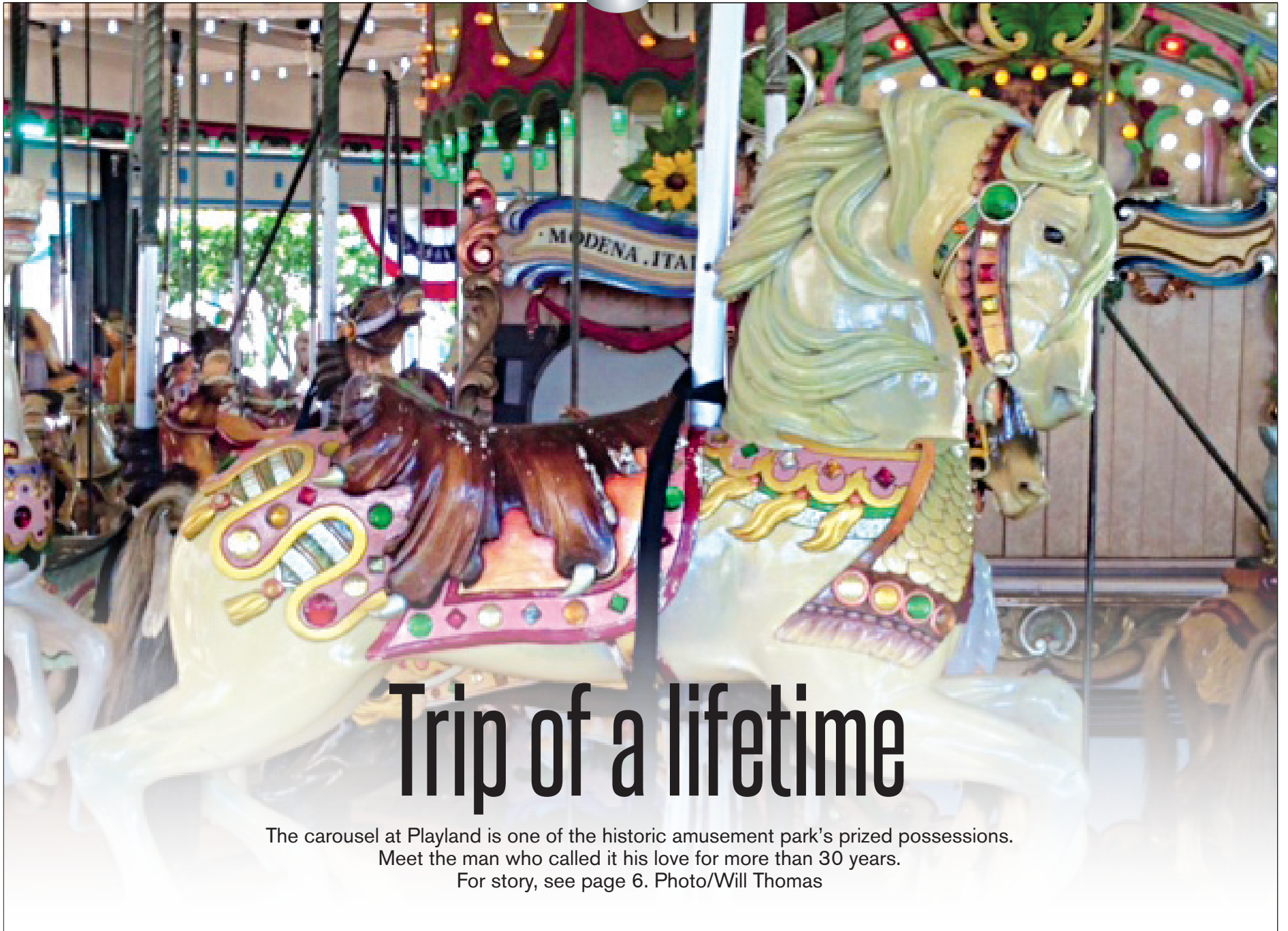


Happy New Year

THE Rye City REVIEW

January 1, 2016 | Vol. 4, Number 1 | www.ryecityreview.com





Trip of a lifetime

The carousel at Playland is one of the historic amusement park's prized possessions.
Meet the man who called it his love for more than 30 years.
For story, see page 6. Photo/Will Thomas

**MAKER
DAY**

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<div>Planning ahead...<div>January 2016</div></div>						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					<div>1</div> <div>New Year's Day</div> <div></div> <div>Kwanzaa ends</div> <div>Conservation Commission/Advisory Council meeting 7 p.m., Rye City Hall</div>	<div>2</div>
<div>3</div>	<div>4</div> <div>Schools reopen</div>	<div>5</div>	<div>6</div>	<div>7</div>	<div>8</div>	<div>9</div>
<div>10</div>	<div>11</div>	<div>12</div> <div>Rye City Board of Education meeting 7:30 p.m., MS Multipurpose Room</div>	<div>13</div>	<div>14</div> <div>Rye Recreation Commission 6:30 p.m., Damiano Recreation Center</div> <div>Special ed college meeting for students, parents 6:30 p.m., Rye Neck HS</div> <div>College process presentation in Spanish 7 p.m., Rye Neck MS/HS library</div>	<div>15</div>	<div>16</div>
<div>17</div>	<div>18</div> <div>Martin Luther King Jr. Day, schools and offices closed</div> <div></div>	<div>19</div>	<div>20</div> <div>Rye Neck Board of Education meeting 7 p.m., MS/HS Library</div>	<div>21</div>	<div>22</div>	<div>23</div> <div>Rye Neck SAT & Subject tests</div>
<div>24</div>	<div>25</div> <div>Rye HS and Rye Neck HS Regents and Midterm exams begin</div>	<div>26</div> <div>Rye City Board of Education meting 7:30 p.m., MS Multipurpose Room</div>	<div>27</div>	<div>28</div>	<div>29</div> <div>Rye HS and Rye Neck HS Regents and Midterm exams end</div> <div>Rye Neck MS PTSA Activity Night 7 p.m., MS/HS Gym</div>	<div>30</div>
<div>31</div>						

Biggest Mamaroneck winter farmers market opens

By NICOLE REED
Contributor

On the heels of a bustling summer season at the Larchmont Farmers Market, many beloved Larchmont vendors are excited to pack up and move their goods to the Mamaroneck Winter Farmers Market. The indoor Mamaroneck market opens on Saturday, Jan. 2 at St. Thomas Episcopal Church, 168 W. Boston Post Road. Market hours are 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The delicious staples of Mamaroneck will return, including local produce, fresh fish, pasture-raised meat, eggs, artisanal breads, baked goods, pickles, hummus, prepared foods to go and savory yogurt. Several new vendors will join the market this year, including Asian Farmer offering Chinese-style dumplings, GoGo Pops, which are healthy prepared foods and ice pops, Natural Contents Kitchen, which consists of seasonal foods and baked goods, and The Cheese Guy, who offers handcrafted cheeses. In February, renowned Lani's Farm will begin selling their unique produce varieties in Mamaroneck, too. Their popular hot sampling station will be an inviting addition.

"A winter market is a special event, as it keeps people con-



Get fresh cabbage and more at the indoor Mamaroneck market starting Jan. 2. Contributed photos

nected to eating locally year-round," said Danielle Gaebel, co-founder of the Natural Contents Kitchen. "We just had a wonderful first year in Larchmont. Now we're looking forward to continuing to see our Larchmont customers over the winter in neighboring Mamaroneck."

Every vendor has a story that has led them to the farmers market.

The Cheese Guy, also known as Brent Delman, makes a wide selection of cheeses that are artisanal, vegetarian and kosher. He began his craft on the island of Sardinia, Italy, where he learned the traditional Italian methods of cheese making,

using the island's high quality ingredients. Years later, Delman perfected his work at the Vermont Institute for Artisan Cheese, where he made lifelong connections with local dairy farmers. Today, all of The Cheese Guy's products at the Mamaroneck Winter Farmers Market start with milk from Vermont and New York state dairy farms. Vermont is also home to Delman's cheese-making kitchen, where he produces goods about twice a month. His crew includes a rabbi who oversees the sanitization of the kitchen to ensure all kosher requirements are met. Once approved, Delman and his team begin creating everything from brie to Parmesan, with many worldly influences in between.

As of press time, the confirmed weekly vendors for the Mamaroneck Winter Farmers Market include Asian Farmer; The Cheese Guy, Dr. Pickle, Gaia's Breath Farm, Go-Go Pops, Kiernan Farm (pasture-raised meats), Meredith's Bread, Natural Contents Kitchen, Orchards of Concklin, Orwasher's Bakery, Pie Lady & Son, Sohha Savory Yogurt, Stone & Thistle (pasture-raised meats), Taiim Mobile



Take your pick at beets and other seasonal produce at Mamaroneck's Winter Farmers Market.

Shack and Wave Hill Breads. In February, Lani's Farm will begin.

The rotating day vendors are: Arlotta Food Studio, Bombay Emerald Chutney Company, Chirstiane's Backstube, Kon-

toulis Family Olive Oil, MOMO Dressing, Robinson & Co. Catering (British specialties), Simple Eats with Chef T and Trotta Foods. The market will also host regular events, such as live mu-

sic and kids activities.

Stay tuned to the Mamaroneck market webpage at DowntoEarthMarkets.com for vendor updates, as well as the weekly event calendar.



Ring in the new year in a sea of green goodness at Mamaroneck's indoor farmers market, open through April.

Rye High School senior dies

Henry "Hank" McWilliam, a Rye High School senior, died unexpectedly on Dec. 21 at the age of 18, marking the latest loss in a string of recent Rye High graduates.

McWilliam was an avid hockey player who played for the Garnets as well as various other teams in Florida, Utah

and Connecticut.

He is survived by his parents, Dr. James R. McWilliam and Catherine S. McWilliam, as well as his sister, Cate McWilliam.

According to those who knew him, McWilliam will be missed for his larger than life personality and his love of both animals and children.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Westchester County SPCA.

Police could not provide any further details as of press time.

Rye City Schools Superintendent Dr. Frank Alvarez could not be reached for comment as of press time.


-Reporting by James Pero

Wishing you and yours
a happy and prosperous

2016

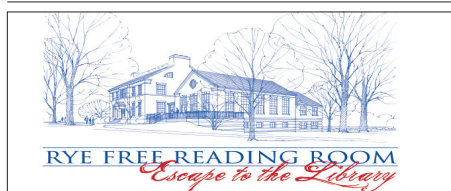
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WHAT'S GOING ON...

Rye Free Reading Room events



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

Mother Goose Monday

On Mondays at 10 a.m. and again at 10:45 a.m. for two, 20-minute sessions in the Meeting Room. Nursery rhymes, songs and fingerplays for ages 6 months to 3 and a half. "Granny Jean" Klein, well-versed in early childhood development, introduces babies and toddlers to playful rhymes, songs and puppetry. Parents and caregivers participate with the children at the library and are encouraged to continue the activities at home.

Because the program is often a child's first experience in an audience setting, it is important that adults strive to arrive on time and actively help their children focus on the presentation. Call the Children's Reference Desk at 231-3162 for more information.

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.

English as a second language

On Tuesdays. The class is for adults with a working knowledge of English. Please call the instructor, Val Polikoff, at 552-8287 to attend. Class size is limited.

The objective of this program is to help students build their speaking fluency through various classroom activities, promoting students' communication and writing skills. This could be achieved by building vocabulary, language structure and correct pronunciation. Depending on the students' level, classes will consist of reading, discussions, developing short stories, introducing guided conversations, addressing grammar and writing assignments. Led by Polikoff, who is an experienced ESL teacher.

Rye Storytellers Guild

On Tuesday, Jan. 5 from 6 p.m. to 7:45 p.m. in the Meeting Room. Join adult story lovers at monthly meetings to share traditional and personal tales, and trade tips on storytelling techniques. Each evening is loosely arranged around a theme. Listeners, as well as tellers, are always welcome.

Computer workshop

On Thursday, Jan. 7 from 10 a.m. to noon in the Raho Technology Center. Learn iPad and iPod setup, controls with the latest Apple iOS system, and how to use Wi-Fi for the Internet and how to receive and send emails. Attendees should bring their fully charged iPads or iPods to class, however it is not necessary to have an iPad to attend as there will be demonstrations and handouts.

The class is taught by Mike Negrelli who worked for IBM for 37 years. The computer classes are made possible by the Thomas A. Williams Memorial Fund. No sign-up required; first come, first served.

Friday Book Café

On Friday, Jan. 8 from 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. This month's book is "To Kill a Mockingbird" by Harper Lee. The unforgettable novel of a childhood in a sleepy Southern town and the crisis of conscience that rocked it, "To Kill A Mockingbird" became both an instant bestseller and a critical success when it was first published in 1960. It went on to win the Pulitzer Prize in 1961 and was later made into a classic, Academy Award-winning film.

Compassionate, dramatic, and deeply moving, "To Kill A Mockingbird" takes readers to the roots of human behavior—to innocence and experience, kindness and cruelty, love and hatred, humor and pathos. Now with more than 18 million copies in print and translated into 40 languages, this regional story by a young Alabama woman claims universal appeal. Lee always considered her book to be a simple love story. Today, it is regarded as a masterpiece of American literature.

This is a monthly meeting of this long-running and lively book group. Gather with interesting, thoughtful people to discuss this month's book selection and snack on coffee and cake. To keep the titles timely and meaningful, each month's choice is agreed upon at the previous meeting and all books are available at the library prior to the meeting. This discussion will be held off-site. Please call the library at 967-0480 or stop by for location details.

Gizmos Science Fun Club

On Friday, Jan. 8 from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. in the Children's Room. For children in kindergarten through grade two. Pre-registration is required, as space is limited. Meets the first Friday of the month from October through June. Registration for this session begins Jan. 1.

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.

SPRYE

Art show

The SPRYE Art Show, on display until Wednesday, Jan. 6, showcases members' and volunteers' work in various disciplines at the Osborn Rehabilitation Center Pavilion, 101 Theall Road in Rye. Exhibit hours are from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. The exhibit is free and open to the public. Visitors should contact Debbie Garvin with the specific time they

plan to visit the exhibit. For more information or to reserve a time slot, call 925-8218.

Rye Arts Center

Maker Day

Explore programs under the STEAM education initiative, which incorporates science, technology, engineering, art and math during Maker Day on Saturday, Jan. 9 at 2 p.m. at the Rye Arts Center, located at 51 Milton Road in Rye. This open house, which is free and open to the public, will feature high-tech and high-touch demonstrations, and will allow participants to discover the future of creativity. For more information, visit ryeartscenter.org.

Piano classes

This 10-week-long introductory class series, which runs on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. beginning Jan. 9, will give children ages 6 to 8 experience with the keyboard and a general understanding of reading music. Keyboard and lesson materials will be provided during class. Fees are \$225 for all 10 sessions. For more information or to register, visit ryeartscenter.org or call 967-0700.

Guitar classes

This 10-week-long introductory class series, which runs on Saturdays from 11:15 a.m. to noon beginning Jan. 9, will teach children ages 8 to 10 the basics of playing simple chords and melodies to play fun songs. Everyone joining the class must bring an acoustic guitar. Fees are \$215 for all 10 sessions. For more information or to register, visit ryeartscenter.org or call 967-0700.

Vocal classes

This 10-week-long introductory class series, which runs on Saturdays from 1 p.m. to 1:45 p.m. beginning Jan. 9, will teach children ages 7 to 10 some of the music performed by today's pop artists. Students will learn the fundamentals of breathing, diction and projection all while building self-confidence. An information presentation will take place during the last class. Fees are \$205 for all 10 sessions. For more information or to register, visit ryeartscenter.org or call 967-0700.

Rye Y

2016 registration

The Rye Y 2016 camp and program guides are now online. Visit ryeymca.org to view them. Camp registration starts Wednesday, Jan. 6 for returning campers and their siblings. Program registration starts Wednesday, Jan. 13 for Y members and Friday, Jan. 15 for non-members.

Rye TV

'Sidewalks and Roads'

Kent Iarocci has a telecast, "Sidewalks and Roads," on ryetv.org and it is an informative work. Visit the website for schedule listings and more information.

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@hometown.com.

Every Food Has a Season

Discover Winter

Mamaroneck Winter Farmers Market

Featuring longtime favorites plus several new vendors!

St. Thomas Episcopal Church
168 W. Boston Post Road
Saturdays, 9am-1pm

Market and Vendor details:
914.923.4837 [f](https://www.facebook.com/downtoearthmarkets) [i](https://www.instagram.com/downtoearthmarkets)
DowntoEarthMarkets.com

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Astorino launches food waste initiative

Westester County Executive Rob Astorino officially launched the second phase of his Food Waste Reduction initiative on Monday, Nov. 23, which focuses on collecting food waste and turning it into compost that will be used in gardens and parks throughout Westchester, in partnership with Arc of Westchester and the Westchester Community Foundation during a ribbon cutting ceremony that unveiled the county's new composter.

"We are so proud of this project because it works on so many levels," Astorino said. "It turns food waste into useable product, it provides job training for people with developmental disabilities and it shows how a simple idea can become a reality that preserves our environment and benefits our economy."

The initiative, which Astorino first announced in his 2015 State of the County Address, focuses on managing waste for businesses in a cost-effective way by repurposing it and is unique in that it combines the

efforts and resources of several organizations. The first phase of the initiative focused on training Arc of Westchester—the county's largest organization serving individuals with autism and other developmental disabilities—participants in composting, recycling, waste removal, organic gardening and how to assist the county's Department of Environmental Facilities in operating and maintaining "The Rocket."

The trainings were made possible thanks to a \$15,000 grant from the Westchester Community Foundation.

"We are thrilled to be a part of an effort that not only teaches job skills to an underserved population, but that also promotes smart environmental practices," said Laura Rossi, executive director of the Westchester Community Foundation. "It's an exciting collaboration between the county and Arc of Westchester."

Thanks to this great partnership, more than 20 Arc of Westchester participants will

work three days a week at the H-MRF as part of an employment preparation training program, which will ultimately help them secure jobs in green business.

"We are grateful to Westchester County and the Westchester Community Foundation for partnering with us to provide opportunities for individuals who were in need of job readiness skills," said Tibi Guzman, associate executive director and chief operating officer for Arc of Westchester. "They are now on a path to exploring new careers and are contributing to the sustainability of Westchester County communities."

"The Rocket"—a self-contained composter for on-site treatment of organic waste—was purchased by the county's Department of Environmental Facilities to be housed at the H-MRF. The machine's advanced system provides a clean and simple way for food waste to be treated after its disposal and turned into high quality compost.



From left, Nancy Patota, executive director, Arc of Westchester; Laura Rossi, executive director, Westchester Community Foundation; Westchester County Executive Rob Astorino; Tibi Guzman, associate executive director, Arc of Westchester; Avery Valins, director of day services, Arc of Westchester; and Thomas Lauro, commissioner, Department of Environmental Facilities. Contributed photo

With the addition of "The Rocket," the operational phase of the initiative can now begin. Food waste, which will be collected from Westchester Medical Center and Westchester Community College on an ongoing basis, will be turned into compost. The enriched soil will go to the Food Bank for Westchester's community gardens and to the county's Department of Public Works for use on county grounds. Since October, 1,000 pounds of food waste has been collected and converted to 400 pounds of compost. The compost is currently waiting to be cured and was projected to be delivered to various grounds by end of December.

Under the leadership of County Executive Astorino, Westchester County has experienced an impressive decrease in the amount of residential garbage that it produces. In 2009, the county disposed of 421,000 tons of residential garbage. Last year, that amount was down to 386,000, a trend that has continued through 2015. Much of this reduction is attributable to the county's outstanding recycling performance. In 2014, the county posted a municipal recycling rate of 50 percent and an overall recycling rate of 48 percent, far outpacing the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency national aver-

age of 34.5 percent and the New York State average of 36 percent. Astorino's latest initiative is designed to reduce food waste, which the EPA estimates amounts to almost 15 percent of the refuse.

With the support of the Westchester Green Business Challenge, the county plans to showcase this project to schools, hospitals and food industry businesses to demonstrate how they can convert their food waste into compost while possibly saving money on their waste hauling bills. It will also serve as a showcase to heighten local awareness of, and efforts to, divert food from the waste stream. (Submitted)



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The community's opinion matters. If you have a view to express, write a letter to the editor by email to chris@hometwn.com. Please include a phone number and name for verification purposes.

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MEDIA GROUP

A Playland worker's wild ride

By CHRIS EBERHART

While sitting on the Playland carousel, a 5-year-old boy watched his alcoholic father stagger off into the parking lot, get into his car and drive away.

That was a typical day at the amusement park during Larry McGowan's childhood. Until he was 13, he went to Playland with his father during the summer from Wednesday to Sunday. They'd ride the carousel together two or three times until his father drowned the afternoon in beer.

"If I ever did a movie about my life, it'd be me on the carousel waving to my father, and my father listening to music until he went to the beer stand," McGowan, now 64, said. "He'd have a few beers and disappear. I'd be on the carousel, and I would just stay there. He'd drink and ride some rides and get in the car and go home... He'd pass out on the couch, and my mother had to take a bus to get me."

But McGowan wasn't resent-

ful of his father's absence. He was content as long as the carousel continued its circular path, the horses bobbing up and down, and the organ playing its iconic tune.

And that's how, McGowan said, he learned to play the piano; that's how he developed his ear for music; and that's how the carousel essentially became McGowan's first music teacher.

"If you make a noise, I can say it's this note or that note. It's a gift," he said. "And I think I developed it as a kid while sitting on the carousel going round and round and round for hours and just listening to the tunes. Then I'd go home and noodle it out on the piano before I even knew how to play."

Although McGowan's first keyboard was a hand-me-down from his sister—he didn't have formal piano lessons until he was 9 years old—it didn't take long for him to learn to play as well as a child prodigy.

His first performances were at

Catholic Mass at Stations of the Cross and Benedictions of the Blessed Sacrament in his local White Plains parish. McGowan's religious upbringing was strong; he went to Mass every Sunday and he was taught in a Catholic parochial school his whole life.

Thus, McGowan's teenage years brought about a crossroads.

At age 13, he played the organ in front of the pope at the noon Mass during the 1964 World's Fair in New York City. Not long after, his father bought him his first Wurlitzer piano. But at the same time, the Catholic faith tugged on his shirt sleeves, and he was forced to decide which career path to follow: music or the priesthood.

He joined the Carmelite Friars seminary, but his visit lasted only about six months.

"I used to play in the chapel when I thought no one was looking," McGowan said. "I used to wear all these flashy things, and when [the priests] found me



Larry McGowan retired from Playland last year but his love for the amusement park and his passion for music have made for a most interesting life. Photo courtesy Rat Race Choir

playing, they said, 'This is not your calling. No, no. Showbiz is calling you.'"

Three years later, in 1967, he joined the Dunwoodie Seminary in Yonkers, but again stayed only six months.

"I thought [the priesthood] was going to be a way of life for me," McGowan said. "I decided it wasn't for me if I was going to be an entertainer. There was no drinking. No womanizing. No cursing. All the things wrong with me that God is trying to fix."

As much as he learned that the priesthood wasn't for him, showbiz was.

And his musical career started in 1968 with Rat Race Choir, a progressive rock band that had a cult-like following on Long Island and the metropolitan area from the late '60s to the early '80s.

The group began as a bunch of teenagers in their White Plains homes. McGowan said he remembers practicing in his mother's living room and performing in a number of Westchester venues and Long Island rock music clubs.

"It was a free-spirited time in my life," McGowan said. "It was all geared around music and the

band."

But McGowan's fast-paced world crashed and burned in 1979.

An internal strife with the band's new management forced McGowan out of Rat Race Choir. The band was beginning to play in larger venues and clubs where sex and drugs were rampant.

McGowan didn't like this new direction, and said he left Rat Race Choir with a bad taste in his mouth and most of his equipment either stolen or returned damaged.

After that, things only got worse.

On Halloween 1979, his mother was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer.

She was his only parent, literally and figuratively; he had lost his father shortly after the World's Fair in 1964 to cirrhosis of the liver and lung cancer.

She died that Christmas Eve, sending the 28-year-old spiraling down a black hole.

"I took the Bible and threw it across the room," McGowan said, "and pointed my finger at the sky and [cursed]. 'You took my mother away while I'm sup-



Larry McGowan's skill and precision can be seen throughout the park, in everything from the painted display signs to the caterpillar ride. File photo

CONTINUED on next page



The horses on the Playland carousel were painted by hand, with no two alike, by the park's resident artist.



It has been roughly 100 years since the carousel began operating. The amusement park ride has been a love of Larry McGowan's ever since he joined Playland as a maintenance worker 35 years ago. Photos/Will Thomas

posed to be celebrating Jesus.”

The death of his mother flung McGowan, now an orphan, into a five-year-long “bender.”

He played gigs all over, including legendary nightclubs like Danceteria and Studio 54 until four or five in the morning. He attended party after party, met a slew of musicians and crashed in strangers' homes.

“I don't know what else to call it. I just let go,” he said. “It wasn't just drinking. It was drugs, it was drinking, it was eating, it was having sex with all these theater people... I walked the borderline of excess of all the vices.”

McGowan was speeding 100 mph straight into a brick wall, when a Bible seminar at Madison Square Garden in New York City may have saved his life.

McGowan said he went to the seminar because he felt a need to reconnect with his faith, but was disgusted by the hypocrisy of priests in the Catholic Church who were involved in sex scandals. During the seminar, he heard about Clinton Utterbach of the Redeeming Love Christian Center and joined his church two weeks later.

“He saved me,” McGowan said of Utterbach. “He opened

up my head and poured in all the biblical truths that I needed.”

With the Redeeming Love Christian Center, a born-again Christian church in Nanuet, N.Y., McGowan, then in his early 30s, found a new home. He sang in the choir and played the organ and the piano.

Life slowed down and started to brighten, and his Playland career then took off.

An employee at the amusement park, McGowan was the caretaker for the carousel's organ. That was his baby, as he called it. He knew everything about the organ, and year after year, he made repairs to keep it up and running. For 35 years, McGowan made the 100-year-old carousel sing.

He made the rest of the park come alive by creating unique bright signs and hand-painted rides. He became Playland's artist, and his job became that of a historic preservationist.

McGowan was given creative freedom to paint the rides and signs however he saw fit. Instead of painting the caterpillar ride the standard green, McGowan painted it blue with designs to make it pop. He used his artistic touch on the carousel too; all 66 horses on the ride were painted

by hand, and no two were painted alike.

“And don't you know, the ridership went way up,” McGowan said.

Tim Cronin, CSEA union leader, said the park was more to McGowan than just a job; it was a passion.

“The park is part of Larry, and Larry is part of the park,” Cronin said. “He loved it and it loved him back. He did everything in the park. He'd take apart all the rides and put them back together. He was the only one trusted to paint the [carousel] horses because he knew the historical way that they had to be painted.”

Playland was, once again, a major part of McGowan's life, just as it had been when he was a child.

McGowan rejoined the Rat Race Choir in 2009 and took part in performances at Mamaroneck's Emelin Theatre, among other venues in 2010. But it wasn't all smiles from then on, as McGowan survived a detached retina, a car accident that caused deep vein thrombosis in his left leg, kidney stones, and a DWI arrest and rehab in 2010.

McGowan smirked as he

recalled the judge who oversaw his DWI case.

“He looked at my record and said, ‘Mr. McGowan, you have a very colorful background.’”

From that point on, McGowan says he has been clean. He retired from his job at Playland in July this year, accepting a retirement package; and he is waiting to see if Standard Amusements, Playland's new operator, will

offer him a contract to stay and continue his work as a historical preservationist.

In the meantime, he's doing some work with a Sony music production company, helping to cut and edit tracks.

McGowan still lives in the same area near Bryant Avenue in White Plains where he grew up and where his band first began. But there's one thing now

void in his life: Playland, and he is yet to find something to replace it.

“Driving by in the early morning when the park is quiet, and I think there's no real cause or reason to be here anymore,” McGowan said of the place he used to call home. “It's such a big chunk of my life and now I have to find something else to take its place.”



Larry McGowan, left, with his Rat Race Choir bandmates. Photo courtesy Rat Race Choir

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Cooperation in Congress and at the U.N.

**A RYE
OLDTIMER**
Judge John Carey



The first page of *The New York Times* on Dec. 19 was like a sandwich. In the middle was a horrible photo of bloodshed and suffering at a field hospital in Damascus. In stark contrast, both the first and last columns on the page proclaimed the ability of rival factions to compromise.

The first column was headlined "Security Council Approves a Plan for Syria Talks," while the sixth column read "Avoiding Rancor, Congress Passes a Fiscal Package." The contrast between these hopeful announcements and the dreadful scene between them is jarring.

The essence of the two "book-end" stories is that nations and politicians alike are capable of adjusting their demands in favor of achieving broader objectives. At the U.N., all 15 members of the Security Council voted in favor of a resolution which could have been blocked by a nega-

tive vote from anyone of Russia, China, France, the U.K. or the U.S., the council's permanent members.

In Washington, D.C., "a chastened, even beaten down Congress on Friday [Dec. 18] passed a \$1.8 trillion package of spending and tax cuts with remarkably little rancor," said the *Times*. Without having been there to judge the degree of rancor for myself, I suspect that "rancor" is probably a poor word choice.

When members of an official deliberative body have different approaches to a particular issue and express their views with assurance, they are not necessarily venting rancor. It may be that they simply feel strongly and hope their opinions prevail. To belittle them by claiming to perceive rancor is to cast shame on them unfairly. They should not be scorned for simply doing their job.

As 2016 is now here, we should think about what we want from our elected representatives. How do we want them to behave, particularly toward each other? Do we want them to

run down and belittle their fellow officials, or would we prefer that they be mutually respectful? Those of us who have served in elective offices can readily answer that question.

For myself, I would rather deal with an opponent who is trustworthy than a member of my own party whose word cannot be counted on. For example, I would cite the respectful relationship that grew between President George H.W. Bush and the candidate who had defeated him for re-election, William J. Clinton.

Except in a heavily one-party state, the legislative process requires the making of deals across party lines. That is made difficult, if not impossible, if members insult each other to the point of feuding. After all, look at what befell Alexander Hamilton at the hands of his foe Aaron Burr.

While dueling with pistols is no longer allowed, dueling with hateful words is also destructive, not only of personal relationships but also of an effective legislative process.

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RAC annual appeal helps propel organization

Last year, The Rye Arts Center's annual appeal helped drive the organization forward. The appeal's success allowed the center to take strides in addressing its mission to increase arts participation in the region. They expanded their partnership with Port Chester Head Start, which provides art education to under-served preschool children. The previously fee-based restorative dance classes for Parkinson's patients are now free, and the center launched "Art On The Lawn" to create an ongoing series of public art works for all of Rye to enjoy.

Chaired by board member Jennifer Sandling, this year's annual appeal goal is set at \$90,000, a bold increase from last year's unprecedented \$80,000 campaign.

"The Rye Arts Center provides a creative outlet and ongoing inspiration for the entire region," Sandling said. "This is our opportunity to not just give back, but to add to the vibrancy of our home."

The funds raised from the annual appeal will target growth in



The Rye Arts Center has expanded because of its annual appeal. Meg Rodriguez, executive director of the Rye Arts Center, left, and Jennifer Sandling, chair of the annual appeal. Contributed photo

The Rye Arts Center's STEAM Education programs, which include 3-D printing and design, computer coding, Minecraft classes, robotics and engineering. These programs utilize technology not typically associated with an arts center, including laptops, 3-D printers and robotics kits, and also develop skills that go beyond the typical scope of the arts. All are invited to explore The Rye Arts Center's STEAM programs at Maker Day, a free open house on Satur-

day, Jan. 9 at 2 p.m.

Additional plans include expanding the performing arts programming, increasing scholarships for under-served children, and sustaining the growth from the past year.

The Rye Arts Center is a 501(c)(3) organization. Tax-deductible donations can be made at ryeartscenter.org, by calling 967-4495, or by mailing a gift to The Rye Arts Center, 51 Milton Road, Rye, NY 10580. (Submitted)

Milton students sing holiday favorites



Third-graders sing holiday songs about both Christmas and Hanukkah. Photos/Sarah Varney



Liam Moran and Gianna Mazzilli, both 9, get ready to wow the audience as Milton's third-graders perform "Good King Wenceslas" on recorder.



Baby sister Hadley watches her older brother Jack Anderson, 8, perform with the second-graders for Milton's holiday concert.



From left, Zoe Lewis, 5, and cousin Arianna, 4, try not to wiggle as they watch Zoe's brother perform with other Milton fourth-graders.



Milton School second-graders get ready to sing at the school's Dec. 22 holiday concert. There is obviously much to discuss before settling in to perform.

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RYE CITY HOME SALES

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125 Betsy Brown Road
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17 Henry Street
\$925,000
Sale date: 10/7/15



20 Chamberlain Street
\$1,355,000
Sale date: 9/21/15



24 Brook Lane
\$450,000
Sale date: 8/25/15



26 York Avenue
\$760,000
Sale date: 9/28/15



28 Red Roof Drive
\$1,800,000
Sale date: 10/12/15



3 Meadowlark Road
\$849,000
Sale date: 10/15/15



31 Pilgrim Drive
\$482,196
Sale date: 9/21/15



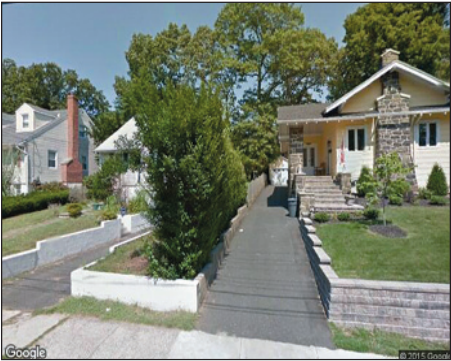
32 Browndale Place
\$618,000
Sale date: 10/14/15



68 Munson Street
\$485,000
Sale date: 10/16/15



39 Halstead Avenue
\$552,500
Sale date: 10/16/15



43 Sanford Street
\$830,000
Sale date: 9/30/15



476 North Ridge Street
\$523,000
Sale date: 9/29/15



55 East Broadway
\$442,000
Sale date: 9/24/15



7 Graham Court
\$2,237,500
Sale date: 10/1/15



192 Ivy Hill Crescent
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Sale date: 9/30/15

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Junior League announces new president and board

Junior League of Westchester on the Sound, JLWOS, is pleased to announce the installation of its new president, Janelle Kahn of Larchmont, as well as the 2015–2016 board of directors.

As the JLWOS now enters its 65th year as one of the region's premier volunteer organizations, Kahn and the incoming board's lengthy nonprofit experience will be critical when continuing to serve as community leaders and change agents.

Heather Brown, 2014–2015 president, has officially passed the gavel to Kahn. Kahn joined the Junior League in 2011. As a member, she has served on various committees, including training chair and vice president on the board of directors of fund development and vice president of membership. She has attended the Association of Junior League International's Organizational Development Institute and the 2015 Annual Conference as the voting delegate for JLWOS.

Joining Kahn on the board is a group of women with a variety of educational and professional backgrounds who share the organization's commitment to community service: Treasurer Ulrike Heregger; Secretary Lisette Coviello; Vice President of Fund Development Lauren Perone Jones; Vice President of Membership Bernadette Bianco Plotkin; Vice President of Community Andrea Barnard; Vice President of Communications Sunny Park Suh; and Sustainer Director-at-Large Karen Regan.

The board of directors is responsible for the overall governance and management of the organization, which includes financial and committee oversight, strategic planning and community outreach.

Kahn is excited to "lead and celebrate the JLWOS as it enters its 65th anniversary year" with this new board of directors. Kahn said, "JLWOS has been changing lives in the Sound Shore communities for over six decades, and I am honored and excited to serve as the 2015–2016 president alongside this amazing group of women. We will work together with our community partners in the coming year and continue the historic work of this wonderful organization."

Established in 1950, Junior League of Westchester on the Sound is a nonprofit, charitable and educational organization of women committed to promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of women and improving communities through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers. JLWOS provides a forum that brings like minds together and serves as an opportunity for women to develop their interpersonal and organizational skills to become the next generation of community and business leaders. The organization actively contributes to the community and engages with individuals in need and allows members to develop a network of friends and associates that will help one another and serve as mentors to other women while making a lasting impact in the Sound Shore area. For more information, visit jlwos.org.



Two design awards for Mamaroneck architecture firm

The national luxury publication *Ocean Home Magazine* has named Mamaroneck-based Keller/Eaton Architects as one of the premier waterfront architecture firms in the country. *Ocean Home* featured Keller/Eaton as one of the "50 Top Coastal Architects of 2015" and one of the top 10 in New York state. Their inaugural "Ocean Home 50" showcases the finest waterfront architects in the United States and the Caribbean. The architects are recognized for their outstanding contemporary and classic coastal homes in some of the world's most spectacular locations.

Additionally, the American Institutes of Architects, AIA, awarded Keller/Eaton the coveted 2015 Design Award for Historic Revitalization for work they did in Larchmont Manor. This award was presented to Keller/Eaton during the "Celebration of Architecture" awards at the end of October.

Keller/Eaton Architects have designed extensively in the waterfront communities in Westchester County, as well as in communities up and down Cape Cod. "We are excited to be recognized for our work and the service we can provide to our clients," Robert Keller said.

"We appreciate that we have been recognized for being able to maximize our clients' water views while providing elegant and cohesive designs," Dianne Eaton said.

"We love being recognized by a national publication as well as the American Institute of Architects, but even more rewarding is when our clients are pleased with the end result," Keller added.

Learn more about Keller/Eaton Architects at rkdea.com.

Garfunkel Wild partner recently honored

Garfunkel Wild, P.C., GW, is pleased to announce that partner/director and Andrew Blustein vice chairman was recently selected by *Long Island Business News*, *LIBN*, to the "Around 50" Class of 2015 at an awards dinner at the Crest Hollow County Club in Woodbury, N.Y.

The *LIBN* "Around 50" awards program recognizes dynamic professional men and women who are dedicated to the success of companies and organizations on Long Island, as well as to the well-being of the local communities throughout Nassau and Suffolk counties. Awardees are selected by a panel of business and community leaders based on the nominee's business acumen and community involvement.

Blustein is chair of GW's Health Care Information Technology and Insurance Regulatory practice groups, and co-chair of the HIPAA Compliance practice group. He is also a member of the firm's Business, and Compliance and White Collar Defense practice groups.

Blustein's practice includes the representation of hospitals, physicians, ambulatory surgery centers and other healthcare industry-related clients—both for profit and nonprofit—across a wide range



of issues including practice formation, acquisitions, sales, mergers, regulatory and compliance matters, and information technology contracting. He has also been very active in the HIPAA arena, helping to develop and implement HIPAA compliance programs for numerous healthcare providers and others in the health industry. Admitted to the New York, New Jersey and Connecticut bars, Blustein is a member of the New York State Bar Association, the New Jersey State Bar Association (Health Law Section), and was past co-chairman of the Westchester County Bar Association (Hospital and Physician Law Section) and the American Health Lawyers Association. He has authored numerous articles in professional publications and is a frequent presenter at professional seminars and conferences on topics including HIPAA, physician practice issues, corporate transactions and computer contracting and compliance issues.

Blustein graduated from Vassar College in 1987 and from Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law in 1990.

Westy's supports Girl Scouts



Westy Self Storage in Tuckahoe supports the Girl Scouts Heart of the Hudson by donating a gift of two months' free rent for a storage unit and free use of the Westy truck equipped with driver. This donation supported this year's Bingo Night, the group's fundraising event, on Nov. 14.

The Tuckahoe/Eastchester Girl Scouts hosted their second annual Bingo Night to raise money for renovations and upgrades to the Girl Scout Cabin on Highland Avenue in Eastchester. Built in 1958 with profits from the sale of Girl Scout cookies, the cabin is the main meeting place for more than 500 girls from Tuckahoe, Bronxville and Eastchester. It has begun to show its age and is in need of major repairs, including a new boiler, electrical upgrades, energy-efficient improvements, handicap accessibility and new doors and windows. From two previous fundraisers, the group has raised about half of the funds needed for their project. They are currently in the process of working on phase one: a new roof, windows and doors. Following this year's Bingo Night, they hope to have raised enough funds to continue with the renovations.

"We are thankful to Westy for their kind donation toward our silent auction," said Vivian Grocia of Girl Scouts Heart of the Hudson. "The generosity of Westy and all those participating in the fundraiser will allow us to make the much-needed upgrades to the cabin, as well as teach our girl scouts the value of community partners."

"Programs like the Girl Scouts assist in providing young ladies with the foundation of teamwork as well as building courage and confidence," said Joe Schwyer, district director of Westy Self Storage's Tuckahoe location. "It is our privilege to lend

a hand and assist in making an impact on a young person's life."

Westy is open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; and Sunday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, call 793-0000 or visit westy.com.

BCW gains insight from Dr. Laura Forese



More than 100 business and health care professionals were on hand for an informative and insightful interview with one of the region's leading health care executives at The Business Council of Westchester's, BCW, First Niagara Leadership Conversations program featuring Dr. Laura L. Forese, executive vice president and COO of NewYork-Presbyterian.

During a 45-minute interview led by BCW President and CEO Marsha Gordon, Forese spoke proudly of the world-class healthcare available to area residents through NewYork-Presbyterian's addition of two community hospitals—NewYork-Presbyterian/Hudson Valley Hospital in Cortlandt Manor and NewYork-Presbyterian/Lawrence Hospital in Bronxville—to its health care network.

Citing Westchester's wealth of resources and its patients' demand for high-quality and compassionate health care, Forese affirmed the hospital network's commitment to the county. "There are so many resources here," she said. "It's an opportunity for us to partner where many of our patients live and work. It's an area where you have wonderful partnerships and resources in technology and education."

Forese also emphasized the importance of a personal touch in engaging with patients and inspiring confidence and trust among consumers. "The culture of the organization is not the bricks and mortar. It's the people working there. You need people who are comfortable with technology at all levels, but if patients don't feel like we're connecting with them, they'll leave. Many people we hire come from the hospitality industry, because they understand that we need to make that connection," she said.

The First Niagara Bank Leadership Conversations program, which was held on Nov. 10, was the fourth program in the series. Previous featured speakers included Dr. Steven Safyer, president and CEO of Montefiore Health System; Dr. Leonard Schleifer, founder and CEO of Regeneron Pharmaceuticals; and Joseph Simone, president of Simone Development Companies.

The next Business Briefs section will run in January. Please send any submission for our January edition to news@hometwn.com, with "Business" in the subject line of your email. Each submission may include one picture. If you have any questions, email us at news@hometwn.com.

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LEGAL NOTICES

Notice of Formation of a Limited Liability Company (LLC): Name: PREMIER SEALCOATING LLC, Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 11/10/2015. Office location: Westchester County, SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to: C/O PREMIER SEALCOATING LLC, 186 Woodside Ave., West Harrison, NY 10604. Purpose: Any Lawful Purpose. Latest date upon which LLC is to dissolve: No specific date.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF Rye HamletHub LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 11/30/2015. Office location: WESTCHESTER County, SSNY has been designated as agent upon whom process against it may be served. The Post Office address to which the SSNY shall mail a copy of any process against the LLC served upon him/her is: 91 Midland Ave, Rye, NY 10580. The principal business address of the LLC is: 91 Midland Ave, Rye, NY 10580 Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

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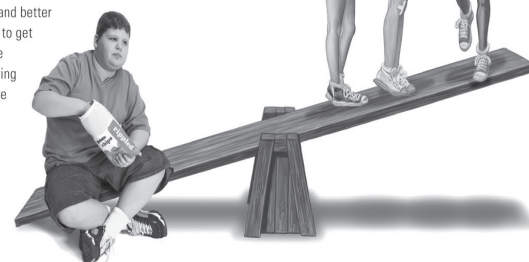
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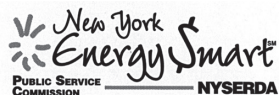
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Man's belief in dog

**RHYMES
WITH CRAZY**
Lenore Skenazy



Do people save dogs or is it the other way around?

That's the question posed by the Broadway comedy "Sylvia," starring Matthew Broderick as a disengaged middle-aged New Yorker who falls in love with a very human dog—so human that she's played by the talking, sniffing, adorable Annaleigh Ashford. The "who saves who" question was posed after a performance of the show last week to an audience of dog fans.

Onstage were Broderick, co-star Robert Sella and two dog experts: Rachel McPherson—founder and executive director of the New York-based organization Good Dog Foundation, which has 1,000 trained therapy dogs volunteering in the tri-state area—and Dr. Laurie Santos—founder of Yale's Canine Cognition Laboratory. (Yes, they are studying doggie thinking at Yale.)

"How many of you stuck around tonight because you have a canine at home?" Santos asked the audience. "How many of you find yourself wondering what's going on inside his or her head? Do they love me? Do they care about me?"

The audience laughed a little self-consciously.

Good news, the professor reported: Our dogs do love us. In fact, when they look into our eyes, they are bathed in as much love as we are.

"Scientists have learned that

part of the bonding that allows us to bond with a dog is the same thing that helps us bond with our babies," Santos said.

Babies are filled with what's colloquially called the "love hormone" or "cuddle hormone." It floods their brains, and as we look at them, it floods our brains too. When researchers examined dogs' urine after this kind of gazing-into-their-owners'-eyes, they found the "love hormone" in it. Studies of wolf urine did not show the same thing. Somehow, dogs evolved to transmit and receive the same love signals as human babies, and beguile us the same way.

This bond is so intense that the Good Dog Foundation harnesses it to help people who are lonely, scared or hurting. "We work with lots of patients in hospitals, rehab units, nursing homes," said McPherson, who has run the program for 18 years.

One time, early on, McPherson and her dog were helping a man who'd been paralyzed on his right side by a stroke. "He could not get his body to move," she recalls. But when her dog jumped into his lap, the man would desperately try to throw the ball.

This happened before the rehab unit was completely thrilled with the idea of having a dog around. But as the patient's movement began to come back, says McPherson, "the doctor was amazed at the results." He became a big supporter of the Good Dog Foundation.

Schools are signing up, too, to help students with everything from autism to dyslexia, as well as other learning and emotional

issues. "We work with the kids one on one because they become so stressed out in the classroom that they can't read," McPherson said. "But then they read to the dogs and it's amazing. They feel very comfortable. And what's phenomenal is that when the dog and the child are in a space, reading, the child becomes 'cool' to the other kids. They say, 'Can we go read to the dog?' So what was a negative becomes a positive, and the kid's reading really does improve."

A recent study at Mount Sinai Beth Israel in New York City scientifically proved another benefit to human/dog interaction: Chemo compliance.

The study involved 42 patients undergoing six weeks of chemotherapy and radiation for head and neck cancers. The protocol is grueling. Many of the patients get very sick and can't eat. Some have trouble talking. But over the course of their treatment, with a loving dog at their side, their feelings of emotional and social well-being actually *increased*. One patient wrote, "I would've stopped the treatment, but I wanted to come see the dog."

In the play, Matthew Broderick's character is similarly saved by his love—graduating to obsession—with the dog he found: Sylvia. Eventually, his awakened soul goes on to reconnect with his wife, a human played by Julie White.

Dogs need humans, humans need dogs, and humans need humans, too. Call it a tail as old as time.

CONTACT: lskenazy@yahoo.com

An orchestra on its own

By MARA RUPNERS
Contributor

Picture yourself seated in a grand concert hall, waiting in anticipation for the orchestra to begin its performance. The lights dim and there is a hush. Dressed in evening wear, the conductor walks on stage, steps up, raises their baton, and the concert begins.

That is not how it works if you are hearing the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra play. When Orpheus takes the stage, they are on their own, without a conductor.

In this New York City-based ensemble, all orchestra members are equals, and the leadership roles rotate between them. For each piece the group programs, a concertmaster and principal players are elected, and they determine the concept for the performance and direct rehearsals.

During the final rehearsals, all members contribute to fine tuning the program; on stage, the members play with rapt attention to each other. The results are astounding—they are in sync, and maintain great precision, character and dramatic flair.

The orchestra has been operating this way since its inception in 1972. Co-founder Julian Fifer, a cellist, says that he and the other founding members were inspired by the ideals of the '60s and '70s, including "questioning of authority and a renewed emphasis on collective goals, [which] inspired [them] to create an ensemble whose artistic expression was based on shared leadership and responsibility."

See for yourself how they do it on Sunday, Jan. 31, when the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra takes the stage at The Performing Arts Center at Purchase College, joined by pianist Khatia

Buniatishvili. The performance begins at 3 p.m., tickets range from \$50 to \$80, and good seats are still available.

The world-renowned Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center will also be at The Performing Arts Center on Saturday, Jan. 23, followed by a National Theatre Live screening of The Donmar Warehouse production of Shakespeare's "Coriolanus."

Mara Rupners is the director of marketing at The Performing Arts Center. The Performing Arts Center, Purchase College, 735 Anderson Hill Road, Purchase, N.Y. 10577
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New year, new hope

LIVE MIKE
Mike Smith



I don't know about you, but I'm ready to turn the page on 2015—at least sportswise.

From a fandom perspective, this hasn't been a great year for me.

The Giants, who were thankfully put out of their misery this past weekend, were positively atrocious, only kept afloat for weeks by the grace of playing in such a terrible division.

My Red Sox? I'm not sure they played a Major League Baseball-worthy game after May rolled around.

The less said about the Knicks, the better; when your team is on pace for a sub .500 season and it shows a marked improvement over the previous year, there's not a lot to cheer for.

And even the teams I follow that did well—the hockey Rangers and my adopted National

League-favorite Mets—managed deep postseason runs, only to be undone by the very flaws that had their supporters concerned all season long.

So why am I expecting things to be any better in 2016?

Maybe I'm an optimist; maybe I just don't learn.

Right now, things don't look promising for our in-season teams. The Rangers, who looked like the best team—at least record-wise—in the NHL for a month, are in the midst of a mid-winter swoon that would make the Washington Generals blush. The Knicks, even with Kristaps Porzingis energizing the fan base, are clearly also-rans without a discernable plan for the future.

Sure I was pumped by the, ahem, Price-y free agent splash the Red Sox made during the winter meetings, but since news broke on Dec. 28 that the Yankees strengthened their bullpen by trading for the flame-throwing Ar- oldis Chapman, it looks as though

Boston is in for, at best, a third-place finish within the division.

But that's the thing about sports fandom: it invites you to suspend the pretense of rationality for as long as possible.

For now, I can still hold out hope that my teams will turn it around. Maybe the Knicks will put together a winning streak and make the playoffs. Maybe the Rangers will find a way to get off a snide that's seen them win only four of their last 16 games and battle back to the top of the division. Maybe PED suspensions and balky elbow ligaments will wreak havoc on the Yankees' pitching staff.

Maybe 2016 will be a better year. Maybe I'll actually have some reason to cheer over the next 12 months.

One can only hope. Unfortunately, that's what makes being a fan so darn frustrating.

Follow Mike on Twitter
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Many people have plans for self-improvement at the dawn of a new year. Sports Editor Mike Smith, second from right, is hoping that his sports teams are able to turn things around. Photo courtesy Mike Smith

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Eagles top Garnets with defense

By MIKE SMITH
Sports Editor

On Dec. 23, two undefeated league rivals squared off at the Westchester County Center as Eastchester and Rye tipped off before a Westchester Knicks contest. When the final whistle sounded, however, only Eastchester's perfect record remained intact as the Eagles turned a solid defensive outing into a 43-30 win over the Garnets.

Senior point guard Benny DiMirco led the way for Eastchester, scoring a game-high 19 points and putting the game out of reach with an offensive flurry in the third quarter. After the Garnets cut the lead to four on a 3-pointer by Michael Carty, DiMirco scored the next nine points, giving his team a sizable lead that they wouldn't relinquish in the final stanza.

"[DiMirco] is a terrific player," Rye coach John Aguilar said. "He started to get hot and there wasn't much we could do."

But it was Eastchester's defense that caused the biggest problem for the Garnets on the day, Aguilar added. The Eagles caused 10 turnovers and did not allow Rye—which was led by seven points from George Kirby—to establish a rhythm on the offensive end.

"It was just a great defensive effort by Eastchester," Aguilar said. "To force 10 turnovers on us, that doesn't happen, just about ever."

The Eagles, however, also had trouble keeping control of the ball early on, but settled in nicely to take a 22-14 lead heading into the half. According to Eagles' coach Fred DiCarlo, it's not unusual to see even the most seasoned teams take some time to acclimate to the pressures of playing at the County Center, which also plays host to the Section I semifinal and championship rounds.

"I knew the nerves were coming and I just figured that the team who was going to settle down quickest was going to

win," DiCarlo said. "And we know how tough it is to shoot at this place, so we just stressed playing lockdown defense and letting that defense lead to good chances on the other end."

The loss put the Garnets at 4-1 on the season, while Eastchester improved to 8-0. Unfortunately for the Eagles, the winning streak came to an end on Dec. 26 when they were felled by CHSAA Stepinac 57-54 in the opening round of the Slam Dunk Challenge Tournament, which was also held at the Westchester County Center. During the consolation round the following day, the Eagles dropped their first game to an in-section opponent with a 58-40 loss to Class AA White Plains.

"Playing on this floor, playing in a gym like this, it was a good experience," DiCarlo said. "The competition we play is only going to help us, and it's going to help us judge where we are."

CONTACT: sports@hometown.com



Benny DiMirco drives to the hoop on Dec. 23. DiMirco scored a game-high 19 points. Photos/Bobby Begun



Benny DiMirco tangles with Michael Carty under the hoop.



Stephen Galgano attempts a hook shot against Rye.



George Kirby drives past Nick Scalise at the Westchester County Center. Kirby had seven points in Rye's 43-30 loss to Eastchester.



Happy Holidays

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