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Philipstown & Putnam Valley

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DOING BUSINESS IN PHILIPSTOWN

Stephano's Brings Taste of Italy to Philipstown



PHOTO BY CHRIS LAYTON

Managers Robert Potter and Nicole Wintner have some of Stephano's fine salads for lunch, served by Janine Vuksta.

BY VIRGINIA CALIFANO

Mangiamo, Philipstown: Whether you're looking for a quick slice of pizza or a hearty Italian meal, the new Stephano's Pizzeria & Ristorante has it. In what is the restaurant's third location, the new Stephano's in Cold Spring held a grand opening ribbon cutting ceremony Monday afternoon.

A popular destination for Italian cuisine for over 20 years, Stephano's Ristorante has two locations, one in Wappingers and another in Fishkill. The new Cold Spring location, on Route 9 in Philipstown Square by the traffic light, is the first to be serving pizza.

"Everything is made fresh in house - all the sauces, all the

dressings," said Robert Potter, restaurant manager.

The Cold Spring menu boasts an array of gourmet pizzas to go along with Stephano's classic Italian dishes. Potter is proud that his restaurant offers both options.

"The pizza is really taking off and people are loving it," he said. "But being able to sit down for dinner is so important. I love that we have both."

Potter's go-to choice from the menu is the Arancini, the Sicilian-style rice balls stuffed with bolognese and gorgonzola.

"If you like rice balls, when you try ours, you'll never want to eat any other rice balls again - they're that good," he said.

Now that Stephano's is of-

ficially open, Potter said they are already looking to offer more. The upstairs portion of the restaurant will soon be opening as a party room, offering space for special events.

With a proven record of satisfied customers, Potter said it is more than just the fresh homemade food that keeps people coming back for more.

"It's all about our people - great chefs, the best service. We are proud to make you happy," he said.

Stephano's Pizzeria & Ristorante is located at 3182 Route 9 in Cold Spring, in the Philipstown Square (formerly Perks Plaza). Visit www.stephanospizza.com for the menu and more information.

Maloney Cleared To Run For New York AG

BY ERIC GROSS

Congressman Sean Patrick Maloney, who is seeking reelection this fall in addition to declaring his candidacy for New York State Attorney General, received some good news last week when the Republican challenger for his House seat narrowed a court challenge that sought to invalidate his dual candidacies.

Orange County Legislator Jim O'Donnell has decided to confine his case solely to Maloney's congressional run which removed the final obstacle for the Cold Spring resident to compete in a Sept. 13 primary for at-



torney general against three other Democrats.

Maloney called it "no surprise" that the GOP had chal-

lenged his petitions: "I am glad this has been cleared up once and for all and that the voters will get a real choice at the ballot box in September."

O'Donnell alleged that Maloney has "turned his back on his congressional district and is treating his constituents as nothing more than a backup plan."

The Republican challenge to Maloney's congressional campaign still awaits a Supreme Court judge's decision.

Last month, Maloney filed a petition signed by nearly 40,000 voters to compete in an Attorney General primary against the other candidates.

(See MALONEY on Page 5)

O'Donnell Calls For Maloney's Apology

Representative Sean Patrick Maloney is off to the races: the Democrat is running in the primary for state attorney general, is holding a series of jogging town halls, where constituents can get to know him during his morning run, and plans to run against Republican James O'Donnell for his current congressional seat if the AG primary doesn't work out.

O'Donnell, meanwhile, is definitely running against Maloney. O'Donnell, of Orange County, last week called for an apology from Maloney relating to remarks made about Trump supporters.

Last week, during a running session in Brooklyn, Maloney told a City & State reporter, "I don't give a f**k what the Trump fans say. That's not what this is about," and "This is about speaking from the heart. About a family I've built

for 25 years that's in the cross-hairs of these ***holes. And doing something about it." The reporter had asked Maloney during the jog to address criticism of a recent commercial that depicted him protecting his Putnam farmhouse and family (husband Randy Florke and three children) from the threat of "a group of men led by Donald Trump ... getting ready to tear this house apart."

O'Donnell, currently serving in the Orange County Legislature, issued a strongly worded news release calling for Maloney to apologize.

"Sean Maloney's vicious, R-rated attack on thousands of his own constituents is outrageous, offensive and a real eye-opener to his true personality," said O'Donnell. "Dropping F-bombs and attacking good people who simply disagree with your views doesn't make you tough, it makes you igno-



James O'Donnell

rant and an embarrassment. I'm a true born and bred New Yorker who spent my career in law enforcement - I don't need to try and sound tough; I am tough."

Maloney's campaign dismissed the accusations.

"Sean was clearly responding to a question about defending his kids from people trying to destroy his family," Maloney's campaign manager, Caitlin Girouard, said Friday.

(See O'DONNELL on Page 5)

Dogs, in Distress, Saved from Sweltering Car

BY DOUGLAS CUNNINGHAM

The monthly report by police Officer-in-Charge Larry Burke can often be pretty routine. Some 100 tickets issued in July, 20 for traffic violations; another 80 for parking. Six calls to "assist citizen," another 2 for disorderly conduct; 3 more for domestic disputes. And then came Tuesday evening.

Burke told village trustees that at 1:25 pm on July 3, on a day that AccuWeather

said the high hit 93 degrees, he responded to a report of two dogs in distress in a car in front of 50 Main St. One was a pit bull, one a puggle (mix of Beagle and Pug). Three windows in the car were halfway down, but it wasn't enough. The dogs were clearly suffering from the heat, Burke said. He opened the car and removed the dogs. "I actually had water for them," he said.

As these stories tend to go, that wasn't all. Burke said police then discovered 36 grams of marijuana and 10 Oxycodone pills. One William Toonk, 35, of Gates Avenue in Brooklyn, was charged with criminal possession of a controlled substance, criminal possession of marijuana, and a violation of the Ag & Markets Law (related to the dogs). Burke said he was released on bail, and then took the dogs with him.

Toonk told Burke he had been shopping on Main and had simply lost track of time.

In other matters, trustees reviewed plans for the combined Senior Picnic and Employee/Volunteer Appreciation event, set for Sept. 15 from 1-5 pm at Mayor's Park. A tent is being obtained so the event can go on regardless of weather.

'Tobacco 21' Takes Step Toward Passage In Putnam

BY ERIC GROSS

Legislator Barbara Scuccimarra wants to ban those under 21 from purchasing tobacco.

The Garrison lawmaker's Health, Educational and Environmental Committee on Tuesday evening approved the Tobacco 21 Act by a 3-0 vote and passed the measure along to the full Legislature, which will vote on whether to increase the tobacco-buying age to 21 at its September meeting.

Its fate there is uncertain. Scuccimarra believes she has the votes, but four lawmakers have reservations about it.

For more than 90 minutes Tuesday night, Scuccimarra introduced a number of guests, a veritable parade of advocates and experts to speak in its favor, including Tracey Walsh of the American Cancer Society, Mahopac Superintendent of Schools Anthony DiCarlo, Commissioner of Social Services and Mental Health Mike Piazza, Deputy Commissioner Joseph DeMarzo, Commissioner of Health Dr. Michael Nesheiwat, Kristin McConnell of the Prevention Council of Putnam, Susan Salomone of Drug Crisis in our Backyard, Brewster High School senior Erin Renzi

and others.

Walsh said that Tobacco 21 is "not an example of regulation. It is a fiscally conservative and responsible measure that will help to reduce the tobacco related \$10.4 billion in related health care costs."

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DeMarzo told the audience gathered at the Putnam Office Building: "Not everyone who smokes or uses tobacco products becomes an addict, but 84 percent of all addicts use tobacco products. This is an absolute insane number. This legislation is all about limiting access for young people."

DiCarlo said the proposed legislation will allow young people to live "long and healthy lives. This is right for our youth. Lungs should breathe in air and not smoke. We have been reactive in the past. Now it is time to become proactive."

Legislator Carl Albano, who attended the meeting along with Chairman Joseph Castellano and committee members Bill Gouldman and Amy Sayegh, told his colleagues: "Guys, this is not rocket science. It makes sense because this is a com-

mon sense approach."

Sayegh chimed in: "We must all be on the same page and protect our kids."

McConnell noted the issue of teenage smoking and vaping has reached epidemic proportions. A study taken in May of high school juniors countywide revealed that the number of students vaping in Putnam County was double the national average with 12 percent reporting to have vaped in the past 30 days.

Dr. Nesheiwat told the meeting: "Smoking and vaping are not safe. If we can save a dozen people - a single person - by approving this legislation, this legislative body is compelled to act."

Scuccimarra wants Putnam to increase the minimum age of sale of all tobacco products including electronic cigarettes to 21 as part of a comprehensive

strategy to reduce youth initiation.

"America has unfortunately not won the war on smoking and tobacco. Smoking is a risk factor for numerous cancers. By the end of 2018, nearly 111,000 New Yorkers will learn they have cancer and sadly more than 35,000 of these individuals will lose the battle," she said.

Putnam's neighbors in Westchester, Rockland, Orange, Sullivan and Ulster counties have all enacted Tobacco 21 legislation.

Several members of the legislature including Toni Addonizio, Ginny Nacerino, Paul Jonke and Neal Sullivan have questioned the feasibility of adopting the measure.

None of them was in attendance at Tuesday's meeting.

As the session ended, Scuccimarra said she was "disappointed" that her colleagues were not present.

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