



DECEMBER 2022

HAPPY *Holidays*

Heritage Hills Newsletter



Heritage Hills Society Information

Address 8 Heritage Hills, Somers, New York 10589

Website www.hhsociety.org

Television..... Channel 21

CONTACT INFORMATION – EMAIL

Society society@hhsociety.org

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

CONTACT INFORMATION – TELEPHONE

Security 914-276-2592

Bus..... 914-276-2877

Society Office 914-276-2908

Library..... 914-276-7655

Activities Office..... 914-276-2636

Fitness Center 914-669-5028

EMERGENCIES 9-1-1

Hours of Operation

Activities Center

Building.....9 am to 11 pm

Activities Office.....9 am to 5 pm

Society Office.....9 am to 1 pm

Fine Arts Center.....Group instruction and free time are scheduled
by the Activities Office at 914-276-2908

Library.....Monday thru Friday Noon to 3 pm

Fitness Center & Gym...Daily 4:30 am to 11 pm

Lake Lodge.....9 am to 11 pm

Meadowlark ParkDawn to Dusk

Park Place.....Dawn to Dusk

Bus Service – Weekdays Only (except holidays) – 914-276-2877

Goldens Bridge MetroNorth Station Trips

Morning to/from: 5:15, 5:45, 6:45, and 7:45 – **Reservation Required**

Evening **PICK-UPS ONLY**: 4:45, 5:35, 6:35, 7:35, and 8:35 – **No Reservation**

Midday Trips – Reservations Required

To/From Activities Center, Lake Lodge, Meadowlark Park, and off site,
including Goldens Bridge MetroNorth Station

Outbound, hourly 8:45 am to 2:45 pm

Inbound, hourly 9 am to 3 pm; 3:45 pm

To/From Pools 2 thru 5 / Tennis areas

To: 8:45 am (pool 4), hourly, 9:45 am to 2:45 pm

From: Hourly from 11 am to 3 pm; 3:45 pm

UTILITIES CONTACT INFORMATION

Comcast 800-934-6489

NYSEG..... 800-572-1131

Water/Sewer (Veolia)..... 877-426-8969

ConEd 800-752-6633

Verizon 800-922-0204

SERVICES FOR SENIORS

TOWN OF SOMERS SENIOR SERVICES - 914-232-0807

Barbara Taberer, Director

Hot Lunch

- At Van Tassel House – **Free Transportation Available**
Monday thru Friday at noon
- Delivered to home-bound, Monday thru Friday
Meals leave Van Tassel House for delivery starting at 11:30 am
Suggested contribution: **\$3** per meal

Medical Appointments - Transportation Available

Tuesday thru Thursday, 10 am to 3 pm
Suggested round-trip donation: **\$10**

Shopping Trips by Bus

Monday and Fridays at 10 am
Suggested round-trip donation: **\$2**

OTHER SENIOR SERVICES

RideConnect - 914-242-7433

Transportation services seven days a week. Call to register.

Medicare - 800-633-4227 and medicare.gov

Medicare Rights Center – 800-333-4114

EPIC - 800-332-3742

New York State Senior Prescription Reduction

My Second Home - 914-241-0770

Geriatric Day Care Intergenerational Program

Westchester County Senior Programs and Services - 914-813-6300

Referral agency for senior services including legal - 914-949-1305
Social Services: 914-995-5889

SERVICES FOR ALL AGES, INCLUDING SENIORS

AA - 914-949-1200. Info and literature National Council on Alcoholism

Adult Protection Services Intake - Natalie Siler 914-995-2259.

Cancer Care - 800-ACS-2345

Northern Westchester Hospital - 914-242-8115

Putnam Hospital - 845-279-5711

The Dominican Sisters - Family Health Service 914-941-1654

Long- and short-term registered nurses.

Hospice - 914-666-4228 - 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 - 914-761-0600 - 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. 800-227-2345

Transportation for Disabled Residents - County Office of Transportation 914-813-7777

Para-Transit - 914-995-7272 provides modified vans with ramp for curb-to curb
service. Fare \$5 each way. Medical pre-authorization required. For eligibility call
914-995-2960.

Private Ambulette Services

Superior Brewster 845-278-6992

CLC Trans 914-241-0112

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

914-666-7616 - 8:30 am - 5 pm - Home care aides nursing, Nutrition
consultation

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MASKS ARE STRONGLY RECOMMENDED IN ALL SOCIETY BUILDINGS. INDIVIDUAL CLUBS/GROUPS MAY REQUIRE MASKS AND/OR PROOF OF COVID VACCINATION/BOOSTERS TO ATTEND THEIR RESPECTIVE EVENTS, AND ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR CHECKING ATTENDEES' PROOF THEREOF.

TWO GUESTS PER UNIT LIMIT

CONTINUING EDUCATION CLUB

Submitted by Rosetta Benson

The following lectures will be presented in person in the Heritage Room. **Proof of Covid vaccinations and boosters required.**

MUSIC SERIES

Two lectures/performance
by Peter Muir, Musicology Professor

GOD BLESS AMERICA: THE ESSENCE OF IRVING BERLIN

Tuesday, December 6, at 1:30 pm

Irving Berlin dominated American popular music in the first half of the 20th Century. Embracing all the styles of the day, his hits like *God Bless America* and *White Christmas* are timeless.

THE ROOTS OF GOSPEL MUSIC, BLUES, AND JAZZ

Tuesday, December 13, at 1:30 pm

This lecture explores the African American traditions of religious music-making. Gospel music, blues, and jazz have deep roots in the suffering of slavery.

Admission: \$10 per lecture. Pay at the door. If you have any questions, call Linda at 914-617-9328.

* * *

SINGLES CLUB

By Diane Purr

Thursday, December 8, at 6 pm in the Heritage Room

At our **members only** Holiday sit-down dinner catered by Ledley, there will be musical entertainment for your listening and dancing pleasure, and wine for your drinking pleasure. The cost is \$55 per person. RSVP as soon as possible, noting all members you want to sit with and the entree you prefer – filet of beef, stuffed jumbo shrimp, or chicken *cordon bleu*.

If you have any questions, contact Pat Caruso at 914-276-2224 or Olga LaBoy at 914-276-2646

We OOPSED!

See the SPORTS section on page 9 regarding an error we made regarding the Pickleball Club Playoff Results.

HERITAGE HILLS NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

Editor in Chief: Susan Statkowski-Rivalsi; Graphic Editor: Annette Bensen
Writers/Editors/Photographers: Phyllis Bradbury, Dassi Citron,
Terry Clifford, Cindy Kennedy, Shirley Kesselman, Karl Milde,
Stan Herz Pearlman, Elizabeth Royston, Keri Reitman Schnapper



By Joyce Spector

ANNUAL CHANUKAH PROGRAM

Sunday, December 11, at 1 pm in the Activities Center

Our annual Chanukah program is back! The eight-day celebration, known as the Festival of Lights, commemorates the rededication during the second century B.C. of the Second Temple in Jerusalem, where according to legend Jews had risen up against their Greek-Syrian oppressors in the Maccabean Revolt.

Rabbi David Wilfond and Cantor Ines Kapustiansky of Temple Shaaray Tefila of Westchester will be featured in this program which will include an informative narrative and traditional Chanukah songs.



Proof of vaccination and boosters

are mandatory. Light refreshments will be served. Admission is \$15 per person in the Activities Center and \$15 per family via Zoom link. Place your checks in our mailbox along with your name, phone number and email address **no later than December 8**. If you want to sit with friends, place your reservations in one envelope. Walk-ins are welcome as space permits. If you have any questions, call Alan Tepper at 914-342-3279 or email him at astepper@gmail.com.

JANUARY 2023 PROGRAM – To be decided. Look for information in the January Newsletter and by email.

* * *

ON THE COVER

During the doldrums of last winter, Elizabeth Royston felt the flower pots in front of her unit looked very lonely. "A quick trimming of my pines and a raiding of the Christmas decorations made them look much more festive! A tradition was born!"

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COMING EVENTS

CHRISTMAS DINNER

By Michael Lanotte

Saturday, December 17, in the Heritage Room – Doors Open at 6:30 pm

For this **Members Only** event – \$55 per person – pick up a flyer with all the details outside the Activities Office. You must fill out the cut off at the bottom of the flyer and return it with your check **no Later than Friday, December 9.**

* * *

SOMERS VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT'S CANDY CANE RUN

By Keri Reitman Schnapper

**Sunday, December 11, at noon,
at the Activities Center Parking Lot**

Fire Chief Mackey and the elves at the SVFD have received official word from the North Pole! Similar to previous years, Santa has been granted permission to use SVFD's fire trucks to visit and greet families throughout Somers, including a stop at the Activities Center!

When coming to see Santa, as has become tradition, please bring a non-perishable food item. Volunteers will collect donations and immediately bring them to the Community Center of Northern Westchester in Katonah.

* * *



HOLIDAY EXTRAVAGANZA

By Terry Clifford

Saturday, December 10, from 1:30 to 3:30 pm in the Heritage Room

Heritage Hills children are invited to bring their parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, and friends to our Toys For Tots Holiday Extravaganza. The price of admission is an unwrapped new toy, which will be distributed to underprivileged children in Westchester County by the United States Marines. Here's what's planned:

- **A Lego Train Display** built by our own Karl Milde will be on view. Karl will run the trains throughout the event. It will feature not only several trains and train stations, but also a Holiday trolley, a Christmas decorated home, Christmas trees, and a flying Santa's sleigh.
- **Rock Painting** will be available for our young artists led by a professional Art Teacher.
- **A Snack Decorating** event will be led by an Elf.
- **Santa and Mrs. Clause** plan to visit.
- **Wooden Toys**, handmade by our volunteer woodshop elves, will be on display.
- **Refreshments** will include Eggnog, Water, Candy Canes, Chanukah Gelt and more.
- **A Marine** will be in attendance to collect the toys.



If you're unable to attend, leave unwrapped toys in the Toys For Tots collection boxes at the Activities Center and Lake Lodge until December 10. Or, instead, the United States Marine Corps Reserve accepts donation checks payable to "Marine Toys For Tots Foundation." Place your check in an envelope addressed "TOYS FOR TOTS" in the mailbox at the Activities Office.

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SOCIETY BOARD MONTHLY MEETING

Wednesday, December 14, at 2:30 pm in the Heritage Room

All unit owners are welcome to attend the meeting in person. It will be broadcast on Channel 21 while in progress and will be rebroadcast daily on that channel at 2 and 7 pm until the next meeting occurs. It can also be viewed on the Society website at hhsociety.org; go to Heritage Hills Society, then choose Board Meetings & Documents.

Owners are welcome to raise matters of concern in person in the Heritage Room and can submit such concerns by email to society@hhsociety.org, by phone to 914-276-2908, or by regular mail to Society Board, 8 Heritage Hills, Somers, New York 10589. **You must provide your name and unit number when speaking at the meeting and on written correspondence.**

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HOLIDAYS AT THE WRIGHT REIS HOMESTEAD

**Presented by the Culinary Club
and Somers Historical Society**

Text by Elizabeth Royston,

photos by Somers Historical Society

Saturday, December 17, from 1 to 3 pm

Come celebrate the holiday season at the historic Homestead seasonally decorated in the tradition of Carolyn Wright Reis. Tour the house with the guidance of docents and visit our gallery display of the works of the late Robert "Bob" Reidy, Somers resident and prolific artist.



We will also tour the Homestead's 19th century kitchen, sample some old fashioned goodies, and discover some of the ways that the holidays were celebrated long ago.

All Heritage Hills residents are welcome to come visit with us. You need to register in advance, as we can only have a maximum of 20 participants for this event. To do so, contact Elizabeth Royston at 914-617-2060 or jroys516@aol.com. Directions and more information will be available at that time.



INDEPENDENT AND FOREIGN FILM CLUB

By Stephen Klepner

LIKE FATHER, LIKE SON

Sunday, December 23, at 7 pm in the Heritage Room

Ryuta Nonomiya is a successful architect who is focused so much on work that he neglects his wife, Midori, and son, Keita. He learns that their biological son Ryu Sei was switched with Keita at birth, and after DNA tests prove the error, they must now make a life-changing decision to either keep Keita, the boy they raised as their own son, or exchange him for their biological son.

Proof of vaccination required. Masks must be worn during the performance and the subsequent discussion.

For more information about this club, contact me at spk010@yahoo.com or 845-297-7066

* * *

TENNIS COMMITTEE

WINTER MIXED TENNIS SOCIAL RETURNS

Saturday, January 21, at 7 pm at

Chestnut Ridge Racquet Club in Mount Kisco

Great News!! After a two-year hiatus due to Covid, the Committee will once again be hosting our Winter Mixed Tennis Social. For those of you who do not know, this club's court surface is HAR-TRU, similar to clay. Heritage Hills tennis players and their partners are invited.

Food and soft drinks will be served. BYOB. The cost for this event will be available shortly. If you are a new resident and would like to be added to the Tennis Directory, reach out to me by email at Denagoldstein17@gmail.com or cell phone at 914-589-3560

THE NEWSLETTER WELCOMES ARTICLES AND PHOTOS FROM HERITAGE HILLS RESIDENTS

OUR DEADLINE IS THE 6TH OF THE MONTH.

Authors' names will be indicated. We cannot guarantee that every item 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 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 if 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.

**WHEN WALKING ON OUR ROADS, ALWAYS WALK
FACING TRAFFIC, SINGLE FILE IF IN A GROUP
HUG THE CURB • WEAR BRIGHT CLOTHING**



SOCIETY NEWS

Compiled by Susan Statkowski-Rivalsi

VIEWING SOCIETY BOARD MEETINGS

Until its December 16 meeting, the November 16 Board of Directors meeting video can be viewed in its entirety on Comcast's Channel 21 daily at 2 and 7 pm, and 24/7 on the website hhsociety.org (choose Heritage Hills Society, then Meetings & Documents).

* * *

SUMMARY OF PORTIONS OF THE OCTOBER 19

SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING – The full transcript of this meeting's Minutes can be found on the Society website.

Board members in attendance: Gloria Anderson, Gene Archer, Annette Bensen, Bill Harden, Dorinda Haskell-Paladino, Jack Mattes, Karl Milde, Patricia Ploss, Dom Rubino, Deica Ruiz, Art Singer, and Alan Tepper

Board members absent: Ann Harper, Bruce Prince, and Jay Wright

Also attending: Dave Jacobsen

TREASURER'S REPORT – BILL HARDEN

• September Financials

Income	\$469,998
Expenses	(373,886)
Surplus	\$ 96,112

Approximately \$25,000 of Maxner Landscaping invoices arrived too late to get into the September records and will appear in the October report. That reduces our real surplus to about \$75,000. Year-to-date, our nine-month surplus is approximately \$200,000. There are many major project expenses for the fourth quarter that will lean into that surplus, including our annual paving costs. With the inclusion of projects originally planned for next year, including the boiler in the Activities Center, we expect to break even.

ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE – DORINDA HASKELL-PALADINO, CO-CHAIR

A new Chess Club was approved, and there's a new name for the new game group – Friends in the Hills.

COMMUNICATIONS – ANNETTE BENSEN, CHAIR

- **Website** – We're working on the Scheduler.
- **Virtual Tours** – We're looking into making one-minute videos that we can post on the website so that people can learn more about our various activities here.
- **Newsletter** – We've gotten some wonderful comments on the content and look of the Newsletter.

COMMUNITY NEWS COMMITTEE– JACK MATTES, CHAIR

- **Toys-for-Tots Holiday Extravaganza Website** – [See page 4 for details.]
- **Emergency Preparedness** – We're going to meet Supervisor Scorrano in November regarding this.

MEADOWLARK PARK COMMITTEE – PATRICIA PLOSS, CHAIR

- **Warren Trail:** Repairs have been made to the first 100 feet, which was rough and uneven.
- **Dead Trees:** We've removed those found within the park.

SECURITY REPORT – DAVE JACOBSEN, PROSEGUR SECURITY

- **Handicap Parking Spaces:** If you don't have a sticker, please leave them open for residents who need that parking; and if you do have a sticker, make sure you display it before leaving your car.
- **Dogs** must be leashed at all times.

OPERATIONS REPORT – GLORIA ANDERSON READING NOTES OF JOHN MILLIGAN, PROPERTY MANAGER

- **Maintenance Yard Garage:** The roof and gutters were replaced.
- **Storm Water Retention Basins:** Maintenance was completed and will be reviewed by the Town
- **Paving:** The lower half of Westridge Drive was completed, including new catch basin tops and new asphalt curbs and line-striping. Additional paving work will occur on Heritage Hills Drive near Lake Lodge, along with miscellaneous curb and asphalt repairs throughout the community.
- **Road Striping:** There will be repainting of certain liens on our main roads and speed humps, and in late fall a street-sweeper will clean along the curbs of our main roads, making the white lines more visible.
- **Activities Building:** We will replace the double doors and side lights leading to the rear patio, as well as the double doors to the boiler room outside the Heritage Room.
- **Park Place:** We will replace the window facing Pool 1 and the Tennis Courts there.

* * *

OCTOBER SECURITY CALL REPORT

Dave Jacobsen, Prosegur Security

During the month of October our Security staff received and responded to a total of 276 calls regarding the following matters:

Medical.....	80
Security	45 (open garage doors, other security concerns)
Fire.....	12 (the majority of which were fire alarms)
Service	90 (including 60 lift assists, 9 persons locked out, and 5 welfare checks)
Maintenance.....	19
Car Accidents	1
Parking Violations ...	29 (in handicapped spaces, fire lanes, A roads, or B roads)

COUNCIL OF CONDOS

By Terry Clifford

Condos in attendance: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 11, 12, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 22, 24, 26, 27, 28 29, and 30.

Security: The October meeting began with the President reminding the attendees of the importance of the Security form distributed electronically to all Condo presidents which requests every unit owner submit the completed form to the Security Office. This information provides Security with information to follow up regarding open garages, cars, and parking situations. Dave Jacobsen also reminded us that unit numbers must be reflective in all Condos so they can be seen clearly at night.

Grounding and Bonding Wires issues continue. The Town Building Inspector will send a letter to each Condo president advising them that if the grounding violations are not corrected the Courts will be notified for resolution. Condos should respond to the Town saying they are working on the project. The issue of Town responsibility for this project came up again and it was determined by most Condos that the time and cost of going to Court would be better spent on remediating the issue and getting it done in a reasonable amount of time since no time limit was required.

Street Signs: The Town has a letter stating Con Edison did not require street signs for Heritage Hills. However, the June 12, 2019, minutes from the Bureau of Fire Protection meeting and Heritage Management agree that Con Ed originally required homes with gas lines have street names. The Town will impose fines for reinstallation of street signs.

Garage Installed Drop-Down Ladders: These ladders break the fire protection envelope within the garage area. Fire rated stairs must be replaced, damage to the attic roof trusses repaired, and the garage ceiling closed with 5/8" fire rated gypsum board. The Building Inspector requested unit owners file for a permit for fire rated stairs; however, a licensed architect or engineer must inspect and provide certification of the installation upon sale of the unit.

Nominating Committee for Council Officers: Bette Morales, President of Condo 2, offered to serve on the nominating committee.

Verizon/Comcast Boxes: They will be reviewed in either October or November.

Golf Course: No news from the Society. The President of the "East Hill Men's Golf Association" attended a meeting with the owner who revealed there were several offers to operate it as a golf course. The restaurant and golf course must be sold as one unit. The current owner intends to continue to operate the course for the 2023 season.

The next meeting of the Council of Condos will be held on Wednesday, December 20, at 7 pm in the Activities Center.

* * *

HOLIDAY GREETINGS FROM THE TRAVEL GROUP

Submitted by Elaine Soliman

Whatever is meaningful and brings you merriment, may it become yours during the holidays and throughout the coming year. We at the Travel Group have been working and planning trips for 2023 that we hope will contribute to meaningful memories and merriment. In the upcoming months we will be listing our trips in the Newsletter, so keep a look out for them!

In keeping with the tradition of giving during the Holiday season, we at the Travel Club have made donations to Saint Luke's Food Pantry, Putnam Humane Society, Somers Volunteer Fire Department, and the Heritage Hills Library.

Happy Holidays and Happy, Healthy New Year!!!

* * *

CHESS CLUB

Submitted by Pat Posluszny

In case you haven't heard, Heritage Hills now has a Chess Club! The Club is open to all who are interested in playing some friendly games of chess. Beginners are welcome!

We meet every Wednesday from 1 to 3:30 pm at Lake Lodge in Room 3. Bring your own set if you have one. Some playing pairs may choose to use a clock; so if you have one, bring it.

We are also exploring scheduling evening playing times to accommodate those who cannot attend during the day. We will determine which evening draws the most interest. Watch for email blasts from the Activities Office announcing the evening meeting dates/times.

If you have any questions, please contact me at patpugs@comcast.net or 914-276-6550.

* * *

COMMUNITY THEATRE

Submitted by Helen Berman

We would like to thank our director and the cast and crew of *The Prisoner of Second Avenue* for their hard work and dedication.

We are also grateful for the audience members who acknowledged their talents with laughter and applause. We appreciate your encouraging support and send our best wishes for a Happy and Healthy Holiday Season.



* * *

MUSICAL NOTES FROM THE CONCERT SOCIETY



The best classical music value in Westchester and beyond!

By Teddi Meltzer

December 31, 2022, is almost upon us, and you know what that means?? It means if you purchase a subscription for the 2023 season by that date, you will receive an additional guest ticket along with your four concert tickets. Remember, individual performance tickets cost \$23, so a subscription at \$80 is wildly economical – \$80 instead of \$92 for the four concerts, plus the value of the guest ticket!

Our 2023 concert dates are May 21, June 11, September 10, and October 22. We'll announce the performers early next year.

* * *

CIAO ITALIA 2023 MEMBERSHIP

By Michael Lanotte

Annual Membership forms will be available in January outside the Activities Office and also look for email blasts. Membership runs from January 1 to December 31. The fee is \$12 per person.



*Activities Center Holiday Floral Display.
Photo by Phyllis Bradbury*

Genesis Jewelers

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DONNA O'CONNELL

Associate Real Estate Broker

M 914.263.9108

Doconnell@houlihanlawrence.com

donnaoconnell.houlihanlawrence.com

SOMERS BROKERAGE
104 VILLAGE SQUARE, SOMERS, NY



HOULIHAN LAWRENCE

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.

HLibrary COMMITTEE

OUR GROWING COLLECTION

December is an exciting month for books, as many publishers prepare for the holiday season. Highlights of this month's HLibrary selections include Pulitzer Prize winner Cormac McCarthy's new novel, *The Passenger*, his first book since 2006; and the recent Booker Prize winner, *The Seven Moons of Maali Almeida*, by Sri Lankan author Shehan Karunatilaka. New releases by popular authors Lee Child, Michael Connelly, and Janet Evanovich are arriving this month, as well as books by HLibrary fan-favorite writers Anthony Horowitz and Louise Penny. Please stop by or call the Library at 914-276-7655 to reserve any of these titles.

NEW ADDITIONS TO OUR COLLECTION IN DECEMBER

Biography

Schiff, Stacy *The Revolutionary: Samuel Adams*
Meacham, Jon *And There Was Light: Abraham Lincoln and the American Struggle*
Newman, Paul *The Extraordinary Life of an Ordinary Man: A Memoir*

Fiction

Banville, John *The Singularities*
Fredericks, Mariah *The Lindbergh Nanny*
Karunatilaka, Shehan *The Seven Moons of Maali Almeida*
McCarthy, Cormac *The Passenger*
Picoult, Jodi, and
Boylan, Jennifer Finney *Mad Honey*

Mystery

Box, C. J. *Treasure State*
Child, Lee, and
Child, Andrew *No Plan B*
Connelly, Michael *Desert Star*
Cornwell, Patricia *Livid*
Evanovich, Janet *Going Rogue*
Horowitz, Anthony *The Twist of a Knife*
Mackintosh, Clare *The Last Party*
Penny, Louise *A World of Curiosities*
Sandford, John *Righteous Prey*
Turow, Scott *Suspect*
Unger, Lisa *Secluded Cabin Sleeps Six*



PICKLEBALL CLUB

Text by Denise Elliott, photos by Fran Boemio

ACES CONTESTS RESULTS

The day after our Food Drive (see page 21) we had two contest games of ACES –intermediate and advanced levels. Fun was had by all!



ACES Intermediates: Luanne Kozak, Michelle Gresia, Lisa Mosia, Pamela Arena, Denise Elliott, Runners Up Anthony Ferrara and Anne Cunningham, Winners Paul Lozito and Baldissera Sorice, Julie Shadrin, Cheryl King, Karen Koman, Mindy Hermann-Zaidins, Alison Upright, Margo Libenson, Event Leader Michael Boemio and Vince Trotta.



ACES Advanced Players: Front row: Florence Olson, Fran Boemio, Jane Ceraldi, Louise Barlanti, Runner up Meryl Lapis, Winners Dr. Louis Bisogni and Mitch Schilkraut, Donald Stellwagen, Peter Finella, Runner up Paula Genovesi and Event co-leader MaryAnne Finella. Back row: Marlene Bergman, Rich Talan, Sal Ceraldi, Event co-leader and player Michael Boemio, Debbie Zapakin and Steve Blunda.

The Pickleball Committee welcomes neighbors to learn pickleball with complimentary lessons and practices. We started in October 2021 with 50 members and now, on our one-year anniversary, we have 300+ members who love to play and participate in our social events. To join your neighbors in the fastest growing and fun sport in the country, email us at Pickleballhh@gmail.com.

PLAYOFF CORRECTION


The November issue of this Newsletter had erroneous captions for the Club's Playoff Second and Third Place teams' photos. We apologize and present them here, corrected.

Second Place HOT SHOTS:
Mindy Hermann-Zaidins, Christine McLaren, Lili Venta, Julie Shadron, and Mario Genovesi.
Absent - Marc Belack Captain



Third Place DILLY DINGERS:
MaryAnne Finella, Debbie Zapakin, Eric Zaidins, Joe Thornley, Lisa Mosia, Steve Blunda Captain, Gene Kaplan





RPC Painting and Contracting

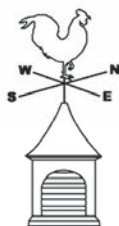
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EAST HILL MEN'S GOLF GROUP

By Ken Freeman

Following Yogi Santa-Donato's Club Championship win on October 6, around 30 members celebrated his victory and looked back on the season's many fun rounds at an October 13 luncheon at Primavera. After a great meal, members elected the club's officers for 2023. Ed Yee will return as President and Bob Slotoroff as Secretary. They will be joined by club veterans Al Longhitano as Vice President and Jack O'Hanlon as Treasurer.



Ed Yee
President



Al Longhitano
Vice President



Jack O'Hanlon
Treasurer



Bob Slotoroff
Secretary

Our members decided they weren't ready yet to put away their clubs for the season. So, with the Somers National Golf Course recovering well from the summer drought, and course management aggressively blowing leaves off the fairways and greens, plenty of golf continued to be played into November. Here are the recent winners, in standard stroke play format unless specified otherwise:

October 11

A Flight (our better golfers): Low Gross – Bob Briganti
Low Net – 1st Ed Sottile, 2nd Tom Recca
B Flight (the rest of us): Low Gross – Vin Marrone
Low Net – 1st Jack O'Hanlon,
2nd Al Zaffiro, 3rd Jim Haggerty

October 13 (2-person teams)

Low Net – 1st Ed Sottile, with Ray Ormerod and Charlie Kravetz
alternating as teammates
2nd Tom Recca and Vin Marrone
3rd Bob Briganti and Rich O'Brien

October 20

Low Net – 1st Tom Recca, 2nd Vin Marrone, 3rd Charlie Kravetz

October 27

A Flight: Low Gross – Bill Glass
Low Net – 1st Tom Recca, 2nd Bob Kenney
B Flight: Low Gross – Al Zaffiro
Low Net – 1st Jack O'Hanlon, 2nd Vin Marrone,
3rd Al Longhitano

November 1

Low Net – 1st Al Longhitano, 2nd Tom Recca, 3rd Vin Marrone

November 3 (Par 3 Tournament)

Low Gross – Bill Glass
Low Net – 1st Tom Recca, 2nd Vin Marrone, 3rd Al Longhitano,
4th Ray Ormerod

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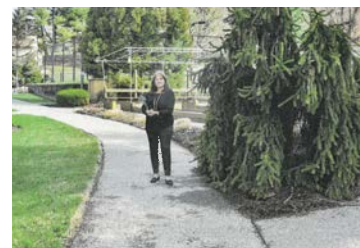
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GENERAL CLUB/CLASS INFORMATION AND REGULARLY OCCURRING ACTIVITIES

Produced by the Activities Office
Phone: 914-276-2636 or go to activities@hhsociety.org

Advance registration is required. 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 914-276-2636.

TWO GUESTS PER UNIT LIMIT

ARTS & CRAFTS

I Love Art Class: AAfter School ART in Heritage Hills for Children Ages K to 6. Hosted by Miss Judika, M.S. To register, call Judika at 914-438-6750.

Needlecraft Group: Charitable needlecraft group meets Wednesday at 12:30 pm in the Game Room. All skill levels are welcome. \$10 annual dues.

Bring proof of up-to-date Covid-19 vaccination. For questions, or to register, call Linda at 914-277-2776.

Painting with Judika Class: Create a different painting in each class once a month. Step-by-step instructions given, and everyone leaves with a masterpiece! \$40 per class includes all supplies. Bring your mask and your creative spirit! To register, call Judika at 914-438-6750.

Sketch Workshop Group: Wednesday at 9:30 am in Studio A. No fee. Beginners welcome.

Silk Fabric Painting Class: Fee \$135. Must sign up for a full 4-week session. Space is limited. For more information, contact Evey at 914-276-0737 or email her at evymusart@comcast.net.

Woodcraft Club: The shop is available Monday thru Saturday from 9 am to 4 pm. For information and to register, contact Club President Ed at 914-276-0671 or 914-552-2303.

CHORAL GROUP

Wanted: singers for "The Meadowlarks," the Heritage Hills Choral group directed by Peter Muir. Preference for those who can harmonize. If interested, contact: Janice Malett at 914-715-8247.

CIAO ITALIA CLUB

If you wish to become a new member, dues are \$12 per person. Membership forms are available outside the Activities Office. You can also print a copy (at home) from an email blast.

CLUB SHALOM

You don't have to be Jewish to love Club Shalom. Our Club is dedicated to providing quality entertaining and educational Jewish cultural programs for the residents of Heritage Hills. Watch for information about upcoming events. All residents are welcome.

CONCERT SOCIETY CLUB

We present four classical concerts each year in May, June, September, and October on Sundays at 3 pm in the Heritage Room. We feature the best and brightest of classical music's rising stars. The annual subscription rate is \$80 per person or \$23 at the door per concert. Subscription forms are at the Activities Center. If you have questions, call Raina Lefkowitz at 914-262-4407. Marvelous music by acclaimed artists at bargain prices.

CONTINUING EDUCATION CLUB

Our mission is to educate and entertain with monthly presentations by experts in the fields of art, literature, music, theatre, history, and politics on specified Tuesdays at 1:30 pm in the Heritage Room. See the COMING EVENTS section of this Newsletter for more information or call Ann at 914-617-9434.

CULINARY CLUB

We meet for dinner in the Activities Center once a month on a Wednesday evening at 6. If you are interested, contact Barbara Gangemi at 914-617-9037.

DANCE

Friday Night Social Dance. Friday, December 2, from 7 to 10 pm in the Activities Center. \$10 per person includes coffee and cake. BYOB. For more information, call Ami at 914-486-9677. Next Dance: Friday, January 6.

EXERCISE

Tai Chi & Chi Gong with Master Ellen. Monday from 12:30 to 1:30 pm in the gym. \$70 per month. First class free. All levels welcome. Wear loose fitting, comfortable clothing. Contact heritagehilltaichi2gmail.com.

Body Sculpting Class with Linda: Warmup low impact cardio, strength and balance abdominal exercises on the floor or in a chair, and stretch relaxation cool down. Monday thru Thursday at 8:30 am and Thursday night at 6:30 pm in Lake Lodge. \$10 per session or three classes for \$20. Call / email to register at 718-541-0861 / Labzeiss@gmail.com.

Pilates Barre Class with Linda: Monday thru Thursday at 9:30 am in Lake Lodge. \$10 per session or three classes for \$20. Call or email to register at 718-541-0861 or Labzeiss@gmail.com.

Gentle Yoga with Lisa. Monday at 1 pm and Friday at 10 am in Lake Lodge's Upper Level. \$12 for a 75-minute class. Lisaathomas@optonline.net or 914-497-0243.

Cardio/Strength/Stretch Class with Lori. Join me for a fun, safe, effective workout. Low impact cardio, resistance training, balance, stretch and breath work – all set to great music! Appropriate for all levels. Bring a resistance band to each class. Weights are available for use or bring your own. Tuesday and Thursday from 9:30 to 10:30 am in the gym. Fee: \$8 per class. Try the first class for free! 914-276-2636 or lamb428@optonline.net.

Zoom Chair Exercise with Lori. Monday, from 1 to 2 pm. Wake up your body with a cardio, strengthening, stretching, breathing, balancing workout, all done from your chair at home. Some standing behind the chair is optional. Have light weights and an exercise band handy. Classes are \$8 each. Try the first class free of charge. Email Lori at lamb428@optonline.net to receive class Zoom links.

Chair Yoga with Satish Class: Chair Yoga aimed at toning the entire body and increasing flexibility. Breathing and meditation for relaxation and mind body connection. Live music. Practice every Tuesday from 10 to 11:15 am in Lake Lodge with Satish Gambhir, Registered Yoga (500-RYT) and acupressure teacher with over 20 years of experience. \$10 per class. Call or email to register at 914-646-0887 or Satishgambhir@gmail.com.

Chair Zumba/Toning with Theresa. Monday at 9:45 am by Zoom only. Zumba for anyone who prefers a seated workout. Contact Theresa for more information at zumbawithme@aol.com.

Getting Back on Track (15-15-15) with Theresa: Wednesday at 10:30 am at the Fitness Center and on Zoom. Light cardio and balance, functional strength and stretch, and restorative breathing and relaxation. Great class to begin or continue your fitness journey. Contact Theresa for more information at zumbawithme@aol.com.

Lyrical Arms Class with Theresa: Friday at 10:50 am at the Fitness Center and on Zoom. Build upper body strength and increase range of motion using fluid movements and light weights to lovely music. Contact Theresa for more information at zumbawithme@aol.com.

Move and Groove with Theresa: Wednesday at 11 am in the Fitness Center and on Zoom. Easy-to-learn and easy-to-follow Beginner Line Dances to ALL music genres. Contact Theresa for more information at zumbawithme@aol.com.

Zumba Gold with Theresa. Friday at 10 am in the Fitness Center and on Zoom and Saturday at 10 am on Zoom only. Fun, easy to follow, low impact dance fitness class. Contact Theresa for more information at zumbawithme@aol.com.

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.

FRIENDS IN THE HILLS CLUB

Ours is a new club that is open to all adult Heritage Hills residents. Each meeting will be a night of fun and socializing with your neighbors. See the COMING EVENTS section of the Newsletter for event details. After our December kick-off event, we will be on hiatus until next April. Email us at Friendsinthehills@aol.com with any questions, or contact Debbie Ferrara at 914-924-3003 or Mary Ann Walrath at 914-318-1227.

FUN & GAMES

Bridge—Duplicate Club: Monday and Thursday at 12:30 pm in the Activities Center—**vaccinated only**. For information, call Marie at 914-277-4266.

Mah Jongg Group: Monday at noon in Lake Lodge and Wednesday at noon in the Activities Center (space is available—contact Sue Furino 914-617-9110). Friday at 1 pm in Lake Lodge (contact Olga LaBoy at 914-276-2646). Tuesday and Thursday from 11 am to 1 pm in Lake Lodge (we now have room for a few new members – Thursday preferred. Contact Rebecca Fierro at 914-669-5328).

Ping Pong Group: Thursday at 10 am in the Game Room. Open to all residents. Come hang out and play!

Scrabblers Group: Casual Scrabble game play on Thursday from 1 to 3 pm in Room 2 in the Activities Center. All levels of play, including newbies, are welcome. **Mask-wearing is voluntary**. For more information, just walk in or contact Susan at 914-617-9228 or ciwhitestar@comcast.net.

GARDEN CLUB

For information, including questions on membership and use of the Community Garden, please send an email to hhgardenclubsecretary@gmail.com. If you would prefer to speak by phone, call Club President Joanne Meder at 914-318-5808 and leave a message.

HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE

Blood Pressure Screenings With a Smile: Nurse Ellie Eidam offers screenings and good advice on the second Friday of the month from 9 to 11 am in the Game Room of the Activities Center. Your temperature may be taken. **Mask-wearing is voluntary. Do not come for your Blood Pressure Screening if you have tested positive for Covid-19, were recently exposed (within 14 days) to the virus, or travelled to areas that have experienced high levels of the virus.** Contact Ellie at elliebob1@gmail.com or 914-617-2109 for more information.

Alzheimer's/Dementia Caregivers Support Group. Caring for someone with Alzheimer's/Dementia is a difficult and painful challenge. A support group can help. Meetings take place on the first Thursday of the month at 12:30 pm in Lake Lodge. Facilitated by Linda Ludwig, Psy.D. To register, call 914-617-9328 or email 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. Meetings take place the second Thursday of the month at 12:30 pm in the Activities Center. Facilitated by Linda Ludwig, Psy.D. To register, call 914-617-9328 or email ludwiglr@aol.com.

Senior Entitlements Program-Westchester County: Watch for communications about our upcoming monthly session.

HIKERS & WALKERS GROUP

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

INDEPENDENT AND FOREIGN FILM CLUB

Monthly screenings in the Heritage Room, followed by a discussion. April thru December. \$20 for the series. Schedule is posted in the Activities Center and on the Society website. For information, contact Steve Klepner at 845-297-7066 or spk010@yahoo.com.

LIBRARY

Open Monday thru Friday from noon to 3 pm. For information on the collection, visit the Heritage Hills Library webpage at hhsociety.org or call 914-276-7655.

MORNING DISCUSSION GROUP

Discussion group on current event topics. Monday from 9:30 to 11 am in the Activities Center or by Zoom with closed captioning. For information, email Ken Benjamin at kenbenja@aol.com or call 914-617-9817.

RAINBOW CONNECTION

Rainbow Connection is a group for LGBTQ members and their families, friends, and neighbors. All are welcome. We meet the first Thursday of each month at Lake Lodge from 5 to 7 pm. For more information contact Joanne at 914-450-5609.

SHAKESPEARE GROUP

Meets in person and on Zoom. See a film of a classic Shakespeare play, then read it and join in lively discussions. We meet every Tuesday from 10 to 11:30 am in the Activities Center, Room 3. All are welcome! For more information, call Susan Ray at 914-391-6686 or Margaret Howlett at 973-746-7816.

SPORTS

Bocce Group: April through October: Wednesday and Saturday at 9:30 am.

Golf Group: Join the East Hill Men's Golf Association to enjoy weekly Thursday 9-hole casual competitions in a variety of formats, as well as Tuesday Stroke Play opportunities, from April thru November at Somers National Golf Club's course right here on Heritage Hills' West Hill. For more information, contact Membership Chairman Bob Kenney at 914-617-9884 or rlkret@aol.com.

Pickleball Group: Pickleball on the outdoor courts is open play, no reservations required. The gym is also available for indoor play. For details on both, and about the Pickleball Committee and community, email PickleballHH@gmail.com. See you on the courts!

Shuffleboard Group: October through March on Wednesday from 1 to 3 pm, and on Saturday from 9:30 am to noon, in the gymnasium.

Tennis Group: All Tennis reservations are now made via www.playtomic.io, or you can download the playtomic app, which offers many additional features. Once on the playtomic website, type "Heritage Hills" and click on "tennis" as the sport choice. For general information about the tennis group call Dena at 914-589-3560. The Friday night Round Robin runs from May through September.

10-A-MEN'S CLUB

Come to the Heritage Room Wednesday at 9 am and have continental breakfast for \$2. The meeting starts at 10 am.

TRAVEL CLUB

Our mission was designed for those who enjoy traveling on trips, whether they are near or far. All details are handled by the Travel Club. Buses leave from and return to Heritage Hills. Information on our trips is available on flyers in the Activities Center, on TV, and in this Newsletter.

WOMEN'S CLUB

The Women's Club generally meets at 1:30 pm the second Wednesday of the month, except for January, July, and August. The Board meets the first Tuesday of the month in the Activities Center. See the COMING EVENTS section of this Newsletter for specific upcoming event details. For membership information, call Membership Chair Alfreda Savarese at 914 617-2007.

WRITERS WORKSHOP CLASS

Workshop on *Google Meet!* Monday at 1pm and Saturday at 10:30 am in Lake Lodge. Email Linda Spear, workshop facilitator, to arrange to join us! Lindaspear211@gmail.com.



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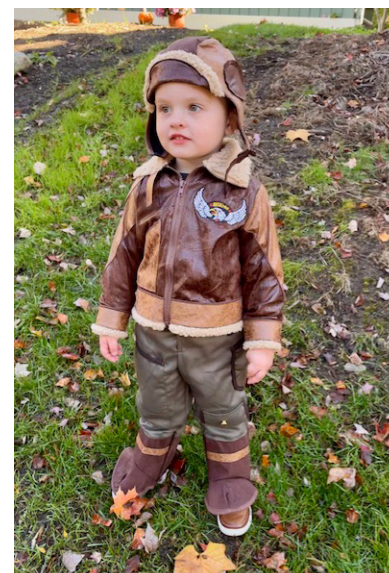
Compiled by Keri Reitman-Schnapper



Pirate Leo, by Rebecca Weinstein



The Kania Family wore Wizard of Oz-theme costumes – the Scarecrow, Dorothy, and the Lion, by Patty Kania.



Aviator Danny, by Susan Giarro.



Lucas as Sonic the Hedgehog, Lucas, and from Frozen, Gabriella as Elsa, and Victoria as Anna, by Vaness Anaya



Hedgehog Teddy, by Gabi and Al Salvato

* * *

FROM A GRATEFUL VETERAN

The following post was seen on the Family Network Facebook Page:

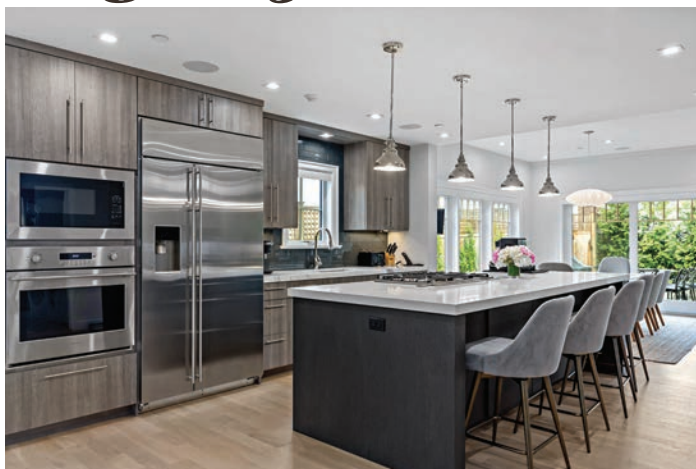
"I hope this post is allowed since it's my only way to thank Girl Scout Gabriella from Somers Daisy Troop 02872, who knocked on our door today to honor my husband, a Vietnam [War] Veteran. My husband feels so honored to have received a wonderful box of Girl Scout cookies from a lovely young girl. We're so proud of Gabriella. Keep up the good work. We would be very grateful if anyone from Heritage who knows Gabriella will pass this post along. Thank you." Anne DeStefano

HOLIDAY EVENTS FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

See page 4 for details on the Toys-for-Tots Holiday Extravaganza in the Heritage Room, and details on the Somers Volunteer Fire Department's fire truck Candy Can Run stopping at the Activities Center parking lot.

See page 18 for details on the Town's tree and Menorah Lighting festivities.

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#UGottaHaveHope

need to be done and give you an idea of what units are selling for right now.

Call me to schedule a visit (beats having me coming down the chimney) - or text or email today! Don't be left out in the cold trying to figure it out for Spring Marketing!!



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SOMERS SENIOR SERVICES DECEMBER SHOPPING TRIPS

Submitted by Barbara Taberer, Director

Four trips by bus per month per shopper. Two bags per shopper. A \$2 donation per shopper is recommended. Bus pick-ups start at 10 am, with 1-1/2 hours shopping time, and you return home early-to-midafternoon. Bus drivers provide assistance onto and off of the bus using a stepstool and handling mobility devices or using the wheelchair lift. They carry your bags to your door. An aide may accompany the rider. To make your reservations, call 914-232-0807.

MONDAY

December 5 Dollar Tree

December 12 ... Christmas Tree Shop

December 19 ... Walmart

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FRIDAY

December 2 Trader Joe's

December 9 DeCicco's

December 16 ... ShopRite

December 23 .. Stop & Shop

December 30 .. Stew Leonard's

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Funeral Director

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TOWN HOLIDAY CELEBRATIONS TREE LIGHTING FESTIVITIES

Sunday, December 4, from 3:30 to 5 pm, at the Elephant Hotel

There will be a holiday music sing-along, indoor photos with Santa, complimentary hot cocoa served on the front lawn by Girl Scout Troop 1455, and a Historical Society Museum Open House on the third floor from 3 to 5 pm. The tree will be lit at 5 pm.

MENORAH LIGHTING CEREMONY

December 18, at 6:00 pm, at the Elephant Hotel

This ceremony will be hosted by Chabad of Yorktown.

NOW YOU KNOW!

* * *

NYSEG SMART METER OPTION

By Wendy Nastasi

Did you know that changing your electrical meter to a Smart Meter is not mandatory?

You have the right to keep your existing meter. NYSEG will charge a service fee to do so, as it will require continuing to have in-person meter readings. According to NYSEG, the service charge will be \$13.47 per month. If you don't opt out, you are giving NYSEG your consent to install a Smart Meter.

There is still time to find answers to questions you may have that will assist you in making a decision. Go to NYSEG.com and NYSUMA.org for a broad scope of information about Smart Meters, both pros and cons.

If you decide to keep your meter, you must call NYSEG at 800-572-1111 and say that you choose to keep your current non-digital analog meter. Your account will be placed on an "Opt Out" status.

Meter replacements are due to begin late this year and continue through the summer of 2023.

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JOANNE PASQUERELLO, PRESIDENT, RAINBOW CONNECTION CLUB

Text and photo by Shirley Kesselman

Joanne moved with her spouse, Vicki Lyons, to Heritage Hills five years ago from a large home in Somers where they had resided for 44 years. Like so many Heritage Hills residents, they came here to avoid the responsibilities of home ownership, such as snow removal and lawn care. "I'm very, very happy here," says Joanne. She adds, "We have wonderful neighbors." Joanne misses her garden where she grew both flowers and vegetables. However, she has applied for a Community Garden square here and is eagerly awaiting the time she will be assigned a space. A brother lives in Heritage Hills, and Joanne has encouraged other relatives to move here.



Joanne's manner, her frequent smile and sparking eyes, convey a feeling of warmth, welcome, and comfort. Her background includes a Master's Degree from Columbia in Speech and Language Therapy and a PhD in psychology from Albert Einstein College of Medicine. Children with autism have been of special interest. Seven years ago Joanne retired from a private therapy practice and from a clinic in Carmel for people with developmental disabilities.

Now Joanne spends a good deal of time with the Good Shepard Episcopal Church's Food Ministry. In addition, she enjoys chauffeuring her seven-year-old granddaughter to various activities, such as ice skating and horseback riding. She belongs to our Independent and Foreign Film Club and Shakespeare Group.

The *Heritage Hills Newsletter* brought Joanne's attention to the Rainbow Connection Club. She attended a meeting and immediately joined. She liked the people. "We are a very diverse group—teachers, lawyers, former IBM employees, even a genealogist," she explains. Her first official role was Sargent at Arms, responsible for seeing that the club adhered to their bylaws and that they followed regulations set by the Heritage Hills Society. When Cindy Thornton resigned as President two years ago, Joanne was elected to that position.

The purpose of the Rainbow Connection Club is to support and foster understanding of the lesbian and gay community. Comprised largely of LGBTQ members, it is open to all residents of Heritage Hills. Joanne tells of a grandparent who once came to a meeting very upset about a granddaughter trying to figure out her identity. She needed to know how to be with her granddaughter and needed reassurance "that we are just people."

The Rainbow Connection Club meets at Lake Lodge all year round on the first Thursday evening of the month from 5 to 7 pm. Members share news of their families and friends. A member might bring up a particular topic for discussion. The group schedules parties and movie and bingo nights. They've had poetry readings. Yearly dues are \$15.

"The Rainbow Connection is a place to socialize with people who have had similar life experiences. It offers general, everyday support," summarizes Joanne.

* * *

NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE FALL POTLUCK LUNCH

In early 2020, when Covid-19 first emerged, the Heritage Hills Newsletter Committee started meeting monthly via Zoom. Prior to that, meetings were held in person at Lake Lodge. The Committee had its first post-Covid group gathering last spring, when Newsletter Publishers Ann Harden and Bill Harden graciously hosted a brunch for the group there. The Committee then decided to make that type of get-together a semi-annual event.



Front row: Elizabeth Royston, Phyllis Bradbury, Susan Statkowski-Rivalsi, Shirley Kesselman, Cindy Kennedy, Terry Clifford, Karl Milde, and Annette Bensen.
Back Row: Marla Friedman, Andrew Kaplan, and Dassi Citron.
Absent, Stan Herz Pearlman, Keri Reitman-Schnapper, Ann Harden, and Bill Harden

On a sunny Friday afternoon in early November, Committee members and guests Andrew Kaplan and Marla Friedman of the Activities Office gathered around one large table at Lake Lodge, family style, to enjoy wonderful in-person time together while partaking of delicious food and drink, all prepared or contributed by the members.

* * *

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MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR MEGAN APICELLI, GUARDIAN OF OUR WILDLIFE

By Karl Milde

We are surrounded by wildlife here at Heritage Hills: chipmunks, rabbits, opossums, skunks, frogs, snakes, raccoons, groundhogs, squirrels, foxes, deer, and many, yes many, kinds of birds. Chances are, from time to time you're going to spot one that's injured, trapped, or otherwise in trouble. When that happens, who're you gonna call? A "Wildlife Rehabilitator," who, according to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, is a person licensed "to rehabilitate or care for sick, injured or orphaned wildlife for their return back to the wild."

And the licensed Wildlife Rehabilitator for our area is a resident of Heritage Hills! Megan Apicelli.

Megan grew up in Elmsford and Pleasantville and obtained degrees in both Psychology and Human Services from Mt. Saint Mary College. Her father loved wildlife, particularly fish, reptiles and birds, so she was surrounded by wildlife at home. She's been a resident of Heritage Hills for fifteen years, formerly working at kennels and veterinary offices and now running her own pet-sitting business. She lives here with her 14-year-old basset hound, Dexter, and a rescued racing pigeon, Snowflake.



By Megan Apicelli

I first learned of what Megan does because of "Hannah" (the name I gave her), a fox who resides in Heritage Hills. During an afternoon walk I stopped to gawk at her near Pool 4. Resident Marlene Rennert was there too, taking pictures that she later shared with me.



Hannah with mange earlier this summer, by Megan Apicelli.



Hannah now, with fur growing back, by Marlene Rennert.

Hannah looked reasonably healthy, but I noticed she sometimes scratched herself. Her fur wasn't smooth like that of dogs, but I figured this was due to her hard-knock life and a less-than-healthy diet. Someone said she'd been given medicine for mange, and I immediately wondered, who has such medical expertise? Turns out my veterinarian knew, and she put me in touch with Megan.

When I interviewed Megan, I found her both fascinating and friendly. She had, in fact, supplied Hannah with medicine (she said she "got lucky" after someone called to report the animal's plight).

Her work with wildlife is entirely volunteer. She works with Animal Nation, a nonprofit organization for wildlife in Pound Ridge (wildlife

must be kept separate from domestic animals) that also has a sanctuary in South Salem which takes in abused and neglected farm animals (animalnation.org).

In her role as Wildlife Rehabilitator, Megan receives phone calls constantly and heads out to save distressed mammals or birds. She dons waders if necessary to rescue waterfowl. She has an incredible store of knowledge about living creatures great and small, and delights in sharing it. She's available 24/7 for emergencies and is glad to speak publicly. Her mobile number is 914-424-9719.

* * *

GARDEN CLUB MEADOWLARK PARK NATIVE POLLINATOR GARDEN UPDATE

By Dassi Citron

It was a hot dry summer for the fledging Pollinator Garden in Meadowlark Park. Nonetheless, the Garden Club's Native Pollinator Garden Committee was busy at work weeding, enriching soil conditions, planting, and hoping that the deer would find different buffets more to their liking.



At long last, many of the late-summer native plants leaped in colors of purple, pink, and white; this miracle provided the inspiration to find new ground to blanket with more pollinator plants. With the approval of the Society's Meadowlark Park Master Plan Committee and the Landscaping Committee, eight of us rolled up our sleeves, and cleaned off rakes and shovels to clear and amend three new beds, readying them for those new seedlings.



Susan Israel, Dassi Citron, Catherine Viggiano, Joanne Meder, Wendy Podell, and Mary-Jo Gallo (still in the garden: Linda Burger and Bill Woolis)



When you visit Meadowlark Park, be sure to walk north up the hill on the central Heritage Trail toward the original Pollinator Garden. On your way, you will see several new beds: a rock garden on the left, a stone encircled area on the right designated mostly for butterflies (fingers crossed the Milkweed will attract Monarchs), and a “crescent-shaped” shady area at the intersection of two sections of the Heritage Trail near the original Pollinator Garden.

The warm Fall enabled us to continue planting into early November. Stay tuned for the continuing evolution of these gardens -- we are already dreaming of Spring plantings as we approach Winter.

* * *

FALL PICKLEBALL SPECIAL EVENTS

By Denise Elliott

Never a quiet moment with our Pickleball Players of Heritage Hills! This fall, we had several special events!



We started with a Potluck Social in the Heritage Room on September 24. Johnny Angel was the DJ, over 70 people brought food and desserts, and coffee was served. A good time was had by all!



We then celebrated our first anniversary of the pickleball courts on Oct 15 with a Food Drive at which players could play and donate food.

We gathered over 30 bags to donate to St. Luke's food pantry for our less fortunate neighbors-- for the love of the game and our town. Fran Boemio provided the Food Drive photos.



* * *

BOCCE GROUP END OF SEASON DINNER

Text and photos by Shirley Kesselman

Forty bocce players attended an end-of-season dinner at Mamma Rosa Ristorante on October 21. Arrangements were skillfully handled by Maria Giewat.

Toastmaster Reno DiCristofaro awarded prizes to the Leagues' top teams and to the winners of the final bocce tournament.

The “Most Improved Bocce Player” trophy went to Louise Barlanti.



A cake iced with an American flag and the words, “Congratulations to all Bocce Players” was served for dessert.

* * *

10-A MEN'S CLUB HOSTS SOMERS SCHOOLS SUPERINTENDENT

By Mike McBride

Dr. Raymond Blanch, Somers Schools Superintendent, talks at 10 A Men meetings a few times per year. At his May visit, he answered concerns about what is being taught to our children – a full hour of sometimes vigorous, definitely vibrant, but always respectful conversation.

Dr Branch was the guest speaker at our November 2 meeting, which 60 men and 10 women attended. At this meeting he had planned to talk about the Vision and Mission of the Somers schools, but discussion veered to the recent articles in the *Somers Record* regarding the recently appointed Diversity Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Coordinator, Susan Gonzowitz, and also her February 2022 released book *Teaching as Protest*.

The main topics were who hired Ms. Gonzowitz into the newly created position, why is she necessary, and what will be her actual duties? Dr Blanch gave some actual examples (without using names) of student interactions and experiences he has dealt with here in Somers and why he believed the DEI position was necessary. The issue of equality versus equity was discussed as were the values of merit. As always, there were differences of opinion; but there were open, uninterrupted conversations from many of the regular members and guests, and there was an overall atmosphere of respect.

Dr Blanch agreed to come back in a few weeks and continue this and other conversations.

NEWSLETTER PHOTOS – WHY SOME LOOK BETTER THAN OTHERS

By Annette Bensen, Graphics Editor

Just about everyone uses their smartphones instead of cameras to take photos nowadays. That's easy to understand...it's just sooooo convenient!

However, when it comes to printing photos in our Newsletter, a few simple steps should be taken to make the photos their best – make them “high resolution.” That is, images that look good on your phone screen, iPad, laptop, etc. will not look the same when printed if they're not high resolution.

The good news is, once you adjust a few settings on your phone, from then on you don't need to worry about that. The settings are permanent until you intentionally change them.

Here's what you should do:

TO ADJUST iOS CELL PHONE CAMERA RESOLUTION SETTINGS

Most camera features are available within the Camera app, but some are only accessible via Settings.

1. Open **Settings**.
2. Click on **Camera**.
3. Select **Formats**.
4. Select **Most Compatible**.

That results in higher quality photos (it saves them in JPEG format).

TO ADJUST ANDROID CELL PHONE RESOLUTION SETTINGS

Camera apps on Android phones vary by manufacturer. The options should be similar, but your phone may have different menu names and locations. So, if the following doesn't work, check the internet for additional information for your specific phone.

1. Open the **Camera** app, usually found on the home screen.
2. Tap the **gear** icon (usually at one of the corners of the camera screen). A list of settings will appear.
3. Find and select **Image properties** or **Image quality**. This may also be called **Picture size** or **Image resolution**. You'll know you're in the right place if you see options like “Standard,” “Low,” and/or “High.”
4. Select High.

That results in higher quality photos (it saves them in JPEG format).

So, if there's even the slightest possibility you'll be taking photos that might be submitted to the Newsletter, why not make those changes right now?

If you still need help, check out *WikiHow to do anything*.

WHY YOU SHOULDN'T EDIT PHOTOS

If photos have been edited in any way prior to submission to the Newsletter – including lightening, darkening, cropping, enhancing – the quality when printed will suffer. Rather, we have fancy programs that do those things in a better way. So, submit the original photo. If you like, you can also submit an edited version showing how you'd like it to look (cropped or whatever) and let us work our magic.

POWER OF PRAYER

By Jack O'Hanlon

It was Christmastime, 1947. I was four. We were living in a one-bedroom apartment in the East Bronx – my mom, my dad and my one-year-old sister, Rosemary.

Rosemary and I shared the bedroom. Mom and Dad had a Castro convertible in the living room. Dad had been discharged only two years from the United States Naval Hospital in Newport, Rhode Island. He had been wounded near Okinawa in April 1945.

Dad was working at Public School 102, a block away from our third-floor walk-up apartment. He was a cleaner and was studying for his Civil Service Examination to become a New York City School Custodian-Engineer, a position from which he would retire almost thirty years later from Herbert Lehman High School in the Bronx on Tremont Avenue, near Westchester Square.

Our Christmas tree, a real one, was in the corner of the living room. Rosemary's wooden play pen, handed down from her older brother, was disassembled and set up as a fence, squaring the corner in front of the tree to deter the inquisitive. We had a make-believe cardboard brick fireplace, with an ever-burning blaze and a mantle onto which stockings were hung with thumb tacks.

Early Christmas morning, I found that somehow Santa had found his way through our cardboard chimney and filled the fenced in area by the tree with goodies. To this day, all I remember is *the sled!* I reached in and pulled it over the makeshift fence onto the living room floor and sat on it. Look at me... *I have my own sled!*

Christmas day was clear and cold. We visited my grandparents, uncles, aunts, and cousins, where forgettable gifts were received and given. *I have a sled back at home!*

That night, after saying bedtime prayers with my mother, I silently prayed for snow. *I have my own sled!*

The blizzard of 1947 began the very next day and dumped over two feet of snow – 26.4 inches to be exact – on the metropolitan area, a new record surpassing the one established by the infamous blizzard of 1888.

As the days after Christmas progressed, Dad was working overtime behind a shovel, digging out Public School 102's sidewalks and yards. Thus began his unhappy relationship with snow and its required removal, repeated every winter at different schools thereafter until he retired in 1975.

I never told my dad that on Christmas Night 1947 I had prayed for snow. The Statute of Limitations has long expired, but the guilt remains. Maybe I was not the only little boy who got a new sled that Christmas and prayed for snow, but I know the blizzard was my fault, my answered prayer.

* * *

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2022 Heritage Hills Sales | TOTAL DOLLAR VOLUME SOLD



Source: OKMLS, 1/1/2022 – 10/31/2022, Condominiums, total volume sold by office, city/town Somers

THE BOOK SHELF

By Cindy Kennedy

Colson Whitehead, one of only four writers to win the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction twice, is a master storyteller. The acclaimed author's latest novel, *Harlem Shuffle*, is a page-turning blend of crime caper and family drama.

Harlem Shuffle begins in bustling 1959 Harlem, where Ray Carney owns a furniture store on 125th Street, catering to the African American community. A solid family man, Ray is married to Elizabeth, who had grown up in affluent Strivers' Row, one of the most beautiful stretches of Harlem.

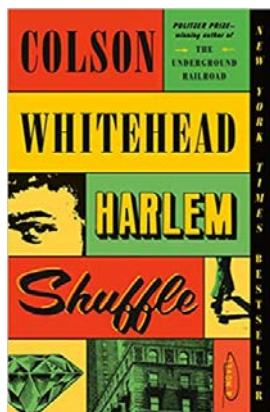
Ray, on the other hand, had a challenging childhood. His father, Big Mike, was a notorious hoodlum, and his mother had died when he was nine. For a time, Ray lived with his Aunt Millie and cousin Freddie. The cousins, born a month apart, "were mistaken for brothers, but distinguished by many features of personality. Like common sense. Ray had it. Freddie's common sense tended to fall out of a hole in his pocket—he never carried it long." Whenever Freddie involves Ray in a dubious scheme, he ends up apologizing, "I didn't mean to get you in trouble."

After Ray put himself through Queens College, he started working in a furniture store. When he serendipitously acquires \$30,000 in cash, Ray buys his own establishment. Carney's Furniture "was all his, his unlikely kingdom, scrabbled together by his wits and industry. His name out front on the sign so everyone knew."

Ray strives to run a legitimate business, but he can't seem to avoid shady individuals in his cousin Freddie's orbit. In one amusing scene, Pepper, Big Mike's former crime crony, finagles a dinner invitation to the Carney family's apartment. Pepper squeezes himself in between the kids at the table like an eccentric uncle. When Elizabeth asks Pepper what he does professionally, he replies, "Odd jobs." Ray muses: "Pepper was a relative, this crook, part of his father's clan. It was Wednesday night, family supper, both sides of him at the table, the straight and the crooked, breaking bread."

In an interview, Colson Whitehead noted that writing the character of Ray Carney was a relief. "After the darkness of *The Underground Railroad* and *The Nickel Boys*," he said, "the levity, Carney's humble charm, is fulfilling a psychological need for me. I could explore the world in a different way. I'm writing a second volume of Carney stories. We're following him in the 1970s. This is the first time I've had a character and a world that I'm not finished with."

(Note: *Harlem Shuffle* 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 9.)



HOW DOES YOUR GARDEN GROW?

Text by Karl Milde, photos by Cheryl Milde

ABOUT THOSE CUTE LITTLE ORNAMENTAL PEPPERS

When you walked into the Activities Center this fall did you notice those ornamental peppers? Their tiny yellow heads peeked out at you from among the mums and cabbages, adding bright variety to the plant display. This was the first year I'd seen the peppers as fall decorations, and they spoke to me: "Move over, hardy mums. There's a new guy here in the fall displays at Heritage Hills."

This pepper plant has many names: Ornamental Pepper, Floribella Pepper, Capsicum Joker, and the name I like most, Sedona Sun.



Actually, Sedona Sun (*Capsicum Annuum*) is the most common type of pepper. It is a vegetable and can be eaten. Like most peppers, it is HOT, so you may not want to bite into it directly, as it will burn your tongue. It's best added to your food to give it flavor. The Sedona Sun variety of pepper plant also produces bell peppers, jalapeños, and paprika.

There are several other common varieties of pepper, namely *Capsicum Frutescens* and *Capsicum Chinense*, but the type most often used in fall decorations is Sedona Sun. This plant is a perennial but its natural lifespan is short (one to three years) so it is normally treated as an annual and recycled to the compost heap at the end of the growing season.

The Sedona Sun plant comes in many colors – red, orange, yellow, and purple – as shown in this display in front of a Unit here in Heritage Hills, yet yellow seems to be the color of choice for most displays.

You can purchase young Sedona Sun plants in the spring at almost any nursery and grow them in your garden. If you do, choose a well-drained area so their roots won't be soaked



continuously in water. Once planted in a dry spot, water them regularly because they do need moisture to grow. Give them a good drink once a week, but let their roots dry out between waterings. If it rains, you can skip your watering for that week. I'm told it's best to fertilize your pepper plants every two or three weeks. This encourages them to produce lots of those cute little peppers, making them suitable for display in the fall.

Of course, you can let the professionals do this work, and buy mature pepper plants come September when you buy your mums and cabbages. And unlike the mums, you can display your peppers and eat them too, just like the cabbages!



Thought for Food

Submitted by Pat Headen

SHRIMP FRIED RICE, CANTONESE STYLE

INGREDIENTS

- 8 ounces. raw shrimp, peeled and deveined
- 2 scallions, chopped
- 2 eggs
- 7 tablespoons peanut oil or corn oil
- 3+1/2 cups cooked rice, cold
- 1+1/2 tablespoon dark soy sauce
- 1 cup fresh bean sprouts (rinsed in cold water and drained)
- Marinade: 1 tablespoon Chinese rice wine
- 3/4 teaspoon salt
- 2 teaspoons tapioca starch

PREPARATION

1. Defrost the shrimps, if frozen, rinse with cold water, and pat dry thoroughly with paper towel.
2. Mix the shrimp with marinade and set aside.
3. Beat the eggs with 3/4 teaspoon salt.
4. Heat 2 tablespoons of oil in a wok or sauté pan over high heat, stir in the marinated shrimp and stir-fry for about 1 minute until the shrimp change color. Remove and set aside.
5. Heat 2 tablespoons of oil in the wok, stir in the chopped scallions and then the eggs. Scramble and break into small pieces until quite dry. Remove and set aside.
6. Heat another 3 tablespoons of oil in the wok, add the rice, and stir until the rice is coated with oil and warm. Add the dark soy sauce and mix well.
7. Add the cooked shrimp, bean sprouts, and scrambled eggs, and stir constantly until the ingredients are well blended and thoroughly heated – about 2 to 3 minutes – and serve immediately.

A CHANGE OF SEASONS

By Adelaide B. Shaw

clothes shopping
hot colors
for cold days

frosty morning
the snap, crackle, crunch
of brittle leaves

steamed up window
warming my hands
over the soup pot

the bare woods
holiday lights blinking
at the neighbors



By Vanessa Anaya

* * *

HAIKU FOR DECEMBER

Photo and verse by Sue Shea



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* * *

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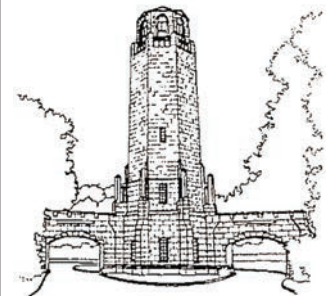


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Total units sold by OneKey/HGAR MLS agents from 1/1/2022 to 11/10/2022

	2022	2021	2020	2019
TOTAL SOLD	143 (\$276,000-\$876,000)	116 (\$275,000-\$750,000)	107 (\$227,500-\$829,000)	135 (\$245,000-\$835,000)

Various units sold by MLS agents from January 1 to November 10, 2022

1 BEDROOM

ADAMS	\$280,000; \$316,000; \$310,000; \$350,000	FRANKLIN	\$295,000; \$295,000; \$276,000; \$336,000; \$325,000	RADCLIFFE	\$386,500; \$435,000; \$525,000; \$480,000; \$495,000; \$550,000
AMHERST	\$451,000; \$430,000; \$440,000	GUILFORD	\$412,500; \$426,000; \$431,000; \$384,500;	SUFFOLK	\$359,000

2 BEDROOM

ARMONK	\$465,000; \$479,000; \$495,000; \$578,000; \$500,000; \$515,000; \$432,500; \$480,000; \$495,000; \$615,000; \$509,000; \$475,000; \$538,400; \$545,000; \$450,000; \$495,000; \$576,000; \$420,000; \$567,000; \$620,000	CORTLAND	\$475,000	RIDGEFIELD	\$579,000; \$507,000; \$510,000; \$459,000
BEDFORD	\$505,000	FAIRVIEW	\$520,000; \$635,000	SALEM	\$497,500; \$606,000; \$501,000; \$525,000; \$517,000; \$625,500; \$450,000; \$480,000; \$525,000; \$480,000; \$571,000
CANAAN	\$472,500; \$485,000; \$560,000; \$570,000	HAMILTON	\$470,000	SOMERS	\$450,000; \$559,000
COLGATE	\$525,000	HANOVER	\$600,000	STRATFORD	\$525,000; \$535,000; \$475,000; \$625,000; \$491,000; \$525,000; \$625,000
CONCORD	\$512,500; \$465,000; \$485,000; \$425,000; \$557,570	HARVARD	\$720,000; \$675,000	STRATFORD II	\$485,000; \$530,000; \$620,000; \$501,500
CORNELL	\$846,000	JACKSON	\$425,000; \$399,000; \$425,000; \$484,000; \$365,000	WELLSLEY	\$530,000; \$642,000 \$620,500
		KATONAH	\$576,000; \$430,000; \$485,000		
		LEXINGTON	\$560,000		
		LINCOLN	\$352,500; \$410,000		
		LITCHFIELD	\$393,025		
		MADISON	\$375,000		
		MONROE	\$459,000; \$455,000; \$399,000		
		PRINCETON	\$579,000; \$650,000		

3 BEDROOM

COLUMBIA	\$785,000; \$875,000	SHERMAN I	\$560,000; \$660,000; \$710,000; \$563,000; \$631,000; \$633,000; \$695,000; \$707,000; \$640,000; \$699,000	SHERMAN II	\$740,000; \$699,000; \$782,500; \$750,000; \$810,000; \$776,000
CROTON I	\$575,000			YORK	\$470,000; \$525,000; \$480,000
CROTON II	\$645,000; \$640,000; \$650,000; \$785,000				
JEFFERSON	\$450,000; \$520,000				
JEFFERSON II	\$655,000				

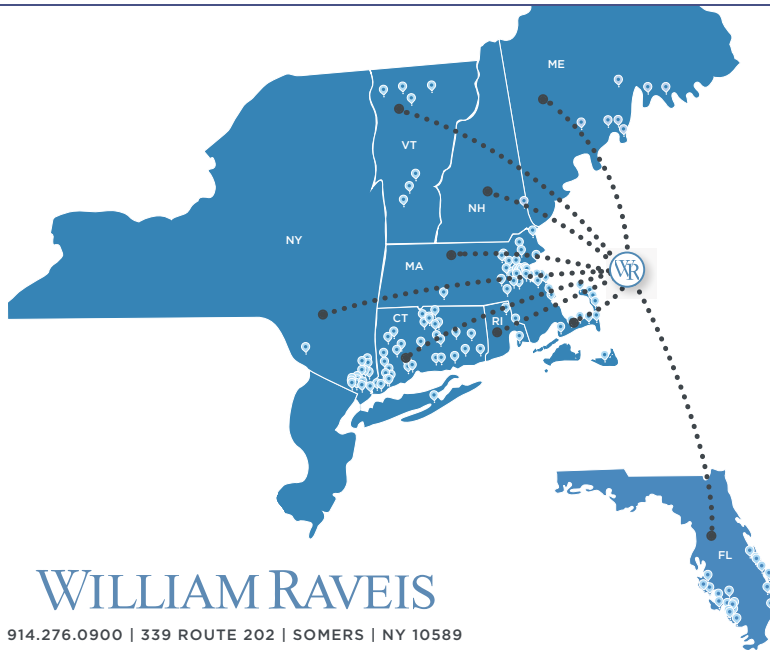
HAPPY HOLIDAYS

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Good thoughts and best wishes,

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