



Fireworks Spectacular

Scarsdale's annual Fireworks Spectacular, open to the public, will be held at the Scarsdale pool Thursday, June 30, at 9:15 p.m. with the Westchester Band playing at 7:30 p.m. A \$5 fee will be charged to all nonpool members entering the pool starting at 5 p.m. in conjunction with the scheduled fireworks. Beginning at 8 p.m. all individuals entering the pool complex will be charged \$5. Picnicking is allowed on the grounds, but alcoholic beverages and smoking are not permitted. Pool members wishing to avoid paying the \$5 fee are advised to enter the pool facility before 8 p.m.

Election information

In Scarsdale, the June primary election will consist of races for governor and lieutenant governor. June 27 is the last day to apply in person for an absentee ballot. June 28 is Election Day and is the last day to postmark a completed absentee ballot which must be received by July 5 or to submit a completed absentee ballot in person. Early voting for the June primary election will take place June 18-26 at any early voting location — visit <https://bit.ly/3Q62Em6> to see a list of all polling locations and hours. On Election Day, June 28, eligible voters may vote only at their assigned polling location, which may be found at <https://bit.ly/34cEd00>. Questions about voting may be directed to lvsvoterservice@gmail.com.

Back to School section

The Scarsdale Inquirer's annual Back to School special section for the 2022-23 school year is accepting education-related press releases from school and community groups through Friday, July 8. Press releases can be sent as Word attachments or pasted in the body of an email, and accompanying photos can be sent as high resolution jpg attachments, to section editor Todd Sliss at tsliss@scarsdaleneews.com. Questions can also be sent to that address. The section is slated to publish Friday, Aug. 19.

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Pediatric vaccine for age 6 months coming soon

By TODD SLISS

COVID-19 vaccines for kids aged 6 months to 4 years old are one step closer to becoming reality and could be available as early as Tuesday, June 21.

With separate votes for emergency use authorization by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Vaccines and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee Wednesday, June 15, of Moderna (ages 6 months to 5 years) and Pfizer-BioNTech (6 months to 4 years), it was determined unanimously that the benefits outweigh the risks. Moderna's pediatric vaccine for ages 6-17 was also recommended.

The next stop is FDA Commissioner Dr. Robert Califf, then a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) panel Friday and Saturday, June 17 and 18, and finally CDC Director Dr.

Rochelle Wallensky for ultimate approval.

The Biden administration announced late last week that it has already ordered 5 million of each pediatric vaccine for distribution within days of final authorization with an estimated 18 million kids in this soon-to-be newly eligible age group.

Babies under 6 months old would have received protection if their mothers were vaccinated during pregnancy, but would be the only age group not eligible to receive

a vaccine.

The two pediatric vaccines for the youngest age group are very different:

The 12 and up Pfizer vaccine is two doses of 30 micrograms each three weeks apart, with a booster after five months. Ages 5 to 11 get three doses of 10 micrograms each in the same time frame. Pfizer's vaccine for ages 6 months to 4 years old is three doses of 3 micrograms each and was found 80% effective.

Moderna's 18 and up vaccines are two doses of 100 micrograms four weeks apart and a 50 microgram booster after six months. Moderna for ages 6 months to 5 years is two doses of 25 micrograms, but could require a third dose of 10 micrograms down the road because it was found to be 37-51% effective at two doses.

Fatigue and fever are the most com-

monly reported symptoms of the new vaccines, with more side effects likely after the second dose. The Moderna trials were conducted on 5,000 kids in the age group, Pfizer 3,000.

Dr. Sallie Permar, pediatrician-in-chief and a pediatric infectious disease specialist at NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center, urges parents to get their children vaccinated against COVID-19, calling the pandemic "ongoing and very real for us."

Permar called it a virology "miracle really that we can be thankful for" that the youngest population was less impacted by serious illness and hospitalization at the start of the pandemic, but said the omicron variant started to shift that with a peak of 53 pediatric patients in her hospital system when omicron overtook delta late last year, with the pediatric delta peak being 17

pediatric patients at one time.

"I suspect that if we do not reach high levels of vaccination in our youngest group we will see more rises in those pediatric hospitalizations like we did with the beginning of the omicron surge," Permar said.

Clearly, she said, the respiratory disease didn't hit that group as hard, "they're not unaffected," especially those who either had other ailments prior to getting COVID or those who developed new conditions as a result of having COVID (pneumonia, strep throat and croup among them). Symptoms are still in line with those that have been noted over the past two years: gastrointestinal issues, fever, respiratory issues and dehydration. Permar said signs you need to seek urgent

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ILLUSTRATIONS COURTESY FHI STUDIO

PLACEMAKING AND MOBILITY

Firm suggests major changes to Scarsdale Village center

By TODD SLISS

FHI Studio revealed its first set of renderings for a reimagined village center as part of the Scarsdale Strategic Mobility and Placemaking Plan and they were ambitious to say the least.

New street closures, new traffic patterns, new flexible gathering spaces, new hybrid spaces, raised sidewalks with fancy surfaces, more plantings, more park benches, fewer parking spots, different options for the Dine the 'Dale tent and even a splash park for kids were among the initial presentation on June 14 to the village board and the public in a virtual meeting. These suggestions — not yet recommendations — were based on data collection from feedback from a walking tour, written and verbal comments, a drone car and foot traffic study, and past studies that focused on placemaking on Spencer Place and Boniface Circle and at Chase Park.

"All the visualizations are really draft planning level concepts used for discussion," FHI project manager Michael Ahillen said. "This is meant to get public feedback." He added, "We need to start somewhere. Design is an iterative process, at least good design is. We're not coming to you with recommendations. We're not even in the recommendations phase of the



study yet. These are meant to translate some of the ideas that we've heard from previous planning efforts or observed and to get some reactions from you. This is the first of several opportunities that you'll have to provide feedback."

The success of the Dine the 'Dale tent, which was born out of the COVID-19 pandemic in a partnership between the Scarsdale Business Alliance and the village government,

and the pre-pandemic Scarsdale Music Festival from 2019 were major starting points for FHI in its approach to making suggestions that led to more open and safe spaces for residents of all ages to enjoy.

Other focuses were sustainability, welcoming different modes of transportation, improving traffic flow, parking access to businesses,

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E'mont mom of Black kids wary of police at schools

By TODD SLISS

Though it was not part of the broadcast and recording due to technical difficulties, Amanda Fialk's perspective on increased police presence in schools in the wake of gun violence throughout the country at the June 7 Edgemont Board of Education meeting was worth listening to.

Fialk spoke in response to an email the district sent out following the mass shooting in Uvalde, Texas, expressing "appreciation" for local police and "assuring" community members that police would have an increased presence during the school day and at school events to "increase safety and security."

As a mother of Black children and a mental health clinician, Fialk wondered exactly who would feel safer and more secure under these circumstances. She said that "facts do not support this action."

"There is no conclusive evidence that police presence in schools helps to reduce behavioral incidents or mass shootings," Fialk said. "Research indicates that presence of law enforcement within schools can lead to increased rates of arrest for students for minor offenses and higher rates of exclusionary school discipline — especially for youth of color and students with disabilities."

Speaking as a mother, walking her son to school is Fialk's favorite part of the day, but seeing a police car on the way or on campus brings "intense anxiety, sadness, fear and pain" to her gut.

"I look at my son, who I love more than words can describe, and I wonder, 'When will the world stop seeing him as cute and start experiencing him as dangerous or a threat? When will be the first time that someone walks to the other side of the street or clutches their purse in fear when they are near my sweet little boy?'" she said. "I start to dread the conversations that I will need to start having with him very soon explaining to him how he must behave during an encounter with a police officer because his life depends on it."

She knows this well as her husband's heart rate increases and fear sets in when he "hears a siren or sees a police officer in our neighborhood."

"Imagine him feeling that way every day for both himself and his son when he drops his son at school and sees a police officer in the parking lot, the mental, emotional, physical and spiritual toll that takes," Fialk said.

While Edgemont has a diverse student population, the number of Black and Latinx students and employees is low.

"I hear the district saying DEI is important and that it wants to do better," Fialk said. "I believe you all. So please remember your words matter, your actions matter. An email that doesn't

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SCARSDALE SCHOOLS

New elementary school math program revealed

Balance literacy, AT vs. AP also discussed

By TODD SLISS

As part of a curriculum update that interim superintendent Dr. Drew Patrick called "exciting and interesting," the big reveal for Scarsdale's new elementary school math program that will roll out beginning next school year was... Reveal Math.

At the June 6 board of education meeting, Dr. Edgar McIntosh, assistant superintendent for curriculum, instruction and assessment, said the change from Primary Math was made because, "Research around best math instruction and materials has continued to evolve and the selection of Reveal Math enables us to further deepen our focus on

critical thinking and problem solving and learning forward at the elementary level."

A list of programs that were being tested throughout the district was announced last school year and Reveal Math was added after it came highly recommended by the National Council of Teachers of Math and an external consultant and because it is "closely aligned with our goals," McIntosh said.

The five programs were tested across "dozens of classrooms" this school year and "consensus" was "achieved" with "high marks with its engaging practice, strong digital components and alignment with the Next Generation standards in math."

"Reveal Math is highly rated, research-based, grounded in evidence-based best practices and combines the essential elements of concept-building, fluency development, application and

problem-solving," McIntosh said. "It allows students to see math as a dynamic set of problem-solving strategies instead of an application of memorized algorithmic or computational procedures."

"This shift creates more student-driven lessons that are guided by a carefully crafted line of questioning, allowing students to grapple with ideas while building strong conceptual understanding. These skills are essential for students to grapple with the complexities of nonstandard problems, design thinking and the advanced application of mathematical concepts."

McIntosh said that since both the old and new math programs are "aligned" with Next Generation standards, there will not be any "gaps in understanding and will be greatly supported." The rollout for 2022-23 will be for grades K-4. Grade 5 will have a new science

program next year, so Reveal will be fully implemented in 2023-24, though throughout the coming school year teachers may begin using "various Reveal tools and methods," McIntosh said.

Vivian Robert will be the district's math coach, a two-year assignment, and will oversee the transition, along with "on-site consultancy" from Reveal Math. There will be summer and fall training in collaboration with the Scarsdale Teachers Institute. In the fall, the district will hold information sessions for parents.

Board member Bob Klein, an architect who learned computations and drawing manually, said he is concerned about the overuse and reliance of computers and other electronic devices negatively impacting math education. He wants to make sure students understand what they're doing

and though he no longer has school-age children, he knows that many parents are already concerned about the amount of time kids spend on screens. McIntosh said the program uses "a thoughtful combination of both."

Reading approach explained

McIntosh also spoke about Scarsdale's "intentional research-backed and student-centered approach to reading," noting "conversations about this recently in the news" (<https://bit.ly/3MXJmwn>) and the "hope to provide some background on how our process has and does reflect highly effective practices and is responsive to new learning in the field without being reactive."

"Balanced literacy" is a hot term as McIntosh described it as meaning "various things to different organizations,"

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