 to November 10, 2020 (16 NEW SALES)

1 BEDROOM

ADAMS	\$227,500; \$246,000	GUILFORD	\$282,500; \$321,652;	RADCLIFFE	\$420,000; \$437,000;
AMHERST	\$380,000		\$319,200		\$419,000; \$445,000
FRANKLIN	\$249,500; \$250,000;				
	\$295,000				

2 BEDROOM

ARMONK	\$375,000; \$460,000;	HAMILTON	\$255,000; \$340,000;	PRINCETON	\$470,000
	\$415,000; \$375,000;		\$320,000	ROCKLAND	\$365,000
	\$325,000; \$370,000;	HANCOCK	\$325,000	SALEM	\$455,000; \$447,000;
	\$407,000; \$424,000;	HANOVER	\$394,500; \$485,000		\$430,000; \$460,000
	\$464,000; \$365,000;	HARVARD	\$550,000; \$650,000;	SOMERS	\$425,000; \$430,000
	\$405,000; \$459,000;		\$670,000; \$660,000	STRATFORD	\$510,000; \$449,000;
	\$470,000; \$383,000;	JACKSON	\$337,000		\$525,000; \$435,000;
	\$395,000; \$465,000	KATONAH	\$345,000		\$395,000; \$505,000;
CAANAN	\$404,000	KENT	\$410,00		\$573,000; \$435,000;
CONCORD	\$424,000; \$375,000	LEXINGTON	\$435,100; \$374,500		\$435,000; \$569,000;
DARTMOUTH	\$452,500	MADISON	\$302,000		\$449,000; \$450,000
FAIRVIEW	\$418,750; \$420,000;	MONROE	\$318,000; \$322,000;	STRATFORD II	\$495,000; \$546,000
	\$455,000; \$418,000;		\$389,000; \$360,000;	SYRACUSE	\$526,000; \$614,000
	\$440,000; \$485,000		\$359,000; \$255,000		

3 BEDROOM

COLUMBIA	\$722,500; \$829,000	SHERMAN	\$512,500; \$574,000;	SHERMAN II	\$552,500; \$545,000;
JEFFERSON	\$340,000; \$365,000;		\$555,000; \$505,000;		\$600,000; \$570,000
	\$315,000; \$410,000;		\$475,000; \$630,000;	YORK	\$425,000; \$485,000
	\$390,000; \$399,000		\$495,000; \$619,900		

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

I wish everyone a healthy, safe and very happy holiday season.

Good thoughts and best wishes,

Marti

My cell phone is 914-420-1850 or email mlowenfeld@houlihanlawrence.com



HAPPY HOLIDAYS!



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