

THE Rye City REVIEW

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Caring about the Earth

Andrew Kranichfeld reads his book "Karen's Garden" at a program for schoolchildren that focuses on gardening and the environment. Kranichfeld is an author and Rye native who happens to be blind. For story, see page 6. Photo/Craig Douglas

Midland School launches food waste reduction program

By SARAH VARNEY
Education Reporter

Midland Elementary School students have learned to scrape, plop and pour their lunchtime waste into the correct bins with such success that lunch now generates 200 pounds of trash a month instead of 3,000 pounds. Before the We Future Cycle Zero Waste program was implemented a month ago, trash from the school's daily lunch period filled six contractor-sized garbage bags each day.

Students separate their leftovers into liquids; commingled

trash that includes hard plastics; paper and food; and plain old trash like straws. The paper and food bin receives "everything the kids don't eat," Midland parent Emily Keenan said.

Keenan, who has three children at Midland, teamed up with fellow parents Callie Gibbs and Cassandra Souply to bring in the We Future Cycle program.

The key to the sorting "discards" successfully comes down to one principle: it's not trash until it all gets mixed together. When it's separated and sorted from the start, each type of discard can go on to bigger and

better things.

For example, food waste from Midland and other local schools participating in the waste reduction program is carted to Garrick Farm Field in New Milford, Connecticut. Only one company, Suburban Carting, hauls compost in Westchester County, and they charge about \$325 per month for the service. While that's an add-on cost for most school systems, the cost is generally mitigated by increased revenue from plastic recycling, according to We Future Cycle.

John Rubbo, the Rye City School District's food service

director, is optimistic that reduced hauling fees should save the district money in the future. "Especially once all of the schools [Milton and Osborn] are doing this, there should be a reduction," he said. "Fees to haul trash to a landfill or incinerator are higher with more trash."

The We Future Cycle program is a nonprofit organization based in Westchester County that is dedicated to reducing trash at schools. The 2-year-old company also runs textile recycling, on-site composting and a

WASTE continued on page 8

County to fund \$58M in Rye Playland projects

By JAMES PERO
Staff Writer

In an effort to address a significant number of crucial renovations at Rye Playland, an agreement between Republican Westchester County Executive Rob Astorino and the park's management company, Standard Amusements, was amended on Feb. 22 to include \$58 million in county-funded capital projects.

However, the amended contract still requires approval of the Westchester County Board of Legislators by a March 31 deadline, otherwise the agreement can be terminated by Standard.

The amended contract also allows for the extension of the co-management period between the county and Standard into the fall of this year. The amendment comes after an extension of the co-management period that occurred last October, which prolonged the period until March 31.

The projects included in the amended deal—which would see Standard Amusements increase its investment in the park by \$5 million to about \$30 million—would tackle 11 different capital projects, at a total cost of \$58 million, to provide renovations to various rides and structures, in addition to the rehabilitation of the park's shoreline, all of which would be paid for by the county.

According to the amended agreement, the two parties will outline a date for when the capital projects will be carried out by the county, a timeline that the agreements states must be finalized before by Aug. 31.

The original deal between

Standard Amusements and the county was finalized in June 2015 after lengthy deliberations between the county and multiple management companies.

Under the terms of the amended agreement, after a lump sum of \$2.75 million, the county will receive a \$300,000 annual fee from Standard Amusements, which would increase by 2 percent every year, putting the county's total amount of money received from the deal at about \$13 million over the next 30 years. Yet, the county will now spend millions of dollars on capital infrastructure upgrades that were not part of the initial agreement.

According to Westchester County Legislator Catherine Parker, a Rye Democrat, this disparity of investment would put taxpayers on the line.

"The entire idea was that in having the partnership it would reduce the burden to the taxpayer," she said. "With the number as it stands, I don't know that we [can] get to that place."

Parker said a more reasonable amount of money for the county to receive annually from the agreement would be about \$1 million per year with a 2 percent increase; a figure that would bring the county to about \$41 million during the lifetime of the agreement.

Parker also said she doesn't currently have a plan to fight the amended agreement, but will continue to review the terms until the March 31 deadline.

"The entire Board of Legislators needs to take a look at what the changes are," she said.

PLAYLAND continued on page 10



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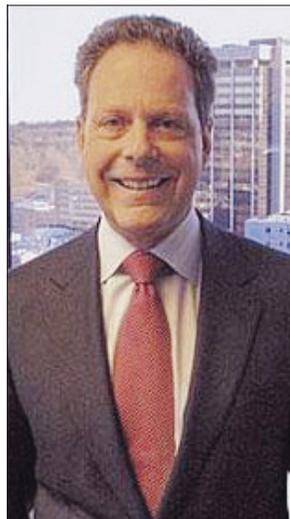
3-way race for county district attorney job



Bruce Bendish



Mitch Benson



George Fufidio

By ANGELA JORDAN
Staff Writer

With former Westchester County District Attorney Janet DiFiore now a state judge, and her replacement choosing not to seek election this November, three candidates have entered the race to take over the spot as the county's top prosecutor.

The latest entry is Bruce Bendish, a White Plains Republican, who announced his candidacy for Westchester DA on Feb. 18 at a press conference at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in White Plains.

Bendish, 69, served as an assistant district attorney in Westchester County for 14 years be-

fore he opened a private practice for criminal defense with fellow attorney Peter Goodrich.

"I am not a career politician," Bendish said when announcing his candidacy. "I've never run for office, and have no desire to hold any other position than the office of district attorney."

Bendish will receive a primary challenge from Mitch Benson, a New Rochelle Republican, who launched his campaign website and announced his candidacy a day earlier on Feb. 17.

Before entering the race, Benson, 56, was a prosecutor in Nassau County for 10 years, and served as a prosecutor in Brooklyn for 20 years prior to that.

"I have been involved in hiring

and training hundreds of ADAs, and I have been a frontline prosecutor," Benson said.

Also, on the Democratic side, George Fufidio, of Eastchester, announced his candidacy last month. Fufidio, 58, has been a criminal defense lawyer since 1988, but served as a prosecutor in the Westchester County DA's office prior to that. He described his time as a Westchester prosecutor as the best experience he's had, and said he has a deep-rooted respect for the DA's office.

All three candidates cited the heroin epidemic throughout the county as a priority, but each attorney elaborated on different methods for tackling the issue.

Bendish put an emphasis on youth outreach, and said he would specifically like to send ADAs to middle and high schools throughout Westchester more often to discuss the serious nature of the issue and warn teenagers about the dangers of drug abuse.

"Part of it is an educational factor, because the district attorney is not confined to the four walls of a courtroom," Bendish said.

Fufidio discussed the importance of rehabilitation in tackling the drug issue, and promoted the use of treatment courts during sentencing. "Too many people are in the system for addiction and mental illness," he said. "More people need to be eligible for treatment courts. My experience with treatment courts is that they are effective."

When asked about treatment

AT A GLANCE

Two Republicans, Bruce Bendish and Mitch Benson, and one Democrat, George Fufidio, are running for Westchester County DA

All three candidates have more than 30 years of experience practicing law

Benson is a career prosecutor, while Bendish and Fufidio are both currently criminal defense attorneys

All three candidates see the growing heroin epidemic as a top priority

Other issues raised: gang violence, illegal handguns, cybercrimes and underutilized treatment courts

Former Westchester DA Janet DiFiore left her position to be chief judge for the state Court of Appeals, and was replaced by acting District Attorney James McCarty, who does not plan to run for election



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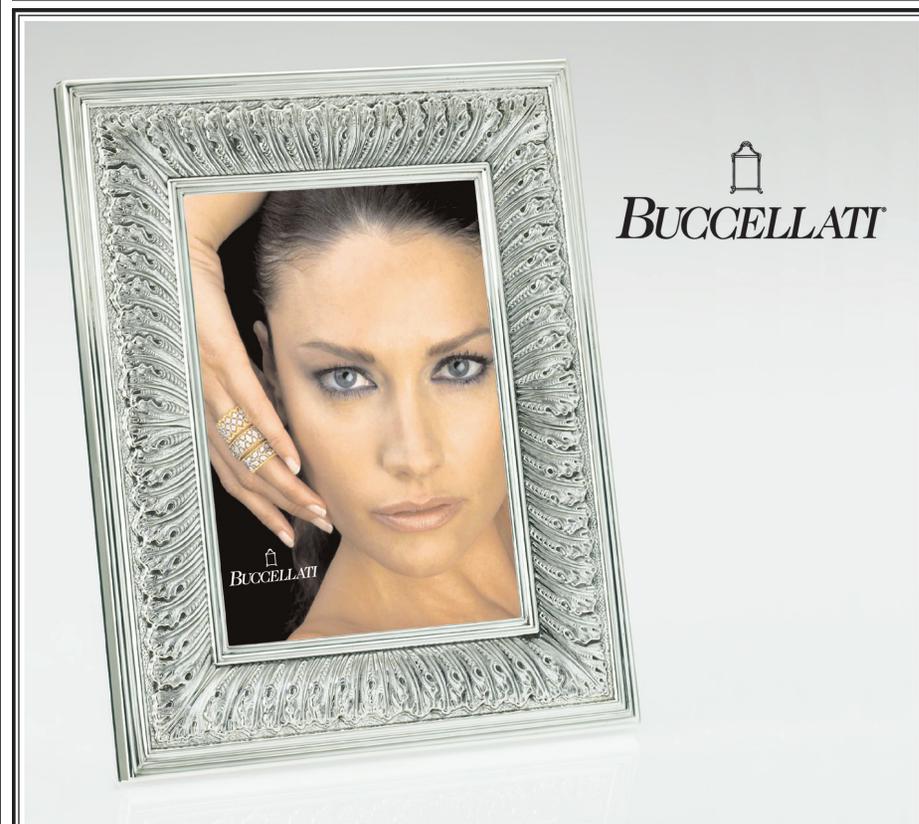
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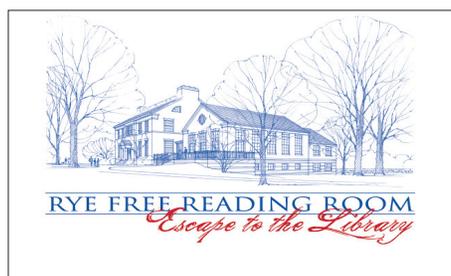


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WHAT'S GOING ON...

Rye Free Reading Room events



Visit ryelibrary.org for more information on these and other events and programs.

Teacher-in-the-Library

On Mondays through Thursdays from 3:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. in the Children's Room. Got homework? Drop by the library. Rye teachers offer afterschool homework help to students attending local public and private elementary schools in the Rye area. This is a free program sponsored by the Auxiliary Board of the Rye Free Reading Room, The Woman's Club of Rye/Children's Philanthropy Section and the PTO of Rye Schools.

Photography exhibit

Photographer David F. Donnelly turns his lens on the local environment to capture the beauty of Rye. Starting March 4 through March 30. A reception will be held on Saturday, March 12 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Gizmos Science Fun Club

On Friday, March 4 from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. in the Children's Room. For grades K-2. Space is limited. Online pre-registration is required and begins Friday, Feb. 26. Science Fun Club offers children a chance to engage in hands-on, inquiry-based experiments. In this one-hour club, participants will focus on a different S.T.E.M. activity each month with handouts to follow up at home. Through this program, children will begin to see that science, technology, engineering and math can be fun.

Rye Library Writers

On Saturday, March 5 from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the Ogden Nash Room. Share work, brainstorm, encourage fellow writers and be encouraged in a welcoming and supportive environment. This writers' group meets once a month to discuss their works in progress, writing topics, the writing process and their individual writing joys and challenges. Open to the public on an ongoing basis to both novice and experienced writers.

Rye Meeting House

California Dreamin' concert

The California Dreamin' concert that was supposed to take place on Saturday, Jan. 23 was rescheduled for Saturday, Feb. 27, with one performance at 6 p.m. and another at 8 p.m. at the Meeting House, located at 624 Milton Road in Rye.

Musician Gary Adamson will give two performances of his new show, accompanied by percussionist Fred Wolcott. Come warm up with songs by The Beach Boys, The Mamas and The Papas, Buffalo Springfield, the Byrds, Crosby, Stills and Nash, Joni Mitchell, Jackson Browne and The Eagles. The event is free and open to the public with a suggested donation of \$10 per person at the door. No advance reservation is required. For more information, contact birdhomestead.meetinghouse@gmail.com or call 967-0099.

Rye Arts Center

'Winter White: The Absence of Color' exhibition

This new exhibition by artist Katharine Dufault will be on view in the gallery through March 5. The exhibition will present the work of more than a dozen contemporary artists whose use of white defines and unifies their work. By complementing January's winter white, the work on display will set forth a binary relationship between interior and exterior, artificial and organic, manmade and natural. The artists work in different media, including paint, print, photography, glass, encaustic, fiber and mixed media. The exhibition is free and open to the public. For more information, visit ryeartscenter.org or call 967-4495.

Women's Day panel discussion

In celebration of International Women's Day on Tuesday, March 8, attend a community event at 7 p.m. held at The Rye Arts Center, located at 51 Milton Road in Rye. A panel discussion, called "Women in Emerging Digital Media Leadership," will feature Tina Exarhos, former CMO of MTV; Fran Hauser, former president of Time Inc. and digital and venture capitalist; Tiffany Pham, founder and CEO of Mogul; Shenan Reed, president of MEC Digital; and Johanna Zeilstra, entrepreneur and founder of Womensdebate.org. The discussion will be moderated by Suzanna Keith, social media executive. The Q&A will be run by Kim Berns and Deborah Sanguineti of Rye TV show, "What's My Brand?" For more information and to register for this free event, email skconcepts@hotmail.com or call 925-0753.

Rotary Club of Rye

Crazy Legs

Join the Rye Rotary for an event on Wednesday, March 2 at 6:30 p.m. at the Rye Grill and Bar located at 1 Station Plaza in Rye. Participants will judge which gentlemen contestants will be the winner of the Crazy Legs competition. Proceeds from this event will benefit Rye's community grants and need-based scholarships. For more information and to make reservations for the event, call 967-1679 or email ryerotaryevents@gmail.com.

Wainwright House

Winter Jazz Brunch Series

Let the jazz ring through the air at musical brunches on special Sundays at Wainwright House, located at 260 Stuyvesant Ave. in Rye. The musical brunches will be held on Sundays, Feb. 28 and April 3 and will feature popular local jazz trios, a delicious brunch buffet, champagne and the

chance to meet new people. It is a perfect opportunity for family, friends, clubs and alumni groups to get together and share a good time. The series features the Joe Corsello Trio on Feb. 28. Tickets are \$35 for members and \$45 for non-members. Walk-ins are welcome. For reservations, call 967-6080 or visit wainwright.org.

Rye Recreation

Rye youth soccer spring 2016 registration

Online registration is open at ryeyouthsoccer.org for spring intramural soccer for boys and girls in grades K-5. The season will begin Saturday, April 30 and end Saturday, June 18. Complete details on dates and times of the program can be found on the website. If you have any questions, contact Patti Adimari, registrar, at pattirys@optonline.net or 967-5273. Scholarships are available upon request. Please note that coaches should also register to coach in their online account.

Summer camp registration

Rye Recreation summer camp registration for residents will open soon. Registration for Kiddy Camp is ongoing; registration for Lower Camp and Upper Camp will open on Thursday, March 3 at 10 a.m. and registration for Camp 78 will open on Tuesday, March 15 at 10 a.m. There will be a lottery for Lower Camp swim lessons which will close on Sunday, March 6 at 11:30 p.m. Anyone registering for swim after that date will be placed on a waiting list. All required paperwork must be received in the Recreation Office by that date in order to be considered complete. Parents requesting financial assistance or a special payment plan must register in person. Registration for non-residents opens on May 5 at 10 a.m. For more information, call 967-2535 or email registration@ryeny.gov.

Park activities in Rye

Read Wildlife Sanctuary

On Saturday, March 5, the Read Wildlife Sanctuary, located at Playland Park in Rye, will hold a nature photography skills class from 10 a.m. to noon. Bring your camera and learn how to take better nature photos. Call 967-8720 for more information.

Marshlands Conservancy

On Saturday, March 5, the Marshlands Conservancy, located on Route 1 (Boston Post Road) in Rye, will hold a volunteer work project from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Bring work gloves and help inspect the forest regeneration area and Crabapple Island. Work tools will be provided.

On Sunday, March 6, the conservancy will continue its Winter Adventure Series with flint knapping from 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Make a projective point to take home with you. Children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult.

Call 835-4466 for more information on both activities.

Deadline for our What's Going On section is every Thursday at noon. Though space is not guaranteed, we will do our best to accommodate your listing. Please send all items to news@hometwn.com.

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SUNY Purchase takes anti-racism initiatives

By ANGELA JORDAN
Staff Writer

Several changes have been made at Purchase College this academic year in response to student demonstrations last year that coincided with the national Black Lives Matter movement.

Last fall, the college reintroduced its previously defunct Global Black Studies minor, and on Jan. 22, Purchase officially opened the new Multicultural Center located on the ground floor of the Fort Awesome dormitory.

The center will serve as a place for student organizations and other members of the college to host events such as film screenings, lectures and forums relating to racial diversity and culture.

One of the attendees who spoke at the opening of the center was Joel Aure, the college's chief diversity officer.

"The Multicultural Center is great step for Purchase College," Aure said. "I think it will be a very inclusive environment, but it will also be a place for stu-

dents to have difficult but necessary conversations about diversity and inclusion."

The primary force behind the opening of the center is Geovanna Borden, the college's new coordinator of diversity programming and initiatives and an alumna who graduated from the school last May. Borden, one of the leading voices during the demonstrations and forums last year, had the position created specifically for her by the college after she graduated.

During those forums and discussions last year, students of color were given the opportunity to speak about the racial climate on the campus, and cited dozens of individual disturbing incidents, ranging from slurs to discrimination in the classroom. The most notable examples

were two separate instances of graffiti in the underclassmen dorms on the campus, one of a swastika and the other of nooses, which caused uproar among the student body and attracted some media attention. Raymond Turchio, a former Purchase student, was arrested in

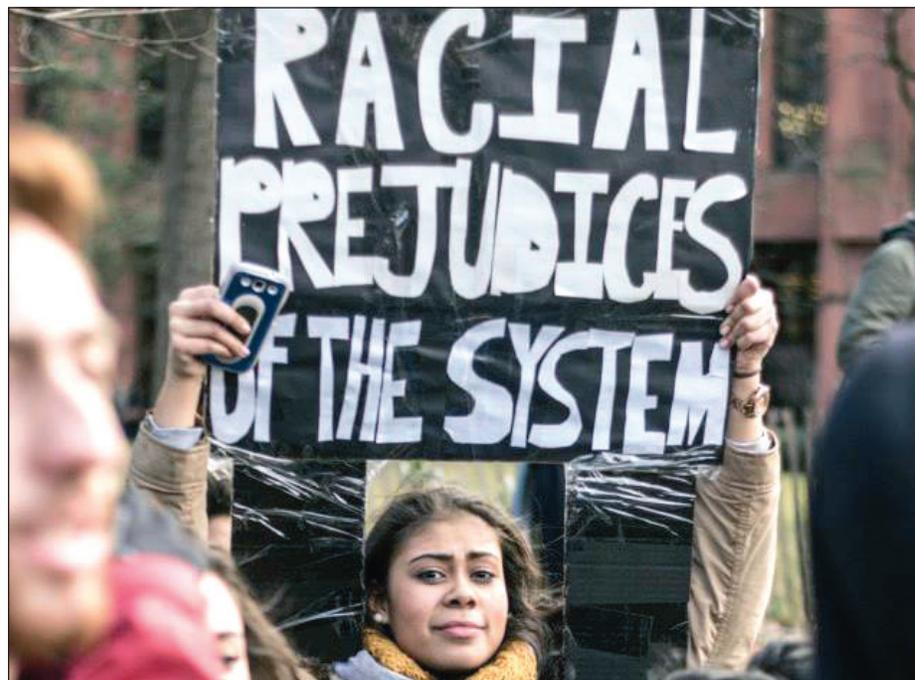
connection to the swastika last March, but no arrest was ever made in connection with the noose drawings.

Purchase alumna Toni Marriott, one of the student activists who called upon the school to make changes last year, described the administration's response as "liberating."

"I'm happy and I feel very privileged and blessed to have been a part of that revolution at Purchase that started it all," Marriott said. "It makes me feel empowered to know that kids at Purchase could now get what I longed for while I was there. It makes me feel better to know that Purchase is actually starting to take racism on campus seriously and trying to better the community there."

In addition to the opening of the center, Marriott also emphasized the importance of the reinstatement of the Global Black Studies minor to Purchase's academic community.

"It's only right that at these higher institutions, that we're paying mounds of money for, that I can be educated in the his-



Purchase student Alia Tejada protests at the Millions March in Manhattan last year. Photo/Kelsey Sucena

tory and stories of my people [as opposed to Eurocentric history]," Marriott said.

According to the college's provost, Barry Pearson, the Multicultural Center and reintroduction of the Global Black Studies program are "two prongs of the same effort," and that the ultimate goal that was set forth by

Purchase's administration for this year was to create permanent, institutional changes in response to concerns about racism and diversity on campus.

"This is about remaining vigilant," Pearson said. "We never want to slide back into complacency on these issues.

A representative for state

Sen. George Latimer, a Rye Democrat, presented a Senate certificate of merit at the opening of the center in recognition of the school's efforts to create the space.

Borden could not be reached for comment as of press time.

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BLIND AUTHOR GUIDES KIDS IN CARING FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

By SIBYLLA CHIPAZIWA
Editorial Assistant

When Andrew Kranichfeld started holding programs for schoolchildren based on his first book, "Karen's Garden," he would first show them fresh produce. Then he'd pull out a bag of Doritos and tell them to look at the nutrition facts.

"On the back, it would have many ingredients. You don't even know what half the stuff is," he chuckled. "I could usually sound them out when I could see, but it wasn't easy."

See, Kranichfeld is blind, but he doesn't let that get in the way of doing what he loves, like running, cooking, going out to eat, enjoying live music and writing. At age 32, he is a children's book author with a focus on the environment and gardening.

His latest book, "Oliver Saves the Nature Center," came out in December 2015 and has themes of Earth science, ecology, community and environmentalism—all topics he feels children should be more aware of during what he feels is an important time in human history. The book stars a character based on Kranichfeld's older brother, Oliver, who worked at the Rye Nature Center as an environmental educator for five years. Kranichfeld himself used to volunteer there as a summer



Andrew Kranichfeld reads his book, "Karen's Garden," to students at the Rye Country Day School. Kranichfeld is blind. Photo courtesy Andrew Kranichfeld

camp counselor while at Rye High School.

A month or two after turning 26, Kranichfeld learned that he had a brain tumor, which was misdiagnosed twice. His first medical opinion resulted in chemotherapy that made the tumor grow a little bigger. His vision went from being a little blurry, "like wearing glasses with Vaseline on them," to getting much worse.

When his doctors realized their first mistake, Kranichfeld was then given steroids intravenously, and he lost his sight and gained a lot of weight soon after.

"After I went blind, and getting the brain tumor, I was looking for an outlet for not just creativity, but a way to [produce] something that people would enjoy and learn

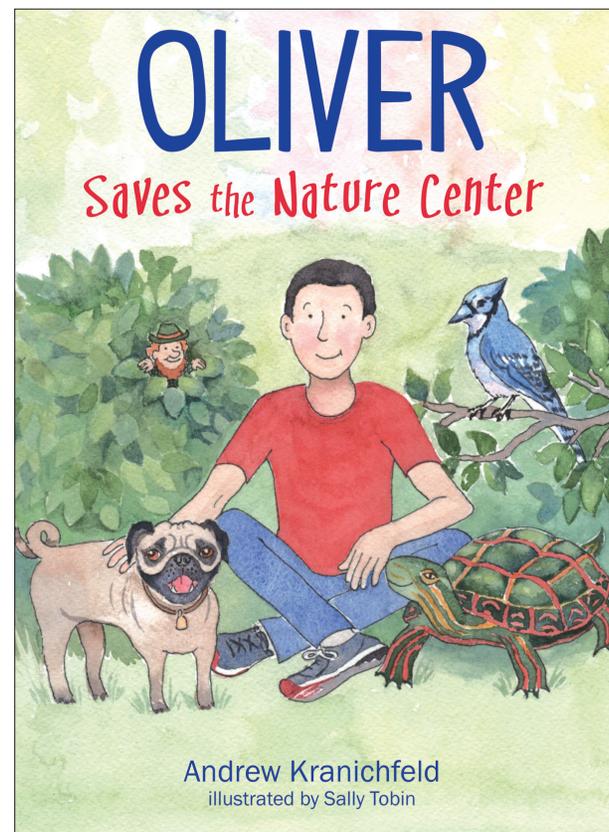
from, and writing a book seemed like the right way," he said.

When he holds programs for children, Kranichfeld tells them to be mindful of what they're putting into their bodies and that being in touch with nature—by gardening, for example—is important. "When you grow the plants yourself, you know they're fresh; they're nutritious," Kranichfeld said. "If you buy them at the store, they might be covered in pesticides, they might have wax on them, they might be old—you don't really know."

He stresses the importance of growing food locally, and tells the children he talks to that gardening is a great way to get some exercise and fresh air. "You're outside, digging in the earth, connecting with Mother Nature. Everyone these days—young and old people—is always on their cellphones, computers or iPads, so it's a very important message for little kids that you shouldn't be on these gadgets all day," he said.

He ends his visits by showing children the adaptive technology he uses every day, including Facebook, Google, texting and using various iPhone apps. He shows students apps that can tell him money denominations and help him get dressed by identifying the colors of the clothing he picks out. "Getting to spend time with a disabled person, students learn that they're just a normal person. I'm just different in that I can't see," he said.

Kranichfeld grew up in Rye, in a household that he called "a unique place," located in a large



"Oliver Saves the Nature Center" is Andrew Kranichfeld's latest book. The main character is based off of his older brother who used to work at the Rye Nature Center.

field, surrounded by hedges on 4 acres of land near a brook in the backyard. The property also had three greenhouses, only one of which was used for growing food.

There was an outdoor garden, too, where his mother had friends and some coworkers use part of, like a coop. "People would have their own sections where they'd grow their own fruits and vegetables and they'd share them with each other," he said.

His mother, Karen, passed away in March 2010 after battling leukemia—just days before Kranichfeld learned of his brain tumor. "I really loved my mom; we were very close," he said, adding that "Karen's Garden" is a tribute to her. The book is also important to him because his mother was only 59 when she died.

"This was a way that I could not only tell her story, but maybe get some really young kids into gardening—in a way, passing on her legacy of gardening to other people," he said.

His family also travelled to some interesting places when he was younger, like camping at a game reserve in Botswana and visiting the J.N. Ding Darling wildlife refuge on Sanibel Island, Florida. He credits his childhood experiences, especially visiting these places he saw as "untouched nature," as one reason

why he cares for the environment. He also played hockey at Rye High School for three years. He dabbled in other sports, like soccer and softball, but hockey is the one that stuck.

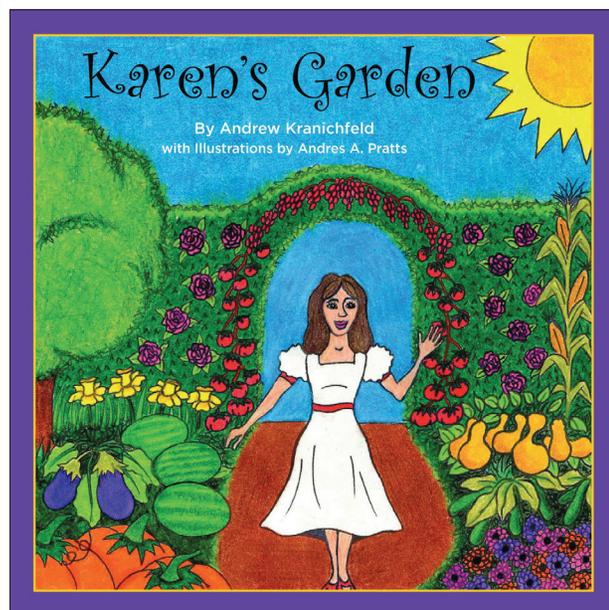
Although he lives in the Bronx, Kranichfeld still has many fond memories of Rye. "As a community, Rye has really stood behind me," he said. He mentions an event called the Chowder Cup, a fundraiser on ice, when he was given the nickname "Chowder" after skating for the first time in five years since losing his sight.

With his latest book, Kranichfeld tried to think of a subject that would be relevant to current events and would engage both children and their parents, since they buy the books.

His audience—at least for now—is children because of the books he read when he was young, like Dr. Seuss. He said that although the books were fun, their messages left a huge impression on him.

"We are sort of at a turning point in history where we really need to start doing something about climate change. That's what I try to put into my books," Kranichfeld said. "If everyone starts to make little changes in their lives, it does make a difference."

CONTACT: sibylla@hometwn.com



"Karen's Garden," published in September 2012, is Andrew Kranichfeld's first book. It is dedicated to his mother, who passed away two years prior to its release.

Commission hopes to redevelop Rye Town Park



Rye Town Park is 62 acres of parkland in the city of Rye that is being solicited by park officials for redevelopment. Photo/Andrew Dapolite

By ANGELA JORDAN
Staff Writer

Officials overseeing Rye Town Park are looking for someone to modernize the park for the foreseeable future.

The Rye Town Park Commission is awaiting responses to a Request for Qualifications for management and operation of the park that was sent out in January. The commission is seeking conceptual ideas and plans for the development of the park over the next two decades. The RFQ calls for respondents with a history of successfully managing and maintaining public parks, restaurants and snack bars, or public beaches.

The park, which sits on Forest Avenue in the city of Rye, is currently managed by the town of Rye.

Along the same lines, a Request for Proposals was put forth by the commission in the summer of 2013, but there were no satisfactory applicants.

According to Rye Town Supervisor Gary Zuckerman, a Democrat, no formal proposals have been submitted to the town yet. However, he added that they are hopeful that applications will

be filed before the March 18 deadline.

"In January, we sent out the current RFQ, hoping for a better response," Zuckerman said. "The license for Seaside Johnnies [restaurant] is expiring, which makes the RFQ more attractive."

The current licenses for the restaurant and concession stands at the park and adjoining Oakland Beach will expire at the end of 2016. However, Zuckerman said that the current license holders for Seaside Johnnies, the seasonal restaurant within Rye Town Park that overlooks the beach, have expressed interest in renewing their license, and attended a site tour with other prospective developers on Feb. 4.

Several issues are outlined in the RFQ that the commission asks applicants to consider, including ways to improve parking on the site, promote year-round use, and update the buildings while maintaining their "historical, architectural, and social significance."

"My vision is for a park that is accessible to all residents, and that is a joy to walk in, a joy to visit, and that makes the residents and taxpayers proud," Zuckerman said.

The 62-acre park was established in 1909 and includes 34 acres of parkland and 28 acres of beach land on the Long Island Sound, with a large duck pond, a marsh plantings building complex that includes a restaurant, pavilions, concessions stands, public restroom and shower facilities, and an administration building.

Rye City Mayor Joe Sack, a Republican who sits on the park's governing commission, added that the park should be a fun place for residents while also being economically sustainable.

Zuckerman said he hopes a proposal will come forward that the commission can approve, but if that is not the case, then they "are no worse off than we are now."

The Rye Town Park Commission consists of one member from the town of Rye, two from the city of Rye, and one each from the villages of Port Chester and Rye Brook and the Rye Neck section of the village of Mamaroneck.

John Ambrose, the owner of Seaside Johnnies, could not be reached for comment as of press time.

CONTACT: angela@hometwn.com

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An open letter to Jeb Bush

**A RYE
OLDTIMER**
Judge John Carey



Think again, Jeb. Remember that you are heir to a tradition of fearless public service. That is not an entitlement, but may, if you choose, impose a personal obligation.

You were brilliant in the debate on Feb. 18, outclassing both a sitting governor and a political newcomer with both your intellect and your decency.

You haven't said you were quitting; just that you were suspending your campaign. So cancel the suspension and reactivate you quest for the GOP nomination.

You have what not all your rivals can claim: years of experience as the chief executive of a

large government entity, a heavily populated state.

Ask Dr. Ben Carson if he would choose to be operated on by someone with no medical training or experience, and thank him for his calm and gentlemanly demeanor, undeterred by the behavior of others.

I am glad you refer to your father as the greatest man alive. I have met him on two occasions, once at the White House when my college class was having a reunion in Washington. Some of my classmates had known him in high school at Andover. One of these classmates told me that the day after Pearl Harbor, he and your father tried to enlist, but were told to finish school first. The day after graduation your father turned 18, joined the Navy and signed up to fly off of and land on carriers.

Your father was born one day after me, but I did nothing daring after turning 18; simply joining a Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps unit. My ineffectual efforts to sink enemy submarines cannot compare with your father's exploits in the air, or in the sea when his plane was shot down.

I have read with very great interest the splendid new biography of your father. My only disappointment with the book is its title, "Destiny and Power." None of your father's outstanding achievements were destined to be. Each one was earned by careful planning with courage, determination and willingness to take chances. I say all this as a lifelong Democrat with a personal election batting average of 500.

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RACE from page 3

courts, Benson said it is important to "strike a balance." He said there are treatment programs that are appropriate in some cases, but that "the focus is on creative techniques to pursue major distributors."

Benson also identified the heroin epidemic as a problem throughout all of New York, and said that statewide initiatives must be taken as well to tackle the issue.

In addition to addressing problems such as heroin, illegal handguns and cybercrimes, Bendish also said that he wants to establish a veteran's treatment court in Westchester.

"They deserve a court that understands their problems, and a court that is connected to other veterans' administrations services," he said.

Benson cited gang violence as another major issue in West-

chester that he would address as DA. He said that prosecuting gang violence can become difficult when witnesses are coerced into silence.

"We need to facilitate a culture in which witnesses are encouraged to come forward," Benson said. "You have to be aggressive and committed in tough prosecution against violent criminals, that way people don't see dangerous felons back on the street."

Fufidio, who is currently a member of the New York State Permanent Commission on Sentencing, said he is passionate about increasing the age that a person can be tried as an adult from 16 to 18 years old. He said that minors are all too often treated as criminals before the court considers treatment or additional supervision for youthful offenders.

All three candidates had positive things to say about Di-

Fiore, and expressed desires to continue building on her legacy.

DiFiore, a Democrat, appointed the chief judge of the state Court of Appeals last month. In her place is acting District Attorney James McCarty, who has no plans to run in November's special election. DiFiore's DA term doesn't expire until the end of 2017.

Primary elections for Westchester take place on Sept. 13, and the general election is Nov. 8.

The Westchester DA is elected to serve a four-year term.

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WASTE from page 1



A cafeteria aide helps Carter Ryan, 6, scrape off his leftover food into the correct discard bin in the Midland School cafeteria. Photos courtesy Emily Keenan

waste-free classroom program.

It was founded by Anna Giordano, a grassroots volunteer who pioneered the concepts in the New Rochelle school district, and Ashley Welde, a former executive with more than a decade of media relations experience.

Giordano was motivated to start the organization by the amount of trash at the William B. Ward Elementary School in New Rochelle. She had great support at the school level, but kept bumping up against facilities' staff for the district. Ironically, her tenacity in determining their reluctance uncovered a

conflict-of-interest situation that kindled a house-cleaning.

On her own, Giordano started up cafeteria waste reduction programs in New Rochelle, Ossining, Tuckahoe and Eastchester. She met up with Welde through a chance email. "We complement each other beautifully," Giordano said.

Welde said that waste of any sort has always been a concern, but it was her mother's experience working part-time as a lunchtime aide at the local elementary school that first clued her in to the issue.

Sorting efforts that decrease

trash are simplified by in-district food preparation. It's harder to effect change when a large company delivers pre-made lunches to schools. Packaging is a big issue, Welde said.

Rubbo is wrestling with a packaging problem at Midland right now. "Packets of ketchup are an issue," he said. "It's hard to get kids to put the packets in the right place, so we're looking at ways so they still have their ketchup but in a different way. We don't want to take ketchup away from the kids."

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The Midland cafeteria is set up for the We Future Cycle waste reduction program with four bins in two lines. In order to make the system work, the school had to install a sink for liquid waste, mostly leftover juice and milk.

RYE CITY

OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER

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Rye's history and its senior citizens

**SENIOR
INFORMATION
SUBJECTS**
Joseph Murphy



As our committee prepares for the Senior Summit on April 17 at the Rye library, I want to share some brief stories about our local history and its significance to our senior population.

First, I want to remind our readers that too often, we think of senior issues in an alarming, maudlin landscape. Why? Here's the thoughtful response I received from a woman in her 90s when I asked what it meant to her to get old. Her experience may be familiar.

"I have lived beyond my 91st birthday and I still question—Why? As I write this, I look over at my husband of 64 years who is sleeping in his wheelchair and I ask—Why? He can no longer walk, speaks haltingly, and needs help 24/7—Why? This is a good hardworking person who loves his family. He helped to raise two children who became successful in their own right. So now when he could reap the joys of his accomplishments, he can't—Why? Life seems so unfair!"

She reminded me that memories need not all be alarming or depressing. I recalled when my wife and I first moved to Rye.

It was the year before the citizens adopted a referendum to purchase the private golf course on Post Road and convert it to public ownership. It was such a blessing for the many families who were unable to join one of the private clubs.

The referendum that allowed our city to create the Rye Golf Club was one of many steps citizens have taken to improve our community. Many of today's Rye seniors were yesterday's leaders who tackled issues to help enhance our quality of life. Their actions were a rallying cry for me and many other newcomers to embellish and beautify the city.

I have always been impressed with the willingness of our citizens to support referendums to improve the school system with timely courses and modern infrastructure, and enhance recreational opportunities for people of all ages. In the 1980s, the citizens supported a successful Naval Junior ROTC program at the high school. Participants maintained high standards, won admission to military academies and ROTC scholarships to other prestigious colleges. More recently, the community passed a referendum to build a new science building at the high school.

In the last decade, public support of a recreation referendum

gave us new ball fields at Disbrow Park and the former Nursery site, as well as much-needed meeting space at Rye Rec.

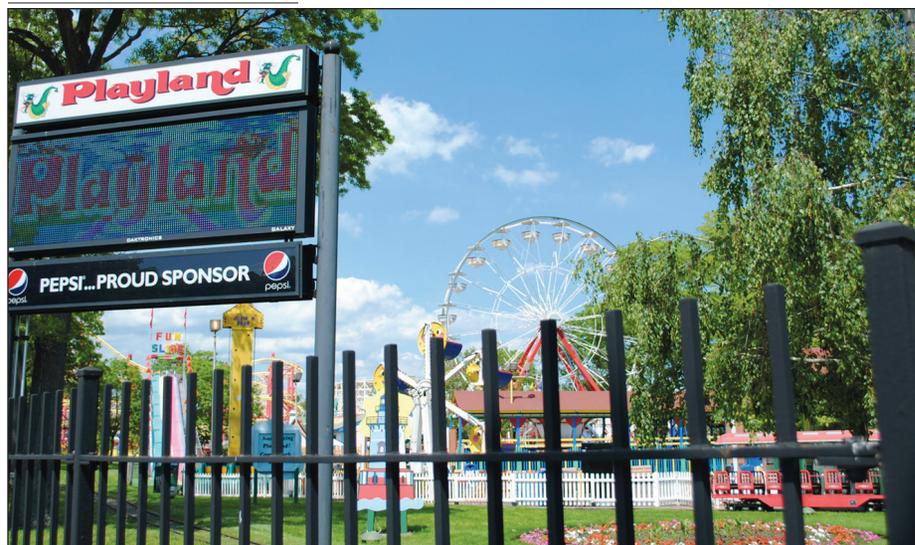
Many of the votes focused on maintaining a nationally renowned school system. In a sense, they were commitments made by the parents of yesterday to insure the high quality of the schools and the community today.

Of course, those parents of yesterday are among our growing senior population. They helped grow Rye and they are eager to stay and enjoy the benefits they reaped. Their willingness to call for change and improvement attracted other community-minded people to move to Rye. Many of our seniors are actively affiliated with various senior programs under the auspices of the houses of worship, the Rye Y or Rye Recreation Department.

On April 17, the Rye Senior Advocacy Committee is hosting its Senior Summit to engage in a dialogue with seniors and families on how we can give the same attention to the seniors as they did to their youngsters. Please mark your calendars. The event will be held at the Rye library, starting at 1 p.m. More news will follow.

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PLAYLAND from page 1



County Executive Rob Astorino has amended his Playland agreement with Standard Amusements that includes the addition of 11 capital projects totaling \$58 million, which will come at the county's expense. File photo

According to Ned McCormack, communications director for the county executive, however, there are other aspects of the deal that work in the county's favor. While the original agreement had the county bringing in about 7.5 percent of the park's profits, the amended agreement will see that rate rise in 10-year increments, with the county earning 8 percent for the first de-

cade, 10 percent for the next, and finally 12 percent for the last.

The amendment does add another \$18 million to the \$40 million in known capital projects to the park, which the county outlined in a five-year list of capital projects, he said.

According to McCormack, he's hopeful that the new agreement—which is currently being reviewed by the county Board of

Legislators and three board subcommittees—will be approved before the March 31 deadline.

"This agreement provides a very serious path to save Playland," he said.

Nick Singer, of Standard Amusements, could not be reached for comment as of press time.

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PET RESCUE



Poor Christian was hit by a car and has nerve damage, so his face will always look a little droopy. The vet said he is healing amazingly and will live a full life. This sweet and spunky tabby holds no grudges—he is just ready for a new start at life and a home that will love him forever. Christian holds his own with other cats and has a strong streak of independence. He loves people and enjoys being held—a real cuddler. He would do best in a home without dogs. He is neutered and up to date with all vaccinations. The adoption donation is \$80. To meet Christian, contact Pet Rescue at 740-4072/835-3332 or visit NY-PetRescue.org. (Submitted)



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THE **Rye City**
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Branding sex offenders' passports: Why?

**RHYMES
WITH CRAZY**
Lenore Skenazy



Two weeks ago, just one day after President Barack Obama signed legislation that will brand the passports of sex offenders, a federal court challenge was filed against it.

The International Megan's Law is supposedly a way to alert foreign countries of sex offenders who may be traveling there for sex tourism or trafficking purposes. Of course, who isn't against sex trafficking? We all are! But branding people's passports isn't going to do any good. The U.S. Department of State itself found that the law's rationale is "very misleading." And after conducting a study, the General Accounting Office "found no evidence that the offenders used their passports to commit sex offenses abroad."

Got that? No. Evidence.

But heck, what's a complete lack of evidence compared to political grandstanding? The bill was sponsored by Republican Rep. Chris Smith of New Jersey and passed both houses with only a single brave lawmaker, Democrat Rep. Bobby Scott of Virginia, speaking out against it. He said that while he endorsed the bill's provisions to notify foreign countries about sex offenders' travel plans, he was repulsed by the idea of the "unique passport identifier," which is government-speak for passport branding.

"It is simply bad policy to single out one category of offenses

for this type of treatment," Scott told the House. "We do not subject those who murder, who defraud the government or our fellow citizens of millions and billions, or who commit acts of terrorism to these restrictions."

Terrorists? Pffff. It's only sex offenders who must declare their past deeds this way. And that is what the court challenge is hinged upon.

"We don't want those 'identifiers' on anybody's passport," says lawyer Janice Bellucci, president of the group California Reform Sex Offender Laws, who is filing the federal challenge on behalf of four sex offenders. "Our strongest argument is that it violates the First Amendment, because that 'unique identifier' is compelled speech."

In other words, "The government is making you say something you don't want to say."

Bellucci has been down this legal road before. Twice, she argued against California towns that forced sex offenders to put "No trick or treating" signs on their doors, and twice, she won. A third time, she sued the California Department of Corrections for the same thing. The department told registrants they had to put that sign on their doors on Halloween, and if they didn't have a home and lived in a tent, well by golly, they had to put a "No trick or treating" sign on their tent flap. And if they were living in a sleeping bag at the side of the road, they had to put a "No trick or treating" sign on their sleeping bag, too.

Presumably this would help fend off the hordes of children

seeking bite-sized Snickers from the homeless. Bellucci won that case, too.

Like candy-doling by Halloween-activated predators in sleeping bags, the problem of registrants traveling abroad for sex tourism is also not a common one. Smith, the sponsor of the bill, wrote that "currently, tens of thousands of offenders could be traveling abroad as child sex tourists."

But they aren't.

The U.S. Department of Justice itself says that about 10 Americans a year are convicted of "sex crimes against minors in other countries." In the meantime, there are more than 800,000 people on the Sex Offender Registry—about a quarter of whom are minors. This means that the vast majority of registrants—at least 790,990 of them—are not sex tourists. And yet we won't give them the basic right of traveling this great earth.

The United States has never branded anyone's passport until now. Somehow, we have survived more than 200 years of giving all citizens the right to serve their time and then go on with their lives. Former drug dealers can travel south of the border. The Ocean's 11, 12 and 13 crews can hop on a plane to Monaco. But sex offenders, including teens who sexted and former flashers now in their 80s, will be branded with the scarlet letter and kept in internal exile. It's for the sake of the children, of course. It always is.

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Yonkers Film Festival seeks material to screen

"We're looking for compelling stories that are well told," said Patty Schumann, YoFiFest's director and programmer. "We're not overly hung up on when the movies were made or if they are premieres. We just want to share great films with an enthusiastic and supportive audience."

"It's a great chance for filmmakers to screen their films in a warm, friendly and fun atmosphere," added the festival's executive director, Dave Steck. "We've worked hard to make it the kind of festival where we'd want to hang out and screen our own films."

Building on the success of its past festivals, YoFiFest, the Yonkers Film Festival, will be four action-packed days of watching and talking about movies. This year, YoFiFest plans to screen more than 100 films, including features, shorts, documentaries, animation, music videos and student work. The very popular "mini film school" will return, featuring discussions and workshops led by top industry

professionals on various aspects of filmmaking. Each day also has receptions and after-parties where filmmakers and attendees will get the chance to meet and talk about movies.

"YoFi is one of the best film festivals that I have attended and I encourage other filmmakers to submit here. I look forward to attending again next year," said Kal Toth, director of the feature documentary "Building Magic" that screened at last year's festival.

Alexander Ellenbogen, whose short film "The Good Day" also screened at YoFiFest 2015, said, "It was an amazing experience from beginning to end. The workshops taught me valuable information about the industry."

Located on the Hudson River and adjacent to New York City, the festival draws its film-friendly audiences from New York City, Westchester County, the Hudson Valley and the entire New York/New Jersey/Connecticut tri-state region.

YoFiFest was awarded the



Best of Westchester's "Best New Film Festival" and was recently named one of 2016's "39 Most Notable Events" by Westchester Magazine. It was also cited as one of "The Top 10 Hippest Things About Yonkers" in 2015 when Yonkers was dubbed the Hudson Valley's "Hippest Town" by The Journal News and LoHud.com.

YoFiFest is an eco-friendly festival, so to reduce waste and environmental impact, films can be submitted digitally at YoFiFest.com through Film-Freeway or WithoutABox. For updates and the most current information, visit YoFiFest.com. (Submitted)

Westchester Library System updates board of trustees



Alex Payan



Julie Mills-Worthey



Sean Ryan

The Westchester Library System welcomes Julie Mills-Worthey, of Mount Vernon, as the District XIII representative covering Mount Vernon, and Sean Ryan, of Armonk, as the District V representative covering Armonk, Bedford Village, Mount Pleasant and Pound Ridge. Alex Payan, of Port Chester, was re-elected as the District X representative covering Port Chester, Rye Brook, Rye City and Rye Town and began his five-year term along with the others as of Jan. 1.

"We are pleased to have these talented and experienced individuals join our board and look forward to their active participation," said Terry Kirchner, WLS executive director. "Their diverse

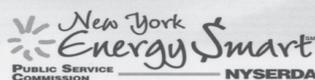
knowledge and extensive community engagement will bring new insight to the Westchester Library System."

In addition, the WLS board elected the following officers for 2016: Catherine Draper, of Pelham, as president; Mary Amato, of Yonkers, as vice president; Sean Ryan, of Armonk, as secretary; and Edris Scherer, of North Castle, will continue as treasurer.

The Westchester Library System includes 38-member public libraries located throughout the county and is one of New York state's 23 public library systems. WLS and its member libraries have a total collection of more than 5 million items, including 3.7 million books

and audio recordings, videocassettes, DVDs, print serials and other materials. The mission of the Westchester Library System is to ensure that all residents have seamless access to excellent library service throughout Westchester County. The Westchester Library System serves as a center of innovation for the Westchester County library community and provides model programs, affordable and easy-to-use information technology, and support services that enable libraries to continuously improve service to their communities. WLS is located at 540 White Plains Road, Suite 200, in Tarrytown. For more information, visit westchesterlibraries.org. (Submitted)

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LEGAL NOTICES

Notice of Formation of Garnet Workplace Services LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with SSNY on 02/19/16. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY is designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to 47 Elmwood Avenue, Rye, NY 10580. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

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Notice of Formation of PURECLARITY, LLC. Arts of Org. filed with NY Secy of State (SSNY) on 1/15/16. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY is designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 110 Prospect Ave., Valhalla, NY 10595. Purpose: any lawful activity.

Notice of Formation of Standard Model, LLC. Arts of Org. filed with NY Secy of State (SSNY) on 12/11/2015. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY is designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to:

Notice of Formation of Empire State Basketball Club, LLC. Arts of Org. filed with NY Secy of State (SSNY) on 01/07/16. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY is designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: C/O United States Corporation Agents, Inc. , 7014 13th Ave Ste 202, Brooklyn, NY 11228. Purpose: any lawful activity.

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Voices in the crowd

LIVE MIKE
Mike Smith



You just have to love playoffs. It's that time of the year when all the sweat and hard work start to pay off, when one false move can be the difference between victory and defeat, and when everyone needs to be on top of their games and sustain a full-throttle effort for a full contest.

I'm just talking about the fans, but I guess the players need to be ready for it, too.

Regardless of the level of athletic endeavor, athletes are quick to point out that once the postseason rolls around, there is a perceptible shift in the intensity of a ballgame. Sure, some of it stems from the step up in competition, and some of it stems from the raised stakes of the situation, but I'd argue that, for better or worse, it's the increased participation of fanbases that makes the sectionals such a special time.

And it's certainly a double-edged sword.

In the eight or nine games I've covered over the first few rounds of the playoffs so far, I've certainly seen my fair share of terrific crowds. Last Friday, I took a swing up north to Nanuet and Tappan Zee high schools to see Rye and Harrison compete in the Class A quarterfinals, and I was absolutely blown away by the way those host schools were able to pack their gyms to the rafters. Rabid student-sections cheering on their classmates, throngs of younger children lining the court, these gyms were absolutely rocking. In the case of Harrison, which took top-seeded Tappan Zee down to the wire, sure it was tough to watch them fall short in the final seconds, but I couldn't help but watch the Dutchmen fans storm the court as time expired with a certain amount of admiration and excitement.

Of course, not every fan "gets it."

Last week, one of the Review's girls basketball teams fell behind early, prompting a few parents to loudly call for the home players to remove their heads from their posteriors—albeit not in those exact terms. At a first-round hockey game, one father, who traditionally sits on the other side of the rink from the rest of his team's fans, would launch into an expletive-laden tirade every time his son's team turned the puck over in the neutral zone.

The skater probably didn't mean to "bleepin'" give it away, so cut the kid some slack.

I understand that sometimes, emotions get the best of us. It happens to everyone. But when it comes to high school sports, sometimes the adults have to act like, well, adults.

If you don't have anything nice to say, people, maybe don't buy a ticket next time. I don't think anyone will miss you.

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Dutchmen fans at Tappan Zee High School fill the bleachers for the team's quarterfinal playoff matchup against Harrison on Feb. 21. In the last week, Sports Editor Mike Smith has seen both the best and worst of sports fandom. Photo/Mike Smith



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Garnets fall hard in quarterfinals



George Kirby takes a jumper from the perimeter on Feb. 19.



Mark Croughan works in the low post against the Golden Eagles. Rye's season came to an end with a 60-38 loss. Photos/Mike Smith

By MIKE SMITH
Sports Editor

The Garnets may have come into its quarterfinal playoff game against Nanuet as one of the best shooting teams in Class A, but a stiff effort from the Golden Eagles' defense turned them ice cold on Feb. 19, as Nanuet made the most of Rye's off shooting night to come away with a 60-38 win.

Rye's struggles were apparent from the opening tip, as the Garnets managed just one bucket from the field in the first nine minutes of the game and finished the first half in a 28-13 hole. Despite a few runs late in the game, Rye simply couldn't climb back into contention.

"All season long, we've been successful when we're able to get into our three-quarter court traps and keep other teams off balance," Rye coach John Aguilar said. "But we only hit one field goal in the first quarter and we weren't really able to do what we wanted."

Offensively, the Golden Eagles were led by Kevin Mackin, who scored a game-high 24 points, but it was Nanuet's ability to limit Rye's leading scorer, Charlie Nagle, that set the tone for the game. Nanuet was able to keep a man on Nagle all game long to quiet the Garnets' explosive guard.

"We were expecting that, and fortunately, for the majority of the year, we've had the other guys step up," Aguilar said. "But we had a lot of shots rim out early on, and I think that took a mental toll on us."

Nanuet's victory marked their 11th straight win, and earned the Golden Eagles their first trip to the Westchester County Center since 2010. On Monday, Feb. 22, Nanuet fell to Tappan Zee 53-40 in the Class A semifinals.

For the Garnets, whose terrific season garnered Aguilar Conference 2 Coach of the Year honors, the loss was a disappointment, but not one that took away from what the team accomplished this season.

"I told them it didn't affect the way I felt about the team, I'm still proud of what we accomplished," the coach said. "It was a very positive year, and in terms



Charlie Nagle drives to the hoop against Nanuet. Nagle will be one of the Garnets' top returners next winter.

of moving forward, I think it was good for our returning players to get this experience."

The Garnets will return three starters, including Nagle, point guard Michael Carty and combo guard Brett Egan, but will lose frontcourt mates George Kirby and Mark Croughan to graduation, prompting a minor switch in philosophy.

"We're not going to be the tallest team, so I think things are going to be a little more free-flowing next year," Aguilar said. "We're going to have to rely on the quickness of our guards and their ability to get into the paint to score."



George Kirby goes up for a layup against Nanuet.

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Garnets halt Quakers 6-2



Theo Bresolin works the puck along the boards on Feb. 21. Bresolin had a goal in the Garnets' first-round playoff win.



Will Tutun chases down a loose puck against the Quakers at Rye Playland. Photos/Mike Smith

By MIKE SMITH
Sports Editor

On Feb. 21, the Rye Garnets took their first step toward post-season glory, earning a 6-2 win over visiting Horace Greeley at Rye Playland. It was a strong showing for the Garnets, who advanced to Tuesday's quarterfinal round with the victory.

No. 4 Rye dominated the time of possession from the opening faceoff, and outshot the No. 12 Quakers 32-14 over the course of the game.

"Two of the things we've really stressed this year have been defensive responsibility and puck possession," Rye coach Peter Thomas said. "We did a really good job with both [on Sunday]."

The Garnets built up a 3-1 lead after one period, but an early second-period goal by the Quakers made it a one score game before Theo Bresolin was able to find the net with just two minutes to play in the period. Thomas said that although the Garnets never lost their composure, Bresolin's goal gave them some much-needed breathing room heading into the third.

"From a momentum standpoint, that was an important goal," he said. "We were dominating and I don't think anyone was really concerned, but you saw them claw back to within one, and then we really just clamped down."

Offensively, Rye was buoyed by a true group effort. Will Hynson led with two goals, but Aidan Lavelle, Rocco Macri, Owen Beyer and Bresolin all found the net as well. According to Thomas, Rye's ability to roll out several effective lines should be a major boost to the team in the postseason.

"It's extremely important for us; we have multiple lines and they all chip in," he said. "[Opponents] can't focus on any one line."

Rye's opponents in the Feb. 24 quarterfinal round will be No. 12 seed Hendrick Hudson, which held off a late charge from No. 5 Somers/North Salem to earn a first-round upset on Feb. 21. The Sailors headed into the final period with a healthy 5-1 lead, but surrendered four goals in that frame before escaping



Rye celebrates a first period goal in its Division 2 playoff game against Horace Greeley. The Garnets topped the Quakers 6-2.



Jack Petrucelli makes a save against Horace Greeley on Feb. 21. Petrucelli made 12 stops on 14 shots against the Quakers.

with a 6-5 win.

Vinny Perez led Hendrick Hudson against Somers/North Salem, scoring a hat trick in the Sailors' win.

Although Rye has not

squared off with Hen Hud this year, Thomas said his team will be ready for the challenge.

"I think they're going to be kind of similar to Greeley; a couple of decent players who

are very hardworking," he said. "They're not going to quit, but we just need to come in and play our game."

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