

*Happy Valentine's Day*

# THE Rye City REVIEW

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## UP IN SMOKE

After over half a century of running T.D.'s Smoke Shop on Purchase Street, owners Tony and Peggy D'Onofrio are getting ready to say their final goodbye in March after receiving an eviction notice from their current landlord. For more, see page 9. Photo/Andrew Dapolite





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## Rye High's internship program gains speed



Rye High School's mandatory internship program for its senior class provides the soon-to-be graduates with practical experience in the workforce. File photo

By ANGELA JORDAN  
Staff Writer

As it enters its second year of implementation, Rye High School reports that its internship program for graduating seniors is garnering success.

Currently, all 224 students who wish to graduate this year will have to complete an internship in the spring. According to Assistant Principal Suzanne Short, who oversees the program, many seniors have already found placements for this year.

"It's such an eclectic variety of placements," Short said. "One student worked with a brain surgeon; many take internships that are community based; some help with charity events; many do internships in education; and some go into the city for investment-type placements."

The program is four weeks long, and takes place at the end of the school year after Advanced Placement tests are completed. Instead of returning to classes, the seniors spend at least 20 hours per week at a business or organization of their choice and write a report and give a presentation on their experiences.

"The purpose of the program was designed to give the students a better understanding of

how the world really works, and to take what they learned at Rye High School and apply it outside of school," Short said.

According to Short, approximately half of the internship placements are located within Rye, and an additional 25 percent accept internships within Westchester County.

One local organization that has taken in a number of interns is The Rye Nature Center. According to Taro Ietaka, the director of conservation and land stewardship there, the students who participated were actively involved with the center's day-to-day functions, such as helping with children's summer camp, tending to plant life on the grounds and growing produce for the animals. However, he also said that the internship has provided opportunities for the students to further their studies and apply lessons in courses like AP biology and environmental science to real-life settings.

Ietaka sees the internship program as mutually beneficial for the students and the center.

"They've been great," he said. "We're lucky at the Nature Center; they're fantastic young adults, and most of the people that come here really want to be here."

According to Drew Abate, who graduated from Rye High School last June and interned at Silver Point Capital, a hedge fund based in Greenwich, Connecticut, the students are generally enthusiastic about the program as well.

"It was cool to be out of school and out in a field and actually learning stuff like you would when you're preparing to get future internships after high school," Abate said. "And it also helps point you in a direction of what you want to study in college."

Abate also said that the school—and Short in particular—have invested a lot in making this learning experience fruitful for the students.

"[Short] has a bunch of contacts that she gives to students, and she's gone above and beyond to help the students get good internships," he said.

Short credited the program's success to introducing it to just a few students initially before moving to implement the program across the entire 12th grade level.

"Part of the reason it's been successful is because we kind of grew into it," Short said.

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## WHAT'S GOING ON...

## Rye Free Reading Room events



Visit [ryelibrary.org](http://ryelibrary.org) for more information on these and other events and programs. The library will be closed on Monday, Feb. 15 for Presidents Day.

## Rye YMCA exhibit

On Tuesday, Feb. 16, visit the library and browse the winners and other entries in the Rye YMCA distracted driving poster contest. The exhibit will run through Monday, Feb. 29.

## Grades 2 and 3 Hour of Code workshops

On Tuesday, Feb. 16 and Wednesday, Feb. 17 from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. in the Children's Room. For grades two and three. Registration is required and ongoing at the library's website, as space is limited. Go to "Programs & Events," click on the event date and click on the "Register" button. Use the same form for all family members attending. Please sign up for one day only.

In this one-hour workshop, your child will be introduced to the basics of computer programming through a series of games designed specifically for their age and skill level. This workshop will be led by Irum Khan, who has hosted coding workshops in the Mamaroneck and Larchmont libraries with much success and runs an afterschool workshop for select fourth- and fifth-graders at Mamaroneck Avenue School. This program is sponsored by the Auxiliary Board of the Rye Free Reading Room.

## Mardi Gras mask making craft

On Tuesday, Feb. 16 from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. in the Meeting Room. For children in kindergarten and up. Registration is required for this event and is ongoing at the library's website, as space is limited. Go to "Programs & Events," click on the event date and click on the "Register" button. One form

per family for all children registering.

Mardi Gras is all about green, purple, gold, sparkles, beads, masks and noise. Join the library all week for its post-Mardi Gras celebration. No parade is complete without a mask. All the materials will be provided to decorate a mask in true Mardi Gras fashion with feathers, glitter, sequins and jewels—just bring your creativity.

## Mardi Gras jester hat and noisemaker craft

On Wednesday, Feb. 17 from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. in the Meeting Room. For children in kindergarten and up. Registration is required for this event and is ongoing at the library's website, as space is limited. Go to "Programs & Events," click on the event date and click on the "Register" button. One form per family for all children registering.

No parade is complete without a jester hat and shaker/noisemaker. Join the library in making a funny floppy hat and noisemaker for its Mardi Gras parade on Friday, Feb. 19.

## Grades 4 and 5 Hour of Code workshops

On Thursday, Feb. 18 and Friday, Feb. 19 from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. in the Children's Room. For grades four and five. Registration is required and ongoing at the library's website, as space is limited. Go to "Programs & Events," click on the event date and click on the "Register" button. Use the same form for all family members attending. Please sign up for one day only.

In this one-hour workshop, your child will be introduced to the basics of computer programming through a series of games designed specifically for their age and skill level. This workshop will be led by Irum Khan. This program is sponsored by the Auxiliary Board of the Rye Free Reading Room.

## Mardi Gras King cupcake decorating

On Thursday, Feb. 18 from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. in the Meeting Room. For children in kindergarten and up. Registration is required for this event and is ongoing at the library's website, as space is limited. Go to "Programs & Events," click on the event date and click on the "Register" button. One form per family for all children registering.

Decorate a King cupcake in green, purple and gold frosting with sprinkles and then—surprise! See whose cupcake has the baby in it.

## Mardi Gras parade at the library

On Friday, Feb. 19 from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. in the Meeting Room. For children in kindergarten and up. Registration is required for this event and is ongoing at the library's website, as space is limited. Go to "Programs & Events," click on the event date and click on the "Register" button. One form per family for all children registering.

Put on your Mardi Gras masks and jester hats and bring your noisemakers, and the library will supply the beads as you march around the library in the post-Mardi Gras celebration. Show off all your craft creations made during the week and let's make some noise.

## Gadgets Science Fun Club

On Friday, Feb. 19 from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. in the Meeting Room. For grades three to five. Registration is required at the library's website starting Feb. 12, as space is limited.

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 STEM 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.

## Wainwright House

## Native American spirituality series

On Saturday, Feb. 20, the four-part Native American spirituality series continues at Wainwright House. The second part is called "Honoring the Creatures of the Water" with Evan Pritchard, a professor of Native American studies. There are two workshops. Each workshop is \$35 for Wainwright members, \$40 for non-members; for both workshops, \$60 for members, \$70 for non-members.

The first workshop, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., will focus on the importance of fish, the cetaceans (whales, porpoises, dolphins, etc.), shellfish, eels, snakes and the sacred manta rays. Pritchard will describe the unique place of honor each sea creature holds on the great Medicine Wheel of life, and how water connects us to the Great Mother and to Her heart. He will also share traditional stories about the fish and other sea creatures, and mention some of the dangers they face today.

The second workshop, from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., will feature Pritchard leading a tobacco ceremony in which you will name more than 100 species of sea creatures. You will also make a small mountain of tobacco which will later be offered directly to Mother Earth through her four elements, thanking and blessing them and praying for their well-being, while singing traditional songs created in the moment. Note: Please bring a drum and some tobacco.

## Rye Recreation

## Rye youth soccer spring 2016 registration

Online registration is open at [ryeyouthsoccer.org](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:registration@ryeny.gov).

## Marshlands Conservancy

## Volunteer work project

The Marshlands Conservancy, located on Route 1 off of Boston Post Road in Rye, will be hosting a volunteer work project on Saturday, Feb. 20 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. The day's work will consist of removing invasive vines from along the marshlands' trails. Participants should bring work gloves. Other materials, including hand tools, will be provided. For more information, call 835-4466.

## Winter Adventure Series

The Winter Adventure Series will continue on Sunday, Feb. 21 from 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Marshlands Conservancy with a bluebird box making craft. Participants will be able to make their own bluebird boxes to hang up in their yards or neighborhoods. For more information, call 835-4466.

## Damiano Recreation Center

## Rye seniors needed

The Damiano Recreation Center, located at 281 Midland Ave. in Rye, is a favorite meeting place for Rye seniors. Wednesday meetings are the time for seniors to meet, socialize, list topics of discussion (i.e. Medicare, identify theft, health issues, scams, etc.) and enjoy a cup of coffee and snacks. Trips are planned and can include trips to New York City, the theater and other local attractions. Weekly exercise classes, breakfast and bingo, movies, knitting, Wii bowling, painting, arts and crafts, a men's club and more bring friends together.

Whether you are 60 or 94, why sit at home when you are invited to join in the fun? Membership is \$10 yearly. Classes and activities have nominal fees and require registration. Come join the fun today. For more information, please call 967-2535.

*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](mailto:news@hometown.com).*


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# Harrison students win \$20K for mobile app

By SIBYLLA CHIPAZIWA  
Editorial Assistant

Six Harrison High School students were going about their school day on Feb. 2 when they got a surprise visit from a Verizon representative. The students had developed a concept for a mobile app called Pay It Forward that helps provide food to the homeless.

Students Thomas Alvarado, Paul Bilotta, Christine Cardascia, Ricky Harris, Josh Munoz and Ben Struhl soon learned that they, along with their faculty advisor, Diane Frawley, had won \$20,000 for their school and a chance to fine-tune their app with MIT experts over the summer to be presented at a national conference in Nashville, Tennessee.

Frawley, the students' faculty advisor in the Verizon Innovative App Challenge, said that she's thrilled for them and hopes their success inspires other young people to think outside the box and to help others in need.

"It is the greatest reward to see

your students excel and achieve great success, both inside and outside the classroom," she said about working with the students on their app, Pay It Forward. "I have always told my students that they can change the world. Now I see that they are doing it. What a great feeling."

The Pay It Forward app will enable consumers to prepay for a meal in person at a store or restaurant or online for a homeless or needy person to pick up. After the purchase has been made, the shop or restaurant owner will hang a sticky note on a designated wall so the free meal can be redeemable for the first homeless or needy person who comes in. The students developed their app based on an in-person system used at Rosa's Fresh Pizza in Philadelphia, where a customer has the option to prepay for a meal for a homeless or needy person on-site.

The six students got the idea for Pay It Forward when Struhl was on a class trip to Cooper Hewitt Design Museum in New York City and was struck by the

homeless men and women he saw.

Harrison High was one of eight schools that won Best in Nation in the fourth annual Verizon Innovative App Challenge. The \$20,000 grant is provided by the Verizon Foundation, which created the app challenge with the Technology Student Association, TSA. The national competition, where coding skills are not needed, encourages students to come up with app ideas to fight issues in their schools or communities.

Frawley added that she feels privileged to work in a school district that values technology education, pointing out that it can help students develop the confidence to communicate ideas and to solve problems.

"I know I am in the right place and I hope that other schools see the value of this program in their schools," she said.

Andrew Testa, the Verizon PR manager of the Northeast market who surprised the students on Feb. 2 with their prize, called surprising them "a career



Harrison High School students won Best in Nation and a \$20,000 grant from the Verizon Foundation for designing an app to help feed the homeless. From left, Steve Siciliano, high school principal; Paul Bilotta, student; Diane Frawley, the students' teacher and advisor; Thomas Alvarado, student; Christine Cardascia, student; Josh Munoz, student; Ricky Harris, student; Ben Struhl, student; Joan O'Keefe, high school director of science and technology education; Mayor Ron Belmont; and Andrew Testa, PR manager of the Northeast market, Verizon Wireless. Photo/Kieran Kesner

highlight," and that being able to recognize their creativity and thoughtfulness on behalf of Verizon was exciting and rewarding.

"Getting young people to realize the power of critical thinking and technology to drive change is what this contest is all about, and these skills will undoubtedly prepare them for jobs in the future," he said when asked why Verizon has an interest in technology education.

At Harrison's Board of Edu-

cation meeting on Feb. 3, Superintendent of Schools Louis Wool reported that Testa became teary when presenting the students with the award.

"The fact that [the students'] humanity was the focus of the application makes us very proud," Wool said.

The app challenge is also a collaboration with MIT Media Lab, a research laboratory that focuses on the merging of technology, multimedia, sciences, art

and design. The lab will provide a team of experts to work with the Harrison students to fine-tune the app and to teach them some coding.

In its fourth year, the Verizon Innovative App Challenge aims to further develop or support STEM-related programs. It is predicted that the U.S. will be 3 million people short of high-skilled workers by 2018.

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# Painting the town wine red

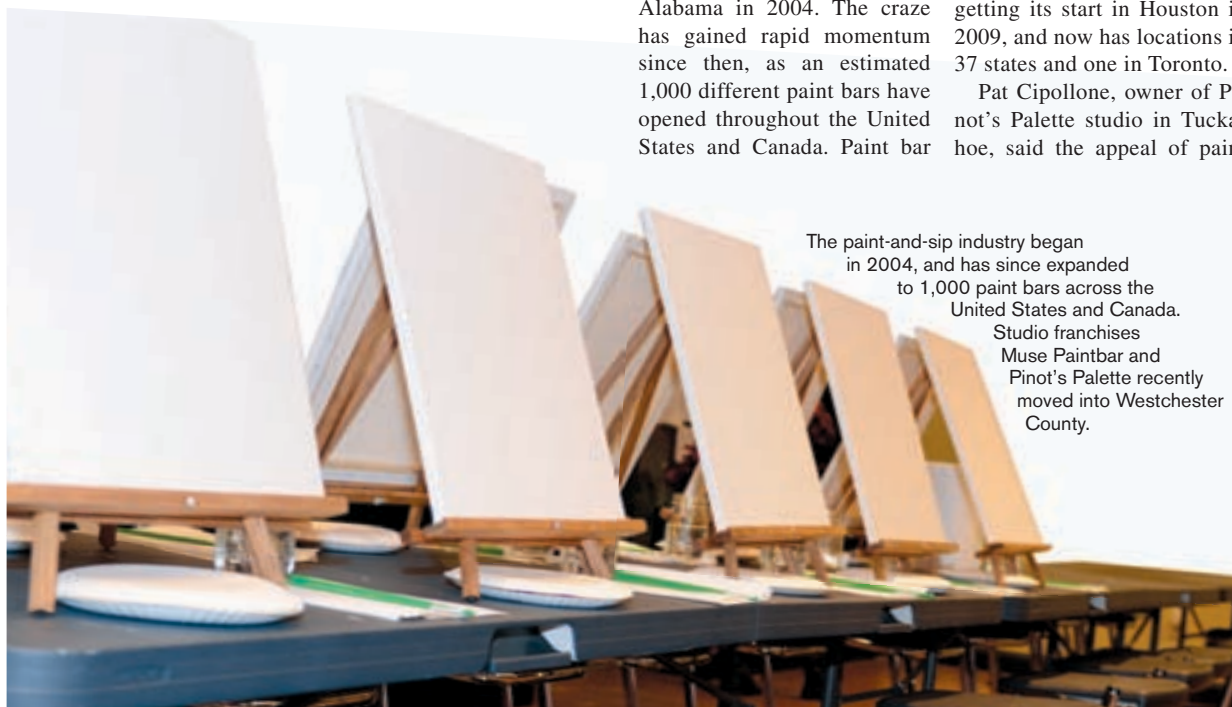
By SUZY BERKOWITZ  
Editorial Assistant

Georgina Meduri, balancing a paintbrush in one hand and a wine glass in the other, puts

the finishing touches on her winter landscape and smiles. It's a recent Wednesday night and a small group has gathered in White Plains' Muse Paint-



Muse Paintbar, located on Mamaroneck Avenue in White Plains, has been open for five months. The chain currently has 14 businesses running in five different states. Photo/Suzy Berkowitz



The paint-and-sip industry began in 2004, and has since expanded to 1,000 paint bars across the United States and Canada. Studio franchises Muse Paintbar and Pinot's Palette recently moved into Westchester County.

“Years ago, doing ceramics was the fad,” Meduri said comparing that to the recent paint-drink craze. “I’ve probably been here about 10 times since this place has opened up. It’s just something creative, fun and different to do.”

Although Muse has only been up and running in White Plains for five months, the chain has expanded to 14 businesses across New York, Connecticut, Rhode Island, New Hampshire and Massachusetts since opening its first location in Manchester, New Hampshire, in late 2012.

The manager of the White Plains location, Miesha, said working at Muse has made her professional life the happiest it’s ever been.

“I just love seeing people get excited over what they’ve created,” she said. “I think people like coming here because it brings balance to their everyday lives, which are usually spent at a desk.”

The paint-and-sip industry began a little more than 10 years ago when the first studio, Sips n Strokes, opened in Alabama in 2004. The craze has gained rapid momentum since then, as an estimated 1,000 different paint bars have opened throughout the United States and Canada. Paint bar



Pinot's Palette, a new paintbar in Tuckahoe, celebrated its grand opening last December. Photos/Bobby Begun

clients can either rent a party room for a private event or register to paint during public classes offered throughout the week.

One such studio franchise, Pinot's Palette, recently opened in Tuckahoe, making that location its 90th in the country, and its first in Westchester County. Although the company is new to Tuckahoe—it has only been open since December 2015—it has grown exponentially since getting its start in Houston in 2009, and now has locations in 37 states and one in Toronto.

Pat Cipollone, owner of Pinot's Palette studio in Tuckahoe, said the appeal of paint

bars comes from people's desire to have an alternative night out and create their own artwork.

“In the end, you’ve created something that’s genuinely yours,” Cipollone said. “Paint bars open the door for people to appreciate art, and it relaxes them in a way.”

Cipollone said the popularity of paint bars makes publicizing his new location a challenge; he mainly depends on word of mouth to draw a crowd. He said his instructors do their best to keep the night light and fun for everyone, but in the end, it's up to the client to make the best of it.

Julie Alfonso, an instructor and assistant at Muse Paintbar, said one challenging aspect of the job is encouraging adult clientele not to take themselves or their work too seriously. She said there's always an opportunity to come back and try it again.

“We do our best to make everybody feel comfortable and not hold themselves to an unrealistic standard,” Alfonso said. “This gives people a chance to come out and do something new; to feel like a kid again.”

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# All is well at the Rye Golf Club

**THE COUNCIL CORNER**  
Councilman  
Terry McCartney



For the first time in about three years, there is nothing newsworthy to report from the Rye Golf Club. All is well. Really.

Don't get me wrong, we have surely had more than our fair share of drama and we still have a few issues to clean up, but we are staying ahead of those things and I am confident that they will be resolved as favorably as the other challenges we have faced recently.

Here is a quick recap:

1. Former club manager scandal: Scott Yandrasevich is now in prison for stealing almost \$300,000 from the city. We claim that he stole much more than that and have a lawsuit pending against our insurance carrier for the reimbursement of more than a million dollars more. We are in settlement negotiations with them now, and if the case doesn't settle, it should be tried and resolved within the year. I am cautiously optimistic on this issue.

2. Turf kill over the summer: Thanks to the incredible

efforts of our excellent course superintendent, Chip Lafferty, our greens are nearly fully recovered from the effects of the herbicidal contaminant that poisoned them in April and May. The recent anonymous tip to the DEC which caused Chip to get a misdemeanor ticket had absolutely nothing to do with why our grass died. I wouldn't even merit mention here, but it is my opportunity to correct the patently unfair attempt at character assassination of a top-notch professional whom we are lucky to have. You would think that the \$2.5 million settlement with the company that really caused the problem would have ended the discussion, but I know that some people just aren't happy unless they are complaining. Such is life. I'm sure the complainers will enjoy their 35 percent discount like the rest of us (while they're not complaining that it should've been more, of course!).

3. Whitby Castle: After failing horribly in the restaurant and catering business, and after an extensive RFP process, the city contracted with Lessing's, a well-established company in the field, to take over operations at the castle, and the results have

been excellent. In addition to rent, the city gets a percentage of Lessing's profits so we are sharing their success. The public restaurant part of the operation is still a work in progress, but I think that will improve this year, just as the pool snack bar did last year after some coordination with them. Lessing's is a good partner for us.

4. Club management: After a thorough executive search process, we hired golf club Manager Jim Buonaiuto about a year and a half ago. Jim has had a baptism by fire dealing with the aforementioned problems, as well as the numerous daily issues that arise at the club, but he has acquitted himself well and is a credit to the city and the golf club. I hope Jim will stay with us for many years to come. He and Chip are two of the hardest-working employees in the city and it has been my pleasure to work with them these past two years.

So, despite anonymous tips and muckraking to the contrary, the truth is that our dark days are behind us at the Rye Golf Club and things are looking up. I hope to see you out on our wonderful city golf course sometime. Fairways and greens.

# MTA, Metro-North ban hoverboards over fire risk



Hoverboards have been banned at all Metro-North train stations and onboard its trains. The popular gadgets use lithium-ion batteries, which have recently been found to pose fire risks. File photo

By SIBYLLA CHIPAZIWA  
Editorial Assistant

On Jan. 27, the Metropolitan Transportation Authority announced that possessing hoverboards aboard trains or buses or at stations of the New York City transit system is banned, including the Metro-North Railroad, which has three lines running through Westchester County.

Hoverboards—a self-balancing two-wheeled board or electric scooter—became a must-have gadget last year, especially during the holiday season. They are controlled by the user standing on sensored platforms. They operate on lithium-ion batteries, which have recently been scrutinized for posing potential fire risks under certain conditions, according to the U.S. Pipeline and Hazardous Material Safety Administration, with reports of the batteries getting too hot, short-circuiting or

simply being defective, causing some hoverboards to self-ignite. The administration regulates hoverboards because of the batteries they use.

In a released statement, the MTA said that its safety rules have long banned the use of personal wheeled devices, like skateboards or scooters, in subway and train stations. Customers are also not allowed to have hazardous and flammable materials on public transport. The fire risk that lithium-ion batteries pose led the MTA to ban the devices. Hoverboards have already been banned on other transport systems, such as on most U.S. airlines and in other major cities.

MTA Chief Safety Officer David Mayer said that riders' and employees' safety are always the MTA's main concern. "For obvious reasons, it is not safe to use... personal wheeled vehicles

on station platforms. We're equally concerned about the safety risk of bringing devices that pose fire hazards into the confined spaces inside trains and buses," he said in a released statement.

Peter Todd, of New Rochelle, works in Larchmont and sometimes takes the one-stop ride on the Metro-North New Haven line to get to work. He finds the outright ban a good thing, as he's not a fan of hoverboards. He pointed out the fire risks, and added, "I think hoverboard users are worse than people walking and texting at the same time. They perpetuate a lazy lifestyle."

A representative from the Westchester County Department of Transportation, which operates the Bee-Line bus and ParaTransit systems, could not be reached for comment as of press time.

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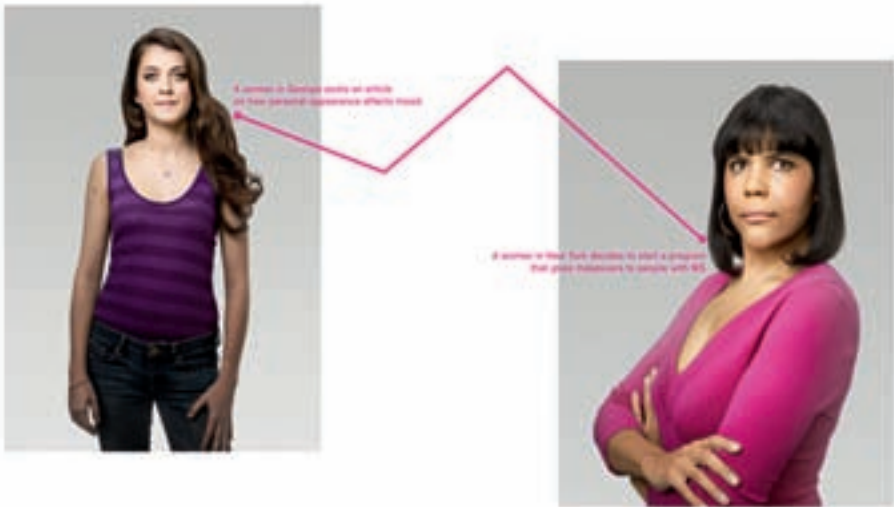


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# Iconic T.D.'s Smoke Shop set for final goodbye

By JAMES PERO  
Staff Writer

In March, a piece of history will vanish from Rye's Purchase Street as T.D.'s Smoke Shop waits forlornly for its eviction.

On Jan. 27, the longtime owners of the smoke shop, Peggy and Tony D'Onofrio, were greeted in the morning, not by their usual slew of customers, but with news from the landlord of their building—John Fareri of Fareri Associates—explaining that they had just over one month to vacate the building, after residing there for almost 70 years.

And while a final close is imminent, for the D'Onofrios it has been far from the first time the store has faced a penultimate fate.

In 2008, according to Tony D'Onofrio, Fareri took over ownership of the building—which encompasses three other storefronts on Elm Place—and while his original intention was to redevelop the property, the economy took a turn for the worse. As a result, the shop was allowed to stay and they were offered a slew of one-year leases that lasted for five years.

But in 2013, D'Onofrio's rent was set to increase to a rate that he said he may no longer be able to afford.

This time, however, when word got out, the smoke shop was saved by a petition, which garnered more than 4,000 signatures from residents and culminated in the Rye City Council drafting legislation for a special permit that would help save the shop.

Under the terms of the permit, Fareri—who was intent on redeveloping the property—would be



Peggy D'Onofrio shows a sign that young supporters of T.D.'s made. The smoke shop is closing in March after being on the corner of Purchase and Elm for nearly 70 years.

allowed to forego the terms of a bank moratorium in Rye's business district by renting out a portion of the building to a bank for a higher price. This increased rent, the council hoped, would compensate for T.D.'s lower rate.

Though the legislation passed in the City Council by a vote of 5-1, a three-month sunset clause—which dictated that the legislation would expire if an application was not filed for the permit in three months—was also included.

On Feb. 7, 2015, after the lengthy negotiations between the city and Fareri to create the terms of the special permit, the window for Fareri to apply for the smoke shop's special permit expired and the storefront was left without any real idea of where the future would take them; that is, until D'Onofrio was told that the bank wanted his property as well.

"After [the council] had passed that law, Mr. Fareri and his associates came in here to say that the

bank had changed their minds," D'Onofrio said. "They wanted our space as well."

According to Fareri, both parties involved—the bank and the D'Onofrios—were unable to see eye to eye, and as a result, the application for the permit was never submitted.

"The bank has certain needs. The smoke shop has certain needs. Neither of them were able to be flexible," he said, specifically mentioning a disagreement over the usage of the shop's prime corner space as one of the main points of disagreement.

As a result, the D'Onofrios will leave, and while the bank can no longer replace the shop, the ultimate fate of their retail space remains unclear.

D'Onofrio recalls being shocked when he found out that the special permit would not actually save his business.

"I thought I was seeing the light at the end of the tunnel," he said.

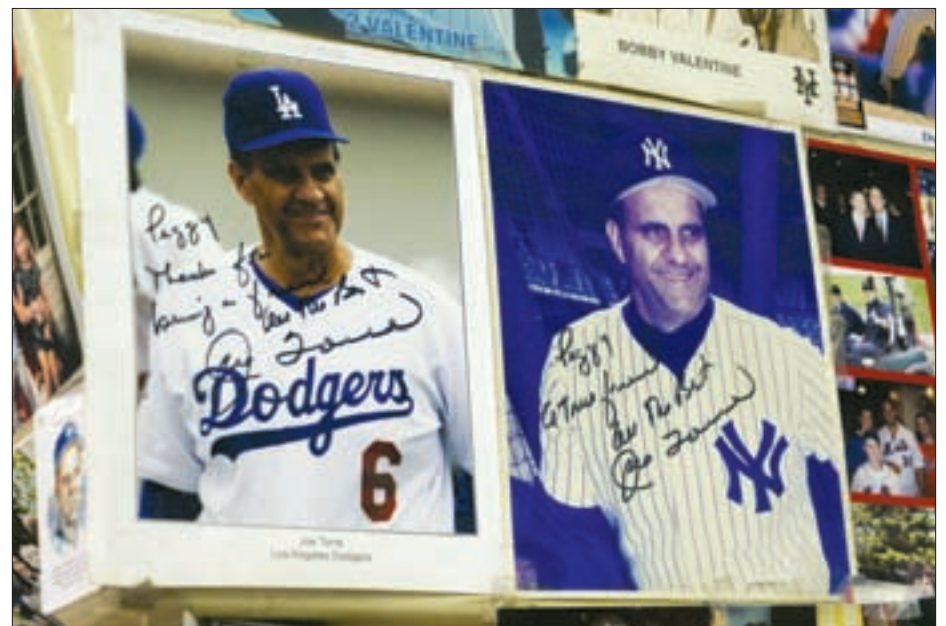
Now, D'Onofrio and his mother are left to sell the stock left in their store until they're forced to vacate the premises at the end of March.

Mayor Joe Sack, a Republican, was among those in Rye who will miss the iconic store.

"It's a true shame that their great run is coming to an end, but we will miss them tremendously," he told the Review.



Tony D'Onofrio has been running the smoke shop full time for the past 24 years. According to him, he's going to miss the customers the most.



Famous customers of the establishment include former Yankee's manager Joe Torre, whom the D'Onofrios knew well. Photos/Andrew Dapolite



Sometimes, Tony D'Onofrio told the Review, they would receive so many Christmas cards from residents that they would run out of room to display them.

CONTACT: james@hometown.com



## Love: Life's most precious gift

A RYE  
OLDTIMER  
Judge John Carey



A song that was popular in the late 1940s ended with these lines:

*"The greatest thing you'll ever learn  
Is just to love and be loved in return."*

William Wordsworth put it like this in "The Sparrow's Nest":

*"She gave me eyes, she gave me ears;  
And humble cares, and delicate fears;  
A heart, the fountain of sweet tears;  
And love, and thought, and joy."*

And Percy Bysshe Shelley gave us these thoughts in "Prometheus Unbound":

*"All love is sweet,  
Given or returned. Common as light is love,  
And its familiar voice wearies not ever...  
They who inspire it most are fortunate,  
As I am now, but those who feel it most  
Are happier still."*

Edgar Allan Poe took flight in "Annabel Lee":

*"But we loved with a love that was more than love—  
I and my Annabel Lee—  
With a love that the winged seraphs of heaven  
Coveted her and me."*

And George Noel Gordon, Lord Byron, wrote these heart-rending words about lost love, whose bitter taste has lingered since my early teens:

*"When we two parted  
In silence and tears,  
Half broken-hearted  
To sever for years,  
Pale grew thy cheek and cold  
Colder thy kiss.  
Truly that hour foretold  
Sorrow to this."*

Have a loving Valentine's Day, and every day, and thanks to Bartlett's Familiar Quotations.

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## 'Rye's Got Talent' takes the stage

Calling all talented students and adults. Practice your scales or put on your dancing shoes and get ready to showcase your talent! The Rye City Lions Club is excited to announce they will be hosting the third annual "Rye's Got Talent" competition on Saturday, March 12 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at Rye Country Day School's Dunn Performing Arts Center. Proceeds from ticket sales and application fees will benefit Guiding Eyes for The Blind and VISIONS Services for the

Blind and Visually Impaired, two organizations that the Rye City Lions Club supports each year.

Participants must live in or attend school at the City of Rye or the Town of Rye, which includes Rye Neck, Rye Brook and Port Chester schools, and will be judged in two age categories, sixth to eighth grade and ninth to 12th grade.

A winner in each category will receive a \$250 cash prize. The talent categories include singing, dancing, instrumen-

tal, and drama. Groups may also perform.

The event is limited to 20 performances. The deadline for submitting an application is Feb. 26. Applications are available at Rye Middle School, Rye High School, Rye Country Day School, Rye Recreation, Rye YMCA, The Osborn, or by emailing Janet Malang at [jmalang@theosborn.org](mailto:jmalang@theosborn.org). For more information, contact Janet Malang at 925-8276 or [jmalang@theosborn.org](mailto:jmalang@theosborn.org). (Submitted)

## Feds release flood plan for Mamaroneck



A study released this week by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers recommends a \$72 million plan aimed at mitigating flood risks in the vulnerable community of the village of Mamaroneck. Pictured is a section of Mamaroneck Avenue after Tropical Storm Irene. File photo

A long-awaited analysis by the United States Army Corps of Engineers, which studied projects aimed to mitigate flood hazards along the Mamaroneck and Sheldrake rivers, has been submitted to the village of Mamaroneck. According to the report, the cost of the projects altogether would total approximately \$72 million.

According to the report, projects included in the plan will center on modifying the Mamaroneck and Sheldrake rivers in a number of ways, including the widening, lengthening and deepening of some of the tributaries' channels to allow a greater flow into the Mamaroneck Harbor.

The cost of the project would be split between both federal and nonfederal sources; approximately \$45 million from federal sources and the other \$24 million

from nonfederal sources; namely, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and Westchester County.

Both the county and local governments have requested federal aid for such projects since the 1970s when two floods—one in 1972 and another in 1975—caused significant damage to the village of Mamaroneck and surrounding areas. The two floods, according to the report, caused \$18 million and \$92 million in inflation-adjusted damage, respectively.

Despite the approval of the plan, which addressed such issues by the Army Corps of Engineers in 1989, the project was eventually stalled due to cost concerns from nonfederal partners, according to the study.

According to the most recent report submitted by the Army

Corps, the efforts would have funded a number of large-scale projects to help mitigate flood damage, including the construction of 7,500 feet of retaining wall—about 21 football fields in length—and the replacement of several bridges in the area.

Interest in the project was renewed in 2007, after two serious flood events resulted in a Presidential Disaster Declaration which ultimately necessitated the assistance of FEMA.

Now, according to village of Mamaroneck Mayor Norman Rosenblum, a Republican, the project has a better shot than ever of actually coming to fruition; one particularly encouraging aspect of the recent proposal is that it costs \$30 million less than its last iteration.

-Reporting by James Pero



Photo courtesy metrocreativeconnection.com

## PET RESCUE



Meet Asia, a pretty tabby tortie mix. Asia is about a year old and loves to play. She will happily greet you and insist on being pet and played with. What a wonderful cat for a family that wants a fur-ever furry friend. Asia is spayed, in excellent health and up to date with all vaccinations. To meet Asia, contact Larchmont Pet Rescue at 835-3332/740-4072 or visit [NY-PetRescue.org](http://NY-PetRescue.org). (Submitted)



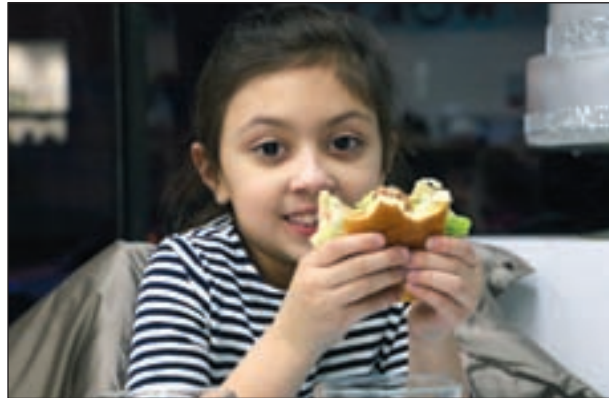
# Halstead Ave. bakery hosts Chef Night Series

By KILEY STEVENS  
Staff Writer

In a small, cozy bakery on Halstead Avenue, brightly colored sweet treats line the walls of a glass case. The walls, painted a bright teal, pop with fun, chalkboard signs welcoming guests. One of the signs reads “Welcome Chef Bill Powell.” On this particular evening, men, women and children alike poured into Nora’s Ovenworks for “Visiting Chef Night,” a new event hosted by bakery owner Nora Brunnett that features local chefs who teach participants how to make a specialty dish.

On Jan. 29, Nora’s welcomed Chef Powell of Powell’s Catering in Harrison.

On the menu for the evening’s demonstration were Powell’s famous hamburgers. Powell, who has owned Powell’s Catering for 35 years and is a lifelong Harrison resident, kept the kids giggling as he made burger after burger in the bakery’s kitchen, instructing the guests to only flip the burger once, and to never press down on it with a spatula. A table loaded with toppings and condiments was nearly bare after each participant chowed down on their burger. Many of the children participating chose the usual toppings: lettuce, tomato and ketchup. One adventurous 6-year-old



Mia, 7, shows off her hamburger creation during Visiting Chef Night at Nora’s Ovenworks.

topped her burger with bacon and a fried egg. With the sound of people chewing, the only noise in the room, it was clear that the burgers were a big hit.

“Nora picked them,” said Powell of his meal choice, adding that he loves community events such as this one. “It’s always new people, and you get to show what you do well.”

Powell said that Brunnett has been a great new asset to the neighborhood since her opening in December 2014, and joked with participants that when he has a bad day, he goes to the bakery for a cupcake.

Most of the people in attendance at last Friday’s event were mother-daughter teams, with a dad and a few teams of friends sprinkled in. Josie Marsico and

her daughter, Tessa, 6, of Harrison, were the first to arrive, eager to learn how to cook hamburgers and get a lesson in peach cobbler from Brunnett.

“I like the Cooking Channel and I want to be on [a show],” Tessa said, who also told the Review that her favorite thing to cook is “almost everything.”

Another participant, 8-year-old Sofia, said through a mouthful of a bacon-topped burger, “You should come to Nora’s Ovenworks every day,” and recommended Brunnett’s beet brownies. According to Sofia, the brownie is so good, you can’t even taste the beets—and she would know, she doesn’t like beets.

After enjoying burgers, guests followed Brunnett back into the kitchen to learn how to make



Nora Brunnett hands Lyla, 5, one of Powell’s famous burgers.

peach cobbler. Brunnett allowed each child to lay the crust on top of the cobbler to make a criss-cross shape with the dough. She warned that they could eat the raw crust, but that it probably wouldn’t taste very good. In true childlike fashion, almost all of them ate it anyway.

The class enjoyed the fruits of their labor and a look of satisfaction swept across Brunnett’s face as she cleaned up. Each guest took their turn thanking her and expressed their excitement for more cooking classes.

The first event, held on Jan. 15, featured Chef Anthony from Del-fino’s, the Italian restaurant located next door to the bakery. Her love for community and family is what drove Brunnett to plan these events, she said, adding that, after the first one, she couldn’t sleep because she was excited.

“I really like the teaching part of it and I’m a big community girl,” said Brunnett, who has lived in Harrison for eight years. She said the event is a great way for residents to get to know and build relationships with local restaurant’s chefs; something she believes benefits all of Harrison. This is probably what makes choosing the visiting chefs so easy for her.

“I go to a lot of the places,” Brunnett said. “My family and I eat at Billy [Powell]’s place;



Nora Brunnett and Bill Powell, of Powell’s Catering, pause to pose for the Review during Visiting Chef Night. Brunnett is the owner of Nora’s Ovenworks in Harrison.

we eat at the taqueria; we eat at Rattlesnake Jack’s.” She said that every chef she has asked to present so far has been receptive.

Brunnett added that she thinks the price of the event is great for what the participant gets. Classes run at \$30 per person, or \$55 per couple, which can include a parent-child team, and \$15 for each additional child. Classes include a cooking lesson from the visiting chef, a dessert lesson from Brunnett, and—the best part—a chance to eat.

Brunnett plans to continue these events through the winter and summer when families have more time to spend together.

The next installment of Visiting Chef Night is on Friday, Feb. 5, after press time, which will feature resident chef Chai-Li, who will teach guests how to make Chinese dumplings, a choice Brunnett said was “purely selfish,” due to her love of her dumplings.

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From left, Sienna, 6, Skyebella, 10, and Sofia, 8, enjoy their burgers at Visiting Chef Night, a new event hosted by Nora’s Ovenworks on Halstead Avenue in Harrison. Photos/Andrew Dapolite



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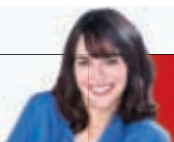
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## There's a reason 'Cupid' rhymes with 'stupid'

**RHYMES  
WITH CRAZY**  
Lenore Skenazy



There are holidays filled with joy, love, laughs and a gladdened heart.

And then there's Valentine's Day.

"I'm not sure he ever recovered," recalls a friend I'll call Clarissa, thinking of the Valentine's Day when she was engaged to the man of her dreams, who gave her a pair of heart-shaped silver earrings. Nice, right? Wrong.

"When I put them on, I realized they were tarnished. I went insane," Clarissa said. "I thought, 'This is the end of our relationship!' I remember going down the street, crying my eyes out and calling my friend, 'Matt bought me these tarnished earrings (sob) and I don't want (sob) to speak to him again!' It was like the tarnish was a metaphor for our relationship. I remember my family talking me down, 'He doesn't mean it. He loves you. It was inadvertent.' But what kind of man gives a woman a tarnished gift?"

A man who's pretty worried about giving her a gift again, I'll tell you that.

Looking back—with her 30th anniversary coming up (yes, with Tarnish Man)—Clarissa can't understand why she went so ballistic, but I do. Valentine's Day is to relationships what pythons are to picnics.

Another friend whose name I can't use—do you sense a pattern here?—had been married for a few years and Valentine's Day was upon him. "Of course, I was one of those last-minute shoppers," he admits. "So I was

on Fifth Avenue and I just popped into a Victoria's Secret to get her something." He pauses. "I learned a lot that day."

Things you males out there may wish to note:

1. Buying lingerie for a woman is sometimes perceived, perhaps unfairly, as more of a gift for you.

2. Silk is an expensive material, long valued for its drape, feel and cost.

3. Polyester is a cheap, man-made material that can, to some benighted (ex) boyfriends/husbands, seem just like silk.

4. It's not.

Once my friend had learned this lesson the hard way, he never bought his wife any clothing again—not even a scarf. In fact, after that, it was mostly gift cards. "Let her handle it," he says now, sounding a little shaken. Still married, but shaken.

And then there was the "funny" Valentine's Day that business guru Peter Shankman arranged for his date. They'd been going on five months. "Long enough for her to know my sense of humor," he thought.

So, he continues, "Did you know that on Valentine's Day, White Castle takes reservations and puts out waiter service, place-mats, candy hearts, etc.?" He told his girlfriend to dress up, "We're going to someplace romantic."

They drove to Queens. They pulled into White Castle. The girlfriend assumed they just needed a place to park. But—surprise! During dinner, she cried.

They broke up a week later. He has since married someone more fun.

But of course, sometimes the gift a guy gives is actually quite perfect. That doesn't mean all

goes as planned.

"One year, I happened to get three bouquets delivered at work," recalls Manhattan author and poet Elinor Nauen, who had been toiling at a women's magazine. "Bouquet number one came from Johnny, my new boyfriend at the time. Bouquet number two was from a guy who worked there and had a hopeless crush on me." The third bouquet was a thank you from a writer whose story she'd published. The gift just happened to arrive on Feb. 14.

"I kept getting interrupted to go to the front desk for yet another delivery, and the small muttering that came at the second bouquet got pretty loud by the third," says Nauen. And what were those co-workers' mutters?

"Everyone seemed to think I'd sent them all to myself!"

So a day to revel in popularity became a day she realized all her coworkers thought she was a neutered, friendless narcissist. Gee, thanks!

Luckily, she is still with Johnny—he bought bouquet number one—decades later. And the fact that he has never given her flowers since is something they're both fine with.

Considering that this is one of the happier stories I've heard, maybe the key is to simply sleep through the 14th, or do what my husband did in the early, giddy days of our relationship: buy your beloved a pound of bologna.

Not as a metaphor. Just as a guilty pleasure that isn't made out of polyester and can't tarnish. It's also unlikely your sweetheart will get three of those on the same day.

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## Talking Business: With Jennifer Graziano

By IRA ELLENTHAL

Meet Jennifer Graziano, who, with admirable gusto, has been helping to lead the Cox & Graziano Funeral Home operation through its fourth generation.

Notably, the company recently opened a state-of-the-art facility in Greenwich, Connecticut, as part of an expansion move. And, of course, it's business as usual at its flagship in Mamaroneck where, in a separate, adjacent building, Zion Memorial Chapel, the only independent all-Jewish funeral home serving Westchester County, continues to flourish.

We had gotten together to talk about Zion specifically, which is celebrating its 20th anniversary this year and where, according to Jen, who's also a non-practicing attorney, things are going swimmingly. "We're right where we want to be at this point in time and we expect to keep growing at a fast clip," she said with enthusiasm.

Ten minutes into our conversation, I began to feel like a slacker as Jen ticked off what seemed like an endless list of charities, nonprofits and service organizations to which she willingly gives her time and energy. "It makes for a long, pressure-filled day, but I welcome the challenge," she said.

With a wide smile, a longtime friend commented, "Color her a tornado or a cyclone if you want, but mostly color her smart because she's building inestimable goodwill for her business, at the same time as distinguishing herself as an outstanding corporate citizen."

Another person who knows her well added, "Jen's in perpetual motion, sort of a mobile public relations, advertising and marketing juggernaut rolled into one—and I admire her greatly for all that she's accomplishing."

Jen said that several rabbis who knew her father, Vincent, appreciated him for his character and professionalism, and were instrumental in convincing him to open Zion to fill the void in the marketplace.

"He showed his appreciation by creating an environment in which understanding and empathy for the families we serve is never in short supply. I think of him as my role model and I have tried to emulate him in every way possible. I still do, in fact,



Funeral Director Jennifer Graziano. Photo/Andrew Dapolite

because he remains active in the business," she said.

Clearly comfortable in her own skin, Jen adds a woman's touch to the business that, for obvious reasons, no man could bring. "No doubt there's truth to that, but my father has taught me so much, like never to rest on my laurels and the importance of staying current and relevant in order to grow."

And something else: "He told me that the first day it becomes a job for me is the day I should leave, but that's not likely to happen. I mean it," Jen said.

By the time I got around to raising the question of what it's like for an Italian woman to run a Jewish funeral home, she was more than prepared for it. "It's absolutely no problem at all," she said. "I grew up with as many Jewish friends as any other kind. Like my father, I have always had great respect for Jewish traditions. And, let's face it, Jews and Italians have a lot in common, including their love for food, faith and family."

Slim bordering on sleek, Jen is an attractive divorcee and the mother of a 4-year-old daughter, Mia, whom she adores. "She's a hoot, the most important person in my life," she said. "I spend as much time with her as possible and I want her to grow up to believe that any goal is attainable if you love what you do."

Since she has been working for her father since her early teens, I wanted to know what she would do differently if she was afforded a "mulligan," or a second chance,

as they say in golf. "Absolutely nothing—except perhaps grabbing some more sleep and being a little more trusting that things would turn out well," she said.

Detecting signs of micro-management, I asked if she runs her business that way.

"Over the top, guilty as charged," she laughed. "But I'm working on it, although I'm the first to admit that I still have a way to go."

As our hour together wound down, I was determined to throw her my best fastball with my final question, a real spur-of-the-moment toughie designed to make her think long and hard.

"When the moment arrives for you to meet your maker, what words would you like inscribed on your tombstone?" I asked.

After the briefest of pauses, she said, "She did it all and she did it well."

Foiled again.

I was impressed and, as I packed to leave, I complimented her for being so interesting. Tongue-in-cheek, she quipped, "I want you to understand that it's never dull when a Graziano is in the room."

That clinched it: I was on the verge of telling her that I would like her to handle my funeral arrangements when my time came. But, not wanting her to think that I was an easy mark, I figured I could hold off for a few days before giving her the order.

*Ira Ellenthal is the executive vice president of Home Town Media Group.*

# THE HOMETOWN HOUR

with Publisher Howard Sturman  
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# The best defense

**LIVE MIKE**  
Mike Smith



On Feb. 7, the Denver Broncos topped the Carolina Panthers 24-10 in Super Bowl 50, and although it may not have been the most exciting game in the NFL's history, I bet the memories of that game will live on for quite a while for one simple reason: youth coaches will love it.

Regardless of the sport, coaches at every level—except maybe Mike Martz, that is—preach the importance of good defense. They're almost clichés at this point: "A good defense beats a good offense," and "Offense wins games, but defense wins championships." These sayings seem to be rote platitudes taught on the first day of coach training.

But here's the thing: it's pretty much true.

On Sunday, it wasn't the Broncos' Hall of Fame-bound

quarterback that led them to a Super Bowl win; it was an all-world defensive effort led by MVP Von Miller, DeMarcus Ware, and a host of other Broncos who harassed and bullied the explosive Cam Newton from start to finish. The result was 19 hurries, seven sacks and one huge upset that nobody—including myself—saw coming.

Coming into the game, most pundits saw this as a probable one-sided Carolina win. Newton was too dangerous, the Panthers' receivers were too fast, and the Carolina offense was too balanced for Denver to possibly have a shot, right?

And then the Broncos' defense proved us wrong.

If young kids get into sports dreaming of scoring touchdowns or hitting buzzer-beating shots, the first thing that most coaches want to instill in us is a healthy respect for what happens on the other side of the ball. It's pretty easy to understand

why. Defense is the one thing, especially at lower levels, that isn't about how fast you are, or how high you can jump; it's about effort, toughness and buying into the system.

Sure, Miller is an exceptional athlete. Heck, every player on that Broncos defense is a top 1-percenter. But the way that Denver, in just two short years, was able to remake themselves from an offensive juggernaut into a team led by its defense speaks volumes to the ability of a coach to change the culture of a ballclub just by focusing on the defensive side of things.

If the offense scores the points, it's the defense that supplies the backbone.

When I was 9 years old, I had a CYO basketball coach who organized a team night where we all piled into our point guard's living room to watch a game featuring NBA prospect Joe Smith. Smith would go on to play 16 years in the league, never

quite reaching the heights that some of his draftmates, notably Kevin Garnett, did. But that coach didn't want us to watch Smith's athleticism or knack for scoring; rather, his effort on defense and on the glass, and his ability to set the tone and make his teammates better through his hard work on the floor.

Given their preference, I'm sure youngsters would much rather tune in to watch Newton flip into the end zone, Odell Beckham make one-handed grabs, or Golden State Warriors' guard Stephen Curry drain shots from beyond the arc.

That stuff is fun, it's entertaining, and for lack of a better term, it's *sexy*.

But some days, like last Sunday, those phenoms run into a brick wall, a defense that's simply unwilling to bend.

For a coach at any level, that sort of commitment to a defensive game plan is more gratifying than all the touchdowns in the world.

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On Feb. 7, Von Miller and the Denver Broncos' defense stymied the Panthers and Cam Newton en route to a 24-10 victory in Super Bowl 50. For youth coaches, the game will long remain a great example of the importance of defense. Photo/Jeffrey Beall

**SOMETIMES, THE GAME THEY LOVE DOESN'T LOVE THEM BACK.**

More and more, young athletes are focusing on a single sport and training for that sport year-round — a practice that's led to an increase in Overuse Injuries. Left untreated, overuse trauma to young shoulders, elbows, knees and wrists may require surgery and have lifelong consequences. For information on preventing and treating Overuse Injuries, visit these sites:

[orthoinfo.org](http://orthoinfo.org) [stopoveruseinjuries.org](http://stopoveruseinjuries.org)

**STOP** **AAOS**

## Rye Athlete of the Week

### Tommy O'Brien

By LIAM BRENNAN  
Contributor

This week's Athlete of the Week is Tommy O'Brien, a senior and two-year captain on the boys' hockey team. O'Brien is a center who will be greatly missed next year. His 12 goals and nine assists have led the hockey team to an impressive 9-7 winning season.

Head coach Peter Thomas appreciates O'Brien's natural leadership on the team. He sees the senior as a player who everyone looks to as a source of energy, as he never seems to lack it.

"[His work ethic] is unparalleled," Thomas said. "It sets the bar for what is expected of everyone else."



Teammate Rocco Macri can also tell just how hard O'Brien works day in and day out to better himself on the rink. He adds that it is very enjoyable to be line-mates with him because of how he "always outthrusts everyone on the ice."

In addition to playing for the

hockey team, O'Brien is also a member of the boys' varsity tennis team. He is also a well-rounded individual, a member of the National Honor Society, has participated in food drives for the Carver Center, and has participated in the Polar Plunge for the Special Olympics.

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# Garnets shine at qualifiers

By MIKE SMITH  
Sports Editor

On Feb. 6, local wrestlers competed in the Section I qualifying meet, taking their first step toward potentially winning a sectional title and moving on to represent the area in the New York State Wrestling Championships on Feb. 26. For some schools, including Eastchester, the day was a runaway success that will allow the season to continue, at least for another week.

The qualifying meet was held at four different venues, including Carmel, John Jay, Horace Greeley and Sleepy Hollow high schools, from which the top four wrestlers in each weight division earned berths in the Feb. 13 sectional meet at Arlington High School.

Rye, which competed at Carmel High School, qualified four wrestlers for sectionals, led by Chase Bekkerus who earned a pinfall win over Tappan Zee's Chris Cicalo to capture third place in the 160-pound bracket. Blake McGowan, wrestling at 120 pounds, Phillip Smith, 132, and Franklin Goldszer, 145, all pushed through as well, placing fourth in their respective weight classes.

A number of other area wrestlers also made waves as they prepared for the sectional championships. Harrison's Rob Donohue took first place in the 195-pound division at John Jay, while Eastchester's Nunzio Crowley, who won the section at 170 pounds last winter, seems poised to repeat with a first-place finish at Horace Greeley.

According to Crowley, his increased visibility within Section I has made for a tougher road in 2016.

"I had a pretty good year last year, and you always want to do better, so I kind of have a lot of pressure on me," Crowley said on Saturday. "You know what's coming up with sectionals and I've definitely felt like I've had a bit of a target on my back."

As the wrestlers prepare for sectionals, which begin on Feb. 13 at Arlington High School and resume the following day at Clarkstown South, many teams will hold joint practices this week. Rye will head to Harrison High School to practice alongside

several area squads, including the Huskies, Eastchester, Port Chester and Scarsdale.

"Everyone kind of pulls together with the kids that are still around at this time of year,"

said Harrison coach Vin Nicita. "These are some of the best practices of the season and it's definitely a fun time."

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Harrison's Rob Donohue wrestles at John Jay High School.



Nunzio Crowley defeats his opponent from RC Ketcham on Feb. 8. Crowley took top honors at 170 pounds at Horace Greeley High School.



Rye's Chase Bekkerus ties up with an opponent on Feb. 6. Bekkerus placed third in the 160-pound division at Carmel High School. Photos/Mike Smith



Franklin Goldszer jockeys for position at Carmel High School. Goldszer is one of four Garnets who qualified for sectionals last weekend.



# Byram tops Rye in title game

By MIKE SMITH  
Sports Editor

Rye's bid for its first league title since 2009 fell short on Tuesday, as visiting Byram Hills withstood a great early effort from their hosts to top the Garnets 49-43. The Feb. 9 win clinched the Bobcats' second-straight league crown, while giv-

ing Rye some motivation as the playoffs approach.

The Garnets started strong, hitting eight of their 10 first shots to build up a 21-9 lead by the end of the first quarter. But the Bobcats climbed back into contention, making the most of Rye's misses while feeding 6-foot-7 junior Matt Groll in the paint to tie the game by the mid-

dle of the third quarter.

Groll finished with 18 points and 13 rebounds in a game that Rye coach John Aguilar said was eerily reminiscent of Byram's Jan. 8 win over the Garnets.

"They do a really great job getting the ball in to their big, Matt Groll, and we didn't have an answer for that tonight," Aguilar said. "We just couldn't get into

a rhythm offensively because [guarding him] takes so much out of us on the defensive end."

Groll's dominance in the paint was compounded by some foul trouble for Rye's bigs, as George Kirby picked up three fouls in the first half, while frontcourt mate Mark Croughan committed his fourth personal foul a few minutes into the third quarter.

"It changed everything for us because we're a rhythm team," Aguilar said. "With George out of rhythm early and Mark out of rhythm late, it really hurt us."

Offensively, the Garnets were led by Charlie Nagle and Michael Carty, who both had 13 points, but Rye struggled late, going just 5-for-21 from beyond the arc in the final three periods of the game. Skylar Sinon had 16 points for the Bobcats to complement Groll's big day.

"I've got to give Byram credit," Aguilar added. "They did a hell of a job and they really earned that win."

At 15-5, Rye will now look to the Class A postseason and the official seeding announcements which will be made on Feb. 10, after press time. Aguilar hopes that the near-miss on a league title will spur his team on to a berth in the County Center, but knows that, as a likely No. 5 seed, the road to White Plains will not be an easy one.

"I think we'll respond well, we know there's no easy games and they never take any games for granted," he said. "We played hard every game this year, but we know that first round is going to be a battle."

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Charlie Nagle drives along the baseline against Byram Hills on Feb. 9. Nagle finished with 13 points in Rye's 49-43 loss to the Bobcats.



Michael Carty rushes past a Bobcats' defender at Rye High School. Carty had 13 points, but Rye fell short in their bid to claim their first league title since 2009.



George Kirby drives to the hoop against the Bobcats.



Michael Carty looks for an open teammate on Feb. 9. Photos/Mike Smith