

# Empty Storefronts in Larchmont: Working Toward a Solution Through a Combined Effort of Government, Commerce and Volunteerism

BY JANET O'CONNELL

On Tuesday, September 22, the Larchmont-Mamaroneck Local Summit convened at the Nautilus Diner for its first breakfast meeting of the fall. The topic was "Re-Energizing Larchmont's Downtown." The four panelists were the Village of Larchmont Mayor Anne McAndrews; Village of Larchmont Administrator Justin Datino; Carolyn Fugere, Manager of the Larchmont office of Julia B Fee, Sotheby's and Head of the Larchmont Chamber of Commerce; and Tiffany Smith, Co-founder of the group Love Larchmont 10538.

The discussion was wide-ranging, and the participants were earnest and conscientious, and in a true American tradition, the solution may come through a cooperative effort on the part of government, commerce and volunteerism. The room was filled to capacity, and it was clear that this is a topic of great concern to Larchmont and Mamaroneck residents. Several panelists as well as attendees noted that Ma-



Panelists (from left to right) Carolyn Fugere, head of the Larchmont Chamber of Commerce; Tiffany Smith, co-founder of the group Love Larchmont 10538; Village of Larchmont Administrator Justin Datino; and Village of Larchmont Mayor Anne McAndrews

maroneck Avenue is bustling, in such strong contrast to downtown Larchmont.

Carolyn Fugere said that both as a realtor and the head of the Chamber of Commerce, she is anxious to build up the community in which she is selling homes. The Chamber of Commerce has

grown substantially since she joined the organization and then became its head, growing from 35 businesses to over 100 in just a year's time. The Chamber has worked to get people into town and to walk around so that they will want to come back to shop. They have organized the local

store owners and restaurateurs to participate in several "Date Nights", and holiday plans are in the works for December. The Chamber intends to introduce new businesses to the community and then work with the local government to create the optimum environment.

Manor Park gazebo superimposed in the heart. Tiffany reported that the response to both the Facebook page and a survey they created was overwhelming. The group received over 1300 responses to the survey and there are 2000 members in the Facebook group. Of the respondents to the survey 85%

A few months ago, Larchmont resident Tiffany Smith, together with her friend and fellow Chatsworth mom, Amy Sullivan, was dismayed by the number of empty stores in Larchmont and seeing a need they created a Facebook page called "Love Larchmont 10538" with a heart in place of the zero in the zip code and an image of the

Manor Park gazebo superimposed in the heart. Tiffany reported that the response to both the Facebook page and a survey they created was overwhelming. The group received over 1300 responses to the survey and there are 2000 members in the Facebook group. Of the respondents to the survey 85%

have children and 65% said that they were new arrivals in town. This group of residents is anxious for a lively and robust downtown. The number one request in the survey was for a sports store. Ms. Smith encourages residents to shop locally. She recommends that instead of driving to a big box store, go to Foley's or one of the other stores in town. "Everything is right here," she observed. Mayor Anne McAndrews explained what the Village has been doing to improve the appearance of the downtown, especially along Palmer Avenue. The Palmer Avenue Streetscape project is scheduled to be completed by the end of October, and she promised that new trees will be planted by then. The Village is subject to many restrictions and different jurisdictions. For instance Boston Post Road is a U.S. route and any changes are subject to regulations and restrictions. She noted that many people have asked why they did not bury the overhead wires along Palmer Avenue, but she said that ConEd would not allow ...continued on page 10



## HOULIHAN LAWRENCE

is pleased to announce that  
**Jeanne Summo**  
 has joined the  
 Houlihan Lawrence Team



**JEANNE SUMMO**  
 Real Estate Salesperson

Mobile: 914.450.0096  
 jsummo@houlihanlawrence.com

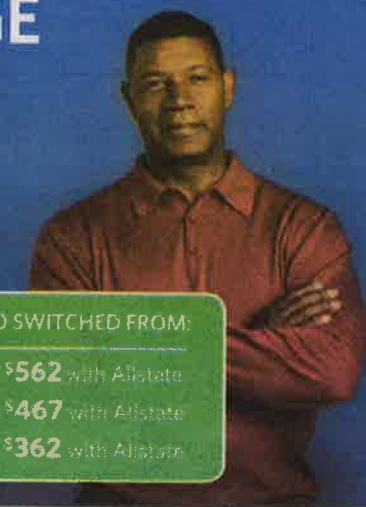
## TAKE THE ALLSTATE CHALLENGE

Put your policy to the test.

DRIVERS WHO SWITCHED SAVED  
**\$498**  
 A YEAR ON AVERAGE

ON AVERAGE, DRIVERS WHO SWITCHED FROM:

- Geico ..... saved \$562 with Allstate
- Progressive ..... saved \$467 with Allstate
- State Farm ..... saved \$362 with Allstate



Call me to find out if you can save now.



**Geoffrey Csenge**  
 (914) 834-6262  
 2097 Boston Post Rd.  
 Larchmont  
 a006688@allstate.com



Savings based on national customer-reported data for new policies in 2014. Excludes drivers with multiple policies.