

MAYOR'S COLUMN

Congratulations to the Chamber of Commerce for a very successful Sidewalk Sale on Saturday. The weather cooperated beautifully and the energy in our Village was palpable. Just last week, Westchester Magazine named Bronxville as the number one downtown in the County because of the eclectic mix of stores, restaurants, coffee shops and the theater which taken together produces a unique synergy.

Next Saturday, the Chamber of Commerce will sponsor a Fall Festival from 12Noon to 4PM at the Girl Scout Cabin field along Paxton Avenue. The event includes children's activities, pony rides, live music and great food. I encourage everyone to stop by.

Very soon we will be adding several new and exciting retail businesses to our mix: J. McLaughlin, a classic clothing store with 36 stores nationwide will be adding two on Pondfield Road, a men's store in the former P.J. Huntsman and a women's store in the former Art and Frame Studio. The Art and Frame Studio, owned by Village resident Florence Kooluris will be moving in to the space vacated by Noel Fine Arts.

We do say a very sad goodbye to Cliffhangers, a mainstay in our Village for 40 years. Joy Kilbourn, proprietor and Village resident, brought one of a kind items to the Village and became the face of our commercial district. Joy lent not only her beautiful taste to the Village but her talents as President of the Chamber of Commerce and she was a tireless worker on behalf of all business district events.

In a small town twist, Cliffhanger's space will now be occupied by Enchante, owned by Adrienne Ganz, a Bronxville High School classmate of Joy's daughter. The long empty Try'n'Buy space will have a new tenant as well. The Running Store, with branches in Greenwich and Princeton, will be ready for business in time for the holiday season. A special thank you goes to landlord Jon Gordon of Admiral Realty who worked with the Village to find the ideal tenant for Bronxville. Jon is well aware of our concern for the right retail mix. He let other rental opportunities pass by until this "perfect fit" arrived.

We also welcome Scalini, the new Italian restaurant on the lower level of the Scarborough Fair building owned by the Di Rosa family. The proprietors are veterans of the restaurant business as the owners of the very successful Mamma Assunta's restaurant in Tuckahoe for over 26 years.

Also opening a second restaurant in Bronxville are the owners of Rosie's. In addition to the Italian themed Rosie's on the Westside, we will have Sammy's Bistro in the former Pane E Vino space on Pondfield Road.

Adding to our retail mix will be East India Designs, featuring imported Indian home goods, marketed mostly to the design trade. They will also have hours for the general public. Village residents Susan Piper and Janet George co-own the store which will be opening at Three Pondfield Road.

On a parallel track, the Village has been working with businesses old and new to keep the Village clean, safe and

attractive. Like homeowners, shopkeepers are responsible for the maintenance and cleanliness of their sidewalks. Given the increased number of food establishments, vigilance on the part of restaurateurs is paramount.

Other issues we are reviewing in the business district include the proliferation of merchandise on the sidewalk, the condition of our tree wells, and the continued illegal crossing of the double yellow lines by drivers on Pondfield Road.

We are very proud of our downtown commercial district. As we enter the busy holiday season, we wish success to all our merchants. A busy and beautiful downtown is an asset to the whole Village.