



Local Summit Asks "OBAMACARE"...  
What Does It Mean For You?

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Mamaroneck High School  
Con Ed Award Winner

9



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# Larchmont Ledger

## Proposed Re-Usable Bag Ordinance, Affordable Housing Discussed at Board Meeting

By Stephen E. Lipken

Plastic merchandise bags will be a thing of the past if the Town of Mamaroneck (TOM) has anything to say about it, according to Supervisor Nancy Seligson, speaking at the Town Board Work Session on Wednesday, February 6.

"We sent a letter to merchants regarding banning plastic shopping bags to get their thoughts. The Village of Mamaroneck has already passed an ordinance calling for re-usable bags. Larchmont is considering it," Seligson noted.



Left to right: David M. Barnett, Project Manager; F. Cindy Baire, Vice President, GAR Associates, Inc.; Thomas Frey, President, Frey Appraisal and Consulting Services, Inc.

Discussion turned to the Model Housing Ordinance. "When Westchester County settled housing litigation with the Federal government, there was a directive that the County work with local municipali-

ties on a review of local zoning and ordinances to advance fair and affordable housing," Town Administrator Stephen V. Altieri stated.

Rose Noonan, Executive Director, Westchester Housing Council said that income criteria for affordable housing is 80% of County Median Income or less for homeowners; 60% for renters. "With ten or more units, 10% must be affordable; 5-9 units, at least one.

At the Regular Meeting, Seligson introduced F. Cindy Baire, Vice President; David M. Barnett, Project

Manager/Appraiser GAR Associates, Inc. and Thomas Frey, President/Certified General Real Estate Appraiser, Frey Appraisal and Consulting Services, Inc. who will be conducting the Town Revaluation.

Based on the 2011 tax Roll, the 1.75% valuation was increased to 100%. Values will be finalized on March 8 with grievance time

from June 1 to June 18. "Re-assessment does not raise more tax dollars but distributes taxes in a fair manner," Barnett observed. Property owners can call 1-866-910-1776, toll free or go to [www.mamaroneckassessment.com](http://www.mamaroneckassessment.com).



Rick Cherry, Chair, Hommocks Housing Authority (left) and Sal Iacono, Treasurer, Hommocks Apartment Complex

## Westchester Legislators Honor County's High School Intel Finalists and Semi-Finalists

The Westchester County Board of Legislators (BOL) recently honored the high school students from around the county who placed as semi-finalists or finalists in the prestigious Intel Science Talent Search competition.

A special congratulatory ceremony took place in the BOL Chambers before the start of the BOL's regular meeting. The students being honored all received proclamations, posed for photographs and were greeted by the legislators in whose districts they reside.

"Year after year, Westchester high school students prove themselves as being among the nation's best—in the classroom, in athletics and in their communities," said BOL Chairman Jenkins (D-Yonkers) in his remarks. "Tonight, we honor this remarkable group of Intel Science Talent Search competition finalists and semi-finalists and congratulate them on their academic commitment, unceas-



Westchester's Intel Science Talent Search Finalists and Semi-Finalists with BOL Chairman Ken Jenkins. (Photo credit: Westchester County Board of Legislators / Aviva Meyer)

ing efforts and cutting-edge intelligence. It is also important that we recognize that these students received a lot of support from parents, other family members and guardians in their quest for excellence.

But there is one undeniable reason why Westchester can point to so many top science, tech, engineering and math students: the quality of our schools and the

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## Parade Honors Hometown Hero

On Sunday, Jan. 27, LMC-TV crews were present as Carly Rose Sonenclar led a parade down Mamaroneck Avenue. The parade which honored Sonenclar for being runner-up on TV's "The X-Factor," lasted about 45 minutes. Hundreds lined up along Mamaroneck Avenue to see the 13 year-old and welcome back the hometown hero. After riding in the parade, Sonenclar went to the review stand to thank fans for their support. Sonenclar was then joined by friends and family at a private reception at Molly Spillane's.

LMC-TV producers Sheyla Navarro and Kelvin Guevara captured all of the action at the parade, including an exclusive interview with Sonenclar and Mayor Norman Rosenblum, which Navarro moderated. "Working with LMC-TV is a blessing," says Navarro. "Not only for the easy accessibility to the latest technology in production services, but also for the quality of people from which I can never stop learning."

"Something like this is very important and it means that there's talent in this small area," said Guevara, who operated one of the cameras at the parade. "No matter how young you are, or where you come from, you can have the opportunity to be seen on a national scale."



Carly Rose Sonenclar

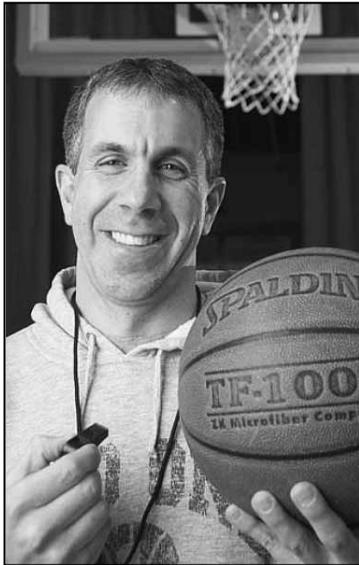
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# Backyard Sports Cares Hosts Fundraiser with NY Knicks

Playing sports is a staple of most childhood experiences. But for special needs and underserved kids, finding programs that are a functional and financial fit is very challenging. Backyard Sports Cares was created to fill the void in sports programming and mentoring experiences for a very special group of children in the Westchester area.

Founded by Scarsdale resident Danny Bernstein in 2007, Backyard Sports Cares is an extension of Backyard Sports, founded in 2005 to provide community team sports for kids of all ages in Westchester. Both programs share a philosophy of promoting increased self confidence and a lifelong love of sports instead of the traditional win at all costs mentality. To date, over 4,000 children in Westchester have participated in the program, including many in Mt. Vernon, New Rochelle, Port Chester, White Plains and Yonkers.



Danny Bernstein

Backyard Sports Cares was built on a philosophy of bringing the local community together through sports. Middle school and high school volunteers are trained to participate as peer-to-peer mentors, working with special needs children to provide the one-to-one support they need to gain and master new skills. The skills they learn provide coping mechanisms and can give them confidence for greater success at home and school. For athletes in the underserved communities, the programs give them a great opportunity to play sports while also building solid relationships with the coaches that can help expand their horizons outside their own neighborhood.

Larchmont resident Isabel Banta, age 15, has

volunteered for over a year. "It's really rewarding for me to help the Backyard Sports Cares athletes because my younger brother has special needs. I see how much he learns as the skills are broken down for him. This experience makes me appreciate my brother more and help me understand him and other kids like him," she said.

Helping children model appropriate behaviors both on and off the field is a win-win for volunteers and athletes. For the volunteers and coaches, they better understand the kids and get great satisfaction by being an integral part of their progress each week. For the athletes, it's the chance to make a new "peer" friend that encourages their progress. For all, it's an opportunity to work with a highly trained group of coaches, mentors and staff who take an interest in their future life success.

The program is wide reaching. Local collaborative program partners include Westchester Jewish Community Services

(WJCS), New Rochelle School District, White Plains Youth Bureau and the Carver Center in Port Chester and the United States Tennis Association (USTA).

"The Backyard Sports Cares team is change agents, teaching life lessons with their outstanding teachers, mentors and coaches," said WCJS COO Bernie Kimberg.

To help raise awareness for Backyard Sports Cares, Bernstein has partnered with the NY Knicks for an inaugural Three-on-Three Basketball Tournament, a fundraiser that offers 30 teams a "dream day" to play at the Knicks/MSG training facility in Greenburgh. What makes this fundraiser unique is that local families and businesses are sponsor-

ing five young adult teams from the primary areas BYSC has sports programs to help bring different groups from all over Westchester together to play and compete. The event is scheduled for Saturday March 17th from 9am - 3pm and will include visits from Knicks alumni and the Knicks City Dancers.

The irony of playing at the Knicks practice facility isn't lost on Bernstein, a long time fan. "It's like

Willy Wonka's Chocolate Factory for grown men," he said. "Very few ever get inside to see it, much less play on hallowed ground, so we are thrilled that the Knicks organization thought Backyard Sports Cares was worthy of the partnership."

A limited number of team and sponsorship opportunities are still available. Visit [www.backyard-sportscares.org](http://www.backyard-sportscares.org) for details.

## Urgent Care Center to Debut in Westchester

Waiting for what can be hours in a hospital emergency room when you have a non-life-threatening illness or injury is now a thing of the past... Welcome MDxpress, a new walk-in medical facility, which will make its Westchester debut in February, 2013 at 1030 W. Boston Post Road in Mamaroneck.

"MDxpress will create a higher level of medical care here in Westchester County," says MDxpress founding physician, Dr. Jason Lupow. "Urgent care centers are the future of medical care; they greatly enhance the quality, affordability and efficiency of care for patients."

The facility, which will be open seven days a week including all holidays, will have top doctors and medical assistants on staff to treat a variety of pediatric and adult non-life and limb threatening injuries and illnesses, including cuts requiring stitches, flu, strep and sore throats, sprains, burns, headaches, stomach aches, asthma, allergic reactions and much more. For the greatest convenience, MDxpress will have on-site digital x-ray and lab facilities as well.

MDxpress will offer appointments for school, camp and sports physicals. Walk-ins are welcome, while scheduled appointments are also available.

MDxpress fills a niche in Westchester County that is fast becoming a trend nationwide. The need for a medical alternative that can serve both non-life threatening immediate medical care and routine

medical services - to replace the high costs and long waits associated with emergency room visits - have given rise to walk-in urgent care centers nationwide. While Westchester's population has grown in the past decade, access to healthcare has not increased and is limited to just a few hospitals.

Lupow said that appointments are not necessary and patients will usually be seen within 30 minutes. All major insurances, including workers' compensation and Medicare, are accepted. Located at 1030 West Boston Post Road in Mamaroneck, MDxpress will be open from 8am to 8pm, Mondays through Fridays and from 9am to 5 pm, Saturdays and Sundays.

MDxpress will be staffed and run by Dr. Jason Lupow with physician partners Dr. Babak Toosi, Dr. Nelson Tieng, Dr. Alan Teigman and Dr. Nishant Shah. All are board-certified emergency room physicians at the renowned Montefiore Medical Center in New York City. Together the partnering group has more than 60 years of combined emergency and urgent care experience.

"Providing outstanding service and personalized medical care with short waiting times will always be our number one priority. We are very excited to bring this quality healthcare and service to the people of Westchester County," says Dr. Lupow."

For appointments and information, visit [www.mdexpress.com](http://www.mdexpress.com) or phone 914-777-CARE (2273).

## High School Intel Finalists and Semi-Finalists

*continued from page 1*

educators who are dedicated to ensuring a meaningful future for our children."

Students who enter the nationwide Intel competition submit research papers utilizing data gathered from original projects and experiments they have conducted. Often, their work is accomplished under the guidance of researchers from top universities and science laboratories. Becoming one of the 300 semi-finalists and 40 finalists in the competition involves making it through a selection process in which letters of recommendation, essays, test scores, extracurricular activities, and high school transcripts are factored in the judges' decisions.

In March, the 40 finalists are feted at a special ceremony in Washington, D.C., and then the top ten spots and first prize winner are announced. Intel Science Talent competition awards range from

\$20,000 to \$100,000 for the first prize winner.

This year, three Intel finalists are from Westchester: Daniel Conor McQuaid from Ossining High School; Chris Traver from Croton-Harmon High School in Croton-on-Hudson; and Jiayi Peng from Horace Greely High School in Chappaqua.

Some of the Intel semi-finalists from Westchester are: Colette Mary McCullagh and Jeewan Naik from Pleasantville High School; Madeleine Minke, Jamie Tanzer and Kathryn Elizabeth Evans from Scarsdale High School; Alex Lubkin from Blind Brook High School in Rye Brook; Joby B. Bernstein from Mamaroneck High School; Caleb Hersh, Eitan David Rude and Sam Rude from Ossining High School; Mark Moretto from Briarcliff High School in Briarcliff Manor; and Chloe Wang from Dobbs Ferry High School.

Half-days: 8:45 a.m. to 12:30/12:45 p.m.  
Full days: 8:45 a.m. to 2:15/2:30/2:45 p.m.  
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