



12 » Garden Club



14 » Bye Bye Birdie



16 » Irvington Delight

The Hudson Independent

April 2014

Serving Tarrytown, Sleepy Hollow, Irvington, Scarborough-on-Hudson and Ardsley-on-Hudson

Vol. IX No. 4

Local Motorists Cope with Closed Bridge Ramp

by Janie Rosman

“So far, so good” was the common response to inquiries about village traffic a few weeks after the Ramp E entrance to the Tappan Zee Bridge was closed for the second time.

Despite fears to the contrary after its earlier closing in December all but caused havoc, “Nothing happened,” Margie Corham shrugged as she waited on line at the post office, one of several errands that day. “I didn’t know what to expect, and am glad nothing happened.”

“Nothing” referred to congestion and traffic akin to four months earlier from a combination of weather, numerous accidents and a vehicular fire on the bridge. Repairs to the George Washington Bridge also diverted traffic to I-87/I-287, and after the ensuing commotion, the ramp was temporarily reopened at least into the New Year.

It remained open a good chunk of time until project officials closed it March 10 for



Photo by Alexa Brandenbarg

the duration of the construction of the new bridge, which is projected to take about 10 years.

“Had it been open, a few more cars would have been held there waiting for the tractor-trailer accident to be cleared, but the backup from the blocked westbound bridge span would still have frozen traffic in the area,” Tarrytown’s project liaison/representative David Aukland said.

Early on, the Thruway Authority conducted a comprehensive study, later verified

by Tappan Zee Constructors, LLC (TZC), which determined closing the ramp wouldn’t significantly affect traffic. That information, for which *The Hudson Independent* filed a Freedom of Information Law (FOIL) request, was unavailable at press time.

“Years ago, traffic was worse until improvements were made, including the jug handle,” Family YMCA at Tarrytown spinning instructor Rob Jones commented. “No matter how the construction was/is handled,

Continued on page 6

Outcome of Tarrytown Water Sample Questioned

by Robert Kimmel

“The New York State Health Department and Village of Tarrytown are concerned about lead in your drinking water.” So stated the opening sentence in a three-page notice sent to each village address late last month. The notice and an accompanying letter were the result of one routine water test, among the many required, taken from a household faucet showing lead concentration levels above the state’s mandated acceptable level.

“Actually when we got the results back showing that there was one spike, a higher level in one of the samples that were taken, we went back the next day, and it was back to normal,” Village Engineer Michael J. McGarvey said.

Any village sampling showing lead concentrations of more than 15 parts per billion requires a notification to residents, and possible remedial steps by the village.

McGarvey was in contact with county authorities describing the new, acceptable follow-up results; however, the county declined to release Tarrytown from sending out the notices. He also said with the “one address where we had exceeded the lead level, it turns out that the problem could be within their own system, not ours.”

The village’s responsibilities include “the service line that connects your home/business to the village’s water main.” Tarrytown utilizes an installed corrosion control system “to minimize lead in the drinking water,” the letter states.

Tarrytown has been using a reduced testing system, “because our results were so low for so long,” but may have to return to a required increased sampling because of the one test result, according to McGarvey. He added that it was not “beneficial for the village to spend all this money on testing where there is no indication that there is a high level.”

McGarvey noted it may take the village up to three years before it can return to a lower level of tests.

Community Rallies to Help PAW Find Homes for Stranded Animals

by Janie Rosman

One week after structural cracks and fear of collapse forced Pets Alive Westchester (PAW) to evacuate its building in Elmsford, Executive Director Erin Guilshan said 30 dogs and 45 cats are still in need of being adopted or placed in foster homes.

“We had 70 dogs and 80 cats at the time of evacuation, of which 45 dogs and 35 cats were fostered or adopted as of today. All the other animals are in rescue, and are still in need of fostering or adopting,” said Guilshan, who noted five rabbits are safe, too, in permanent or foster homes.

PAW initially called in an engineer the week prior to evacuation to evaluate cracks in its building’s walls, and while an initial visit deemed the building acceptable, a subsequent visit revealed quick deterioration.

“Upon re-evaluation, he recommended we evacuate the building immediately,” the PAW website said. Upon hearing the 46,000-square-foot, no-kill Elmsford location had one weekend to relocate its animals and supplies, media volunteers, and the commu-



Photo by Kimberley Marcus

Amelia Gross, Dylan Seymour, Cydney Wilson and Kira Gleit were among those who held a bake sale to benefit Pets Alive.

Continued on page 5

PSRRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
WHITE PLAINS, NY
PERMIT NO. 971