

Enterprise

THE RIVERTOWNS

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 of Hastings-on-Hudson,
 Dobbs Ferry, Ardsley
 and Irvington

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75 CENTS

Inside



Koner to Koner

Father's photos aid daughter's nonprofit

— PAGE 4



Detective story

Holy Name Society honors NYPD legend

— PAGE 6



Raising green

Teens pull out colorful stops to aid cause

— PAGE 10



TIM LAMORTE/RIVERTOWNS ENTERPRISE

Revolutionary moment

Hastings High School senior Zach Pearson plays Jean Valgean during a performance of "Les Miserables" at his school on Sunday, April 17.

Greenburgh weighs plan to phase in tax increases

By Jackie Lupo

REGION — As taxpayers grapple with the results of Greenburgh's first townwide property reassessment in 60 years, the Town is trying to find a fair and legal way to mitigate the effects of massive, sudden increases in some assessments — without making other property owners continue to subsidize neighbors who were under-taxed for years (even through no fault of their own).

Town Supervisor Paul Feiner said in an April 19 interview that Greenburgh has been conferring with state Assemblyman Tom Abinanti and state Sen. Andrea Stewart-Cousins about introducing a bill that would allow tax increases to be phased in over three years. "I personally feel people who have these exorbitant tax increases, we should do something to mitigate those impacts," Feiner said.

"It would only apply to increases, not decreases," he said. "So only the people who have been underpaying, they'll have a three-year phase-in." Feiner said the law would probably apply to taxpayers "who have, say, an increase over 25 percent. We don't want to see large neighborhoods severely impacted."

Feiner also admitted that such a law would negatively affect residents slated to receive tax decreases, since the overall tax levy is a fixed number. Residents reassessed at a lower figure would find that the decrease in their tax bill would be more modest than expected, to make up for other residents' tax increases being phased in.

Feiner said Greenburgh would need to draft wording for the new law. "We would have to come up with a proposal, and hopefully the rest of the week I'll work on it and introduce a proposal on the floor of the state legislature," he said.

At first, it seemed likely that Greenburgh would invoke an obscure 1982 provision of the New York Real Property Tax Law (Chapter 1904), which allows for a five-year phase-in of the reassessments. For residents who had been under-assessed, their assessments

CONTINUED ON PAGE 18

Brightview abandons Broadway proposal

By Jackie Lupo

IRVINGTON — After almost two years of discussions that appeared to be leading to construction of a Brightview assisted living facility at 88-94 North Broadway, Brightview withdrew its proposal at the Irvington Village Board's meeting on April 18.

The meeting had begun with another presentation of design changes by Brightview. But after listening to the developer's latest proposal and to the trustees' discussions, Mayor Brian Smith made his position clear for the first time:

To me, at the end of the day, a 100,000-square-foot building, three times the size of the existing building, is too big for me and I can't support it.

Mayor Brian Smith

"To me, at the end of the day, a 100,000-square-foot building, three times the size of the existing building, is too big for me and I can't support it."

Citing his client's policy of not pursuing a development without the support of the municipality's mayor, Brightview's attorney, David Steinmetz, said the developer would not proceed.

Only an hour before, Brightview's team of lawyers, executives, planning consultants, and architects had appeared confident. "We feel like we're at a very

CONTINUED ON PAGE 23

ARDSLEY	8-9
CLASSIFIEDS	39
DOBBS FERRY	6-7
EDITORIAL	12
ENTERTAINMENT	26-27
HASTINGS	4-5
IRVINGTON	10-11
LETTERS	12-13, 15-16
OBITUARIES	24
POLICE	2
REAL ESTATE	40-51
RELIGION	24
SPORTS	33-42



Hastings-on-Hudson

Happenings

The **zoning board** meets Thursday, April 28, 8 p.m., in the municipal building.

Family-to-Family's spring soiree next Saturday, April 30, 7-9:30 p.m. at Square Peg Gallery, 385 Warburton Ave., includes a silent auction, live jazz, hors d'oeuvres, and drinks. The event features vintage mid-century photographs by photojournalist Marvin Koner, the late father of Pam Koner, the founder of the nonprofit organization. Proceeds benefit Family-to-Family's hunger and poverty relief efforts in the Rivertowns. Visit family-to-family.org/spring-soiree-fundraiser to purchase tickets (\$50).

The rec department hosts the annual **community cleanup** next weekend (April 30-May 1) and the spring **village-wide tag sale** on Saturday, May 7, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. To volunteer for the cleanup, contact Lisa O'Reilly at 478-2380, ext. 642 or loreilly@hastingsgov.org. Register to host a tag sale by Friday, April 29, by visiting hastingsgov.org/recreation-department, calling 478-2380, ext. 600 or e-mailing cfoxman@hastingsgov.org.

Hastings Station Café, 134 Southside Ave., shows "Excerpts: Works in Progress," new photographic images by village resident **Dawn Watson** for the month of April.

Celebrate Mother's Day at the **Hastings Flea** on Sunday, May 8, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., at the Zinsser Commuter Lot off Southside Avenue, with local vendors, live music, and more. The musical lineup features a children's Music Together class at 11 a.m., local high school singer/songwriter Grace Patitucci at noon, Andrea Saponik's students at 1 p.m., the band Intuition playing blues and rock at 2, and Solar Punch at 3.

The **farmers' market** continues outdoors in the library parking lot on Saturdays, May 14 and 28, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. The weekly market schedule resumes June 4, 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Vendors now accept SNAP cards (formerly the food stamp program).

Got News?

Contact Hastings reporter Jackie Lupu at 478-2787, ext. 17 or at jlupo@rivertownsenterprise.net



Marvin Koner's photo of trumpeter Miles Davis plugging his ears while performing at Cafe Bohemia in New York City in 1956.

Father's photos aid daughter's nonprofit

By Jackie Lupu

When Family-to-Family's founder and executive director Pam Koner of Hastings was growing up in New York in the '50s and '60s, the conversation around the dinner table was often sprinkled with references to actors, musicians, politicians and other people in the news. As the daughter of Marvin Koner, a noted photojournalist of the mid-20th century, she was used to the name-dropping, since her father had photographed everyone from President Eisenhower to Elizabeth Taylor. Growing up, she and her mother, Silvia, who was articles editor of Redbook magazine, often accompanied him on assign-

ment around the world.

Marvin Koner died in 1983, but the images he created are as fresh as when he first shot them. Next Saturday, April 30, about 50 of his photos will be the centerpiece of F-to-F's Spring Soiree, to be held at the Square Peg Gallery at 385 Warburton Avenue, just steps away from Family-to-Family's new storefront at 416 Warburton.

The fundraising event will feature a

sale of the photos to benefit F-to-F, drinks and hors d'oeuvres, live jazz by RiverArts' adult and senior high school ensembles, and an auction of special items, services, and experiences from Rivertowns donors. Robin Estevez of Foodtown (expected to open next month in the former A&P on Main Street) is contributing gift baskets of cleaning sup-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14

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Q: A home owner who is thinking of selling receives an unsolicited offer from a relative of a neighbor. A house similar to the owner's, sold recently and the owner has heard what that house sold for. Does the owner have any need for the services of a real estate professional?



John Doherty,
Licensed Real Estate Salesperson
Cell: 914.255.5000
E-Mail: john@petterriolo.com

Answer on page 8

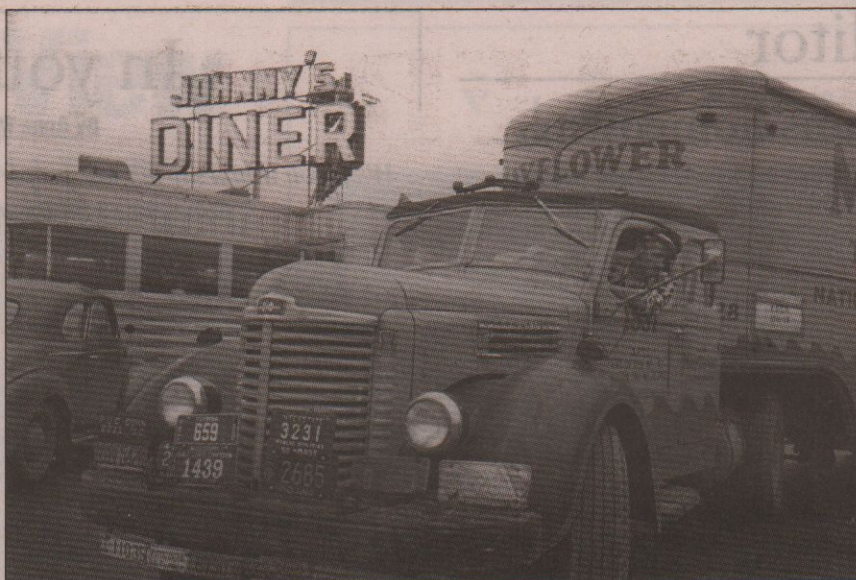
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Koner

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

plies, personal care items, and nonperishable foods, which will be donated, in the winner's name, to needy families. Examples of other auction items are a two-night getaway at a Vermont inn, a pair of tickets for "The Late Show" with Stephen Colbert, a chiropractic treatment by Caitlin Pietrosanto of Hastings, a consultation with Hastings homeopathic veterinarian Stacy Hershman, and works by many Hastings artists. A complete list of auction items is at www.family-to-family.org. Tickets to the event are \$50 and can be ordered through F-to-F's website or purchased at F-to-F's office.

Family-to-Family was founded by Koner in 2002 with the idea of pairing affluent and needy families for direct giving. Today, the organization raises funds and organizes programs to help the poor and hungry in the Rivertowns and well beyond. Since it was founded, F-to-F has provided 3.7 million meals through its Sponsor a Family program, which provides food to families in 17 states. In 2005, an F-to-F toy drive resulted in donations of 15,000 toys to children whose families had been displaced by Hurricane Katrina. A recent F-to-F project provided aid to poor students and their families in Flint, Mich., during the tainted water crisis there. Closer to home, F-to-F conducts food drives, and partners with residents to provide groceries for sponsored families. Other programs include monthly book donations to poor children, partnerships between school classrooms in privileged and disadvantaged areas, aid for poor families to help them grow their own food, and programs to involve children in community service to the poor. Corporations such as Eileen



Marvin Koner's photo of a moving truck at Johnny's Diner in Somerville, N.J. in 1950.

Fisher, St. Ives, and High Ridge Brands support F-to-F with donations of clothing and personal care items, which make their way to people in shelters or in need of disaster relief.

Koner is especially proud of F-to-F's Giving Works program, which finds ways for children and young people who have grown up being only on the receiving end of charity, to have the experience of volunteering and giving.

This year was a milestone for the organization, which has been a mainstay among local charities, but never had a bricks-and-mortar presence. That changed when F-to-F moved into its storefront space on lower Warburton Avenue last November.

"This is our public coming-out party," Koner said. "We've been in my basement for the last 12 years." Koner said that since F-to-F opened across the street from Antoinette's Patisserie, people have been

dropping in to donation and to ask, "How can I help?"

"We want families who want to make giving a part of the culture of their family to come find us," Koner said.

Koner's mother, who lives in Manhattan, has turned over thousands of her late husband's photos to her daughter. A limited number of his photos had been available in recent years through the Corbis website, but Koner is now organizing a more extensive digital archive, which she administers (visit marvinkonerarchive.com to see images for sale and to read about the photographer's career). All sales from the archive support F-to-F.

"My father is posthumously supporting our efforts," Koner said, noting that a three-year corporate grant that was subsidizing F-to-F's operating expenses expired last year.

Marvin Koner was born in 1921 and died in 1983. The son of Russian intellec-

tuals, he grew up in New York City and started his photographic career during World War II in the Army Photo Intelligence Unit. After the war, he studied photography under the G.I. Bill, and embarked on a 30-year career taking pictures for magazines such as Life, Fortune, Look, Esquire, and Collier's. His notable subjects included Martin Luther King, Robert Frost, Margaret Mead, Robert Kennedy, Frank Lloyd Wright, and Eleanor Roosevelt. He also produced striking images that captured life in the postwar era, including a loaded missile in a silo, customers in a late-night diner in 1950, children in a Cuban orphanage, and Italian immigrants arriving in New York Harbor. Koner said her father followed a family of immigrants on their ocean journey from Italy to New York. "He was a storyteller," she said, explaining that wherever he traveled, he had a small portable typewriter to compose narratives of his pictures.

Marvin Koner's images are in the permanent collections of the Museum of Modern Art, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and the International Center for Photography, all in New York.

Koner said she hoped F-to-F's fundraising efforts through the photo sales and other donations would help the charity expand its reach. One goal is to offer direct family sponsorships in Yonkers. Another is to keep the Hastings Food Pantry (located in the James Harmon Community Center) fully stocked at all times. The charity has set up a "wish list" on Amazon that makes it easy for people to donate items that are shipped directly to the food pantry.

Koner is convinced that when given the chance to do good, people seize it. "People are so grateful for the opportunity to donate," she said. "I'm ever interested in harnessing and using that passion to its best advantage."



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