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Complimentary

New Village Fire Chief Announced to Popular Acclaim

By Stephen E. Lipken

Village of Larchmont Mayor Anne H. McAndrews announced the appointment of Fire Captain John Caparelli to new position of Fire Chief, eliminating his current Fire Captain rank at the Monday, November 18 Board of Trustees meeting, to warm, prolonged applause from fellow fire-fighters; Caparelli will be sworn in at the next Board meeting on Monday, December 16.

In addition, the Board voted to abolish the position of Deputy Fire Chief, "after reviewing the Civil Service position, not previously filled, effective Tuesday, November 19."

In the Police Report, Chief John Poleway expressed concern about rising larcenies, warning residents to lock vehicles and keep valuables out of sight, also requesting \$1400 in additional funding to purchase video equipment to comply with New York State mandated recording of Class A felony interrogations/interviews.

Attorney Joana C. Feldman, Esq. stated that the Palm-



Mayor Anne H. McAndrews, left presents new badge to appointed Fire Chief John Caparelli.

er Avenue Streetscape improvements were "still in dispute, but should be resolved after the holidays are over." Trustee Lorraine Walsh mentioned that Willow Park is "90% complete, with the last toy added this week. The engraved brick pavers will be completed by Spring."

In the Tuesday, November 5 General Election, incumbent Mamaroneck Town Supervisor Nancy Seligson (D) running uncontested garnered 4,116 votes; Councilwoman Jaïne El-

kind Eney (D), 3,938 and Councilman Ernest Odierna, (D) 3,786.

Village of Mamaroneck Mayor Norman Rosenblum, Republican, Conservative, Independent (R,C, I) received 2,122 votes versus Clark Neuringer, (D) 1,702; Trustees Louis N. Santoro, (R, C, I), 1,950; Kerry Stein (D), 1,825.

The disputed Westchester County Board of Legislators District 7 election, covering Mamaroneck, Rye, Larchmont and parts of Harrison was finally resolved, with Catherine Parker (D) receiving 6,710 votes; John Verni (R,C,I), 6,307 votes and Working Families Party candidate Thomas Murphy, 447.

"Unfunded Mandates" Forum Held in Hommocks Auditorium

By Stephen E. Lipken

League of Women Voters (LWV) of Westchester County Education Fund and Larchmont/Mamaroneck Local Summit presented a Forum, "Unfunded Mandates in an Era of Tax Caps: Problems and Possible Solutions," held at Hommocks Middle School Auditorium on Thursday, November 7.

The panel addressing mandate relief issues impacting property taxes included Barbara Bartoletti, New York State (NYS) Legislative Director for NYS LWV; Lisa Davis, Executive Director, Westchester/Putnam School Boards Association; NYS Senator George Latimer; former Mamaroneck Town Supervisor Valerie Moore O'Keefe and NYS Assemblyman Steven Otis.

"For purposes of our discussion, a mandate is simply legislation, state policy or regulations imposing costs upon a local government," O'Keefe stated. "Mandated costs imposed by the state inevitably appear in local government



NYS Assemblyman Steven Otis (left) and former Mamaroneck Town Supervisor Valerie Moore O'Keefe

budgets and are a means by which the state can transfer the costs for programs and regulations that it deems appropriate to another level of government and

not appear in the NYS budget," O'Keefe observed.

O'Keefe cited other impediments,
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Identity Theft: You Could Be a Victim Without Even Knowing It!

By Linnet Tse

Identity theft is the fastest growing crime in the United States, according to John Gaccione, Westchester County's Acting Director of Consumer Protection. At the November 19th Larchmont-Mamaroneck Local Summit's meeting at the Nautilus Diner in Mamaroneck, Gaccione shared



John Gaccione

that there are more than 10 million victims of identity theft annually, affecting 19 people per minute. Of these incidents, 32% were perpetrated by the victim's own family; 18% by friends and/or neighbors, and 10% by co-workers.

What is identity theft? Identity theft occurs when someone takes

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Anthony Alfano Appointed Vice President, Executive Director At Montefiore New Rochelle Hospital

Montefiore announced the appointment of Anthony Alfano as vice president and executive director of Montefiore New Rochelle Hospital. Montefiore recently opened Montefiore New Rochelle and Montefiore Mount Vernon along with Schaffer Extended Care Center at the former Sound Shore Health System facilities.

The two hospitals will be run as individual institutions, each with its own executive director and leadership team. Montefiore will announce the executive director for Montefiore Mount Vernon when assumption of that role is imminent.

"We are committed to meeting the unique needs of the neighborhoods we serve," said Steven M. Safyer, MD, President and CEO of Montefiore Health Systems and former long-term resident of New Rochelle. "Having a local leader devoted to understanding the community and its care

requirements will help ensure that we build the programs and services needed to continue to provide the excellent care New Rochelle and surrounding towns deserve."

Prior to joining Montefiore, Alfano served as senior vice president and chief operating officer at New York Downtown Hospital (NYDH), part of the New York Presbyterian Healthcare System. He is recognized for the successful merger integration of NYDH within New York-Presbyterian. Before his recruitment to NYDH, he was on the senior lead-



ership teams at Brooklyn Hospital Center and Saint Vincent's Catholic Medical Center. Alfano's diverse business portfolio consists of leadership positions in human resources, information technology and general management at notable firms such as Reuter Information Technology, Mobil Corporation and Pfizer.

"Throughout his hospital career, Anthony has demonstrated strong management skills and leadership

in partnering with physician leaders to build programs that meet local needs and build patient satisfaction," said Susan Green Lorenzen, RN, senior vice president, Operations, Montefiore. "We are pleased to welcome him as a member of the Montefiore family and look forward to his leadership as we continue to shape our patient care delivery in New Rochelle and the surrounding communities."

Alfano holds both a Bachelor of Science degree and a Master of Science degree in Administration from Long Island University. His appointment is effective immediately.

Vice President, Executive Director Anthony Alfano

Identity Theft: You Could Be a Victim Without Even Knowing It!

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some of your personal identification information – such as your name, birthdate, social security number, bank account information, passwords, etc. – and uses it without your permission to "commit a fraud, theft, or deception," usually for financial gain. "In 99 out of 100 cases," Gaccione cautioned, "you don't even know it's happening." Examples of fraudulent uses of identity information include opening a new credit account or bank account, setting up services in your name, and creating counterfeit checks or debit cards to drain your bank account.

When identity theft is used to open new credit, it is considered a crime. However, it is not a crime if one's identity is instead "compromised," for example when an unauthorized charge is made on your credit card. As Detective Lieutenant Matthew Melrose, of the Town of Mamaroneck Police Department pointed out, "where there is no financial loss, it is not prosecutable."

How does identity theft occur so frequently? There are countless opportunities for identity theft to occur today, especially considering the way business/sales transactions are conducted. And, technology poses new opportunities. Common venues where identifying information can be stolen include ATMs, retail stores and restaurants – especially smaller retailers which might not have adequate controls in place, and in cyberspace. Det. Lt. Melrose pointed out that "whenever you give someone your card, you don't know what is happening with it."

What can be done to prevent identity theft? Gaccione provided the audience with a simple acronym – "SCAM" – to remember how to protect yourself from identity theft:

- S: be Stingy with your personal information. Provide only the essential information. Don't respond to unsolicited phone calls and emails.
- C: Check your financial information – bank statements, credit card bills, and medical claims – very regularly.



Detective Lieutenant Matthew Melrose

- A: Ask for credit reports (see below for details).
- M: Maintain careful records.

What role can credit agencies/reports play in helping consumers safeguard their identities? Gaccione emphasized the importance of routinely reviewing your credit report to check for possible instances of identity theft. According to Gaccione, there are three credit reporting companies – Equifax, Experian, and Transunion. Each is required to provide you with one free credit report a year; requests may be made through <https://www.annualcreditreport.com/index.action>. Gaccione advised listeners to stagger the report requests throughout the year and to very carefully review each one, looking for accounts you might not recognize.

What can parents do to safeguard the identity of their children? In addition to the steps outlined above, the speakers suggested that parents should: 1) consider

opting out of the FERPA (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act) provision that allows school districts to release a child's information without parental permission; 2) caution their children about what they post on social media; and 3) consider putting a credit freeze on their children through one of the three main credit agencies.

What should a victim of identity theft or suspected identity theft do? Besides reporting the incident to the bank or credit card company, both Det. Lt. Melrose and Detective Jason Florkowski, also from the Town of Mamaroneck Police Department, stressed the importance of filing a police report. Completion of such an affidavit enables them to investigate the incident.

Instances of identity theft locally: Det. Lt. Melrose reported that there have been 25 cases of identity theft reported in the Town of Mamaroneck year-to-date, which have resulted in two arrests; and of those, one prosecution and conviction. More common than identity theft in this area, according to Melrose and Florkowski, are telephone scams. The audience was urged to report suspicious

calls to the police, and notify the FTC, if warranted.

Other suggestions made by Gaccione, Melrose and Florkowski on how we can stay "ahead of the curve" and protect ourselves from identity theft:

- When using an ATM, check to make sure there is nothing unusual that could indicate the presence of an unauthorized camera such as pamphlets posted on the walls in odd places or extra bulk around the card reader; cover the keyboard when typing in your PIN.
- Simplify your credit as much as possible: if you don't use a card/account, close it to limit your exposure.
- Safeguard your credit cards; keep them in a safe place, and carry only one or two at a time.
- Do not respond to any unsolicited email or phone calls requesting personal information; filter calls using your answering machine and hang up if the phone call is suspicious. Especially beware of "charity calls."
- When disposing of prescription bottles, peel off identifying information first.
- Shred all financial and medical documents.
- Keep your personal possessions out of sight and ready reach in the workplace.

The speakers provided a number of informative handouts, including a publication by the FTC entitled "Taking Charge: What to do if Your Identity is Stolen;" this information is also available online: www.consumer.ftc.gov/features/feature-0014-identity-theft and at Mamaroneck Library's Reference Department.