



CHAMBER BREAKFAST MEETING DISCUSSES EVENTS

By Lisa A. Mauro

The Bronxville Chamber of Commerce held a breakfast meeting on Tuesday, April 19, 2005 at Lawrence Hospital. One of the main topics of the meeting was the introduction of the Everybody Needs a Proxy campaign by guest speaker Christina Staudt, President of the Westchester End-of-Life Coalition (WEOLC).

The WEOLC is an organization that works to expand the awareness of the importance of end-of-life issues. It helps those people who are at the end of their life, along with their loved ones and caregivers. It provides information and services between residents of Westchester and those who can give support.

Staudt explained that the Everybody Needs a Proxy campaign is a community-based campaign that promotes the signing of Health Care Proxies in Westchester, including all persons from the age of 18 and up. The goal is to get people to think about their health care, their wishes, and whom they would choose as their health care proxy. This campaign deals with situations in New York State.

Staudt also explained that this is the first stage of the campaign targeting all people living and working in the fol-



Westchester End-of-Life Coalition President, Christina Staudt and Diane Neff, a student in the Graduate Program in Health Advocacy at Sarah Lawrence College hand out free New York State Health Care Proxy forms.

lowing zip codes: 10707, 10708, and 10709. The Everybody Needs a Proxy campaign is funded by the Community Fund of Bronxville, Eastchester, and Tuckahoe, Inc. For additional information about the WEOLC, go to their website (www.westchesterendoflife.org).

Other segments of the meeting included Mayor Mary Marvin, who talked

about her first two weeks in office, and ongoing projects in the Village of Bronxville. Rocco Circosta, Department of Public Works Superintendent who spoke about different projects of which his department is involved, as well as questions answered in a Q&A session. Harry Porr, the Village Administrator spoke about village government, reassessment of

the village tax roll, as well as the renovation of the Village Hall. He let everyone know that an information brochure on assessments was being mailed out to the residents.

Additional topics that were discussed at the breakfast meeting were the Annual Sidewalk Sale and the Farmers' Market. The annual sidewalk sale will be held for 2 days this year and called the "Bronxville Super Sidewalk Sale and more...." On June 10th there will be a free kickoff concert at Bronxville High School on the front lawn on Ponfield Road at 7:30 pm. On Saturday, June 11th, Park Place will be closed to traffic for the day to accommodate various activities. There will be a fire engine (if it is not on call for the day), and the Eastchester EVAC ambulance will be available for tours. Other local food vendors and stores will set up booths. And, there will be lots of activities for the kids. The village has allowed free parking at the Garden Avenue and Kraft Avenue parking lots, as well as Paxton Avenue.

On Saturday, June 4th, the Farmers' Market will start its fourth year. The market will be open from 8:30 am to 2:00 pm every Saturday, rain or shine, until the end of November. The location for the market will be on Stone Place at Paxton Avenue.

For additional information about upcoming events in the Village of Bronxville, contact the Bronxville Chamber of Commerce at 337-6040.

BRONXVILLE BEAUTIFICATION COUNCIL PROPOSES NATURE PRESERVE

The development of a nature preserve, sponsored by the Bronxville Beautification Council, was presented at the May 9 Village Board of Trustees meeting. Paulette Castillo Griggs, president of organization, was joined by Robert Reiter of Peter Gisolfi Associates, Landscape Architects, to provide detailed information and seek approval for the project.

The area, once a leaf dump site, is one of the few remaining open spaces in the community. It is approximately 2-acres in size and is located on the eastern edge of Bronxville at the end of Dusenberry Road, off Alder Lane.

Much preliminary work has been done to be able to produce the schematic design created by Peter Gisolfi Associates. This includes drainage studies and site surveys funded by local residents, as well as de-mapping of Alder Lane and television probing of existing water lines by the Town of Eastchester.

Griggs noted that the most obvious benefit of a concept such as this is educational, and that interviews with school officials and teachers strongly indicate a need and desire for such a site. Other advantages presented include the creation of an environmental treasure in an area that does not lend itself well to other uses, and the preservation of open space in an ever-more developed suburban area. Local residents of all ages would enjoy the salutary benefits of having access to this natural oasis. Finally, the proposal restores a site that has long

been neglected, at no cost to the Bronxville and Eastchester taxpayer.

The Bronxville Beautification Council requires the official approval of the Village Mayor and Board of Trustees before it can proceed with this privately-financed endeavor. Once the approval is given, the Council, a not-for-profit 501 (c)3 entity, will begin its fundraising effort for the initial \$50,000 sum necessary to implement the concept. A further campaign will seek to establish an endowment for site maintenance. The Bronxville Beautification Council will also continue working with the landscape architects to fine-tune the design. Elements of this include: a central grassy meadow, a bird sanctuary, a butterfly garden, a section of wild grasses, circular paths (both stone-dust and grass), and an extensive array of indigenous trees and shrubs.

The progress made so far would not have been possible without the strong support, guidance and efforts of a number of Village residents, said Castillo Griggs. She also noted that the local chapter of the Audubon Society already has expressed an interest and willingness to lend its assistance. The Bronxville Beautification Council, founded more than 20-years ago, believes this project is in keeping with its overall mission of enhancing public areas and maintaining the quality of Village life, and is committed to making this nature preserve an important asset for the entire community.



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