

From: donald_nawi@netzero.net <donald_nawi@netzero.net>
Sent: Monday, October 24, 2016 9:24 AM
To: Mayor
Subject: Fw: FYI

Mayor:

I trust you saw that absurd piece on the front page of the Inquirer on Friday. Absurd because the Inquirer based the piece on talking only to store owners and managers with their own gripes and interests. Not to you, anyone else in the village administration, no building owners, no real estate broker or agents. As set forth in my forwarded email.

I hope you or the village manger or some other like person will say, yes, there is a problem but go on to shed some further rational light on the problem, and set out what is being done at the village level to attempt to address the problem, as I assume is happening.

Talk about lazy and sloppy journalism. Not the first time, won't be the last.

Donald Nawi

----- Forwarded Message -----
Date: Sun, 23 Oct 2016 23:00:56 GMT
To: lbradlow@scarsdaleneews.com,
cferris@scarsdaleneews.com
Cc: editor@scarsdaleneews.com

Ms. Bradlow and Ms. Ferris:

We learn from DOWNTOWN DOWNTURN, Inquirer, October 21, that a restaurant company wanted to lease the former Waterworks space but the deal died. Michael Rosen then has it that “The Waterworks space being a nail salon is the most absurd thing. It’s a joke it’s \$20,000 a month for a nail salon.”

The Inquirer may be comfortable running a quote from one Scarsdale business owner dumping on another Scarsdale business. I see it differently.

The “nail salon,” as you know, is Iris Nails and Spa on East Parkway. I can’t speak to the \$20,000 a month. I can state, however, that for my wife and I, 75 and 80-years-old respectively, this “nail salon” means massages for our aching bones from a certified physical therapist. Iris has four such therapists in the salon. I go, moreover, into the city every three months to see a facialist to rid my face of the dirt that accumulates from the Scarsdale air. If I wanted to stop the trip to the city, I could use the facialist at the East Parkway “nail salon.” I have in front of me the pamphlet describing the range of services this “nail salon” offers. The pamphlet goes from a full page of “Manicure” selections, to the same for “Pedicures,” to half a page of “Waxing,” to the “Chair Massage” to six different “Body Massage,” and “Reflexology,” to a whole page of “Facial.”

I understand that the son of the Iris family opened a restaurant in the space next to DeCicco on Spencer Place after the wireless store, Verizon, I think it was, closed. The son could not make a go of it but the space is still a Korean restaurant operated by someone else. The Inquirer is not online and I can not check. I suspect, however, that somewhere in the Inquirer’s files is a piece describing Iris and the services it offers, which might have appeared, as is the practice at the Inquirer, at the time Iris opened in Scarsdale.

The sources for DOWNTOWN DOWNTURN are, as the article makes clear, “business owners and store managers.” There are almost 20 quotes from such owners and managers, with Michael Rosen, now the resident expert on all things pertaining to Scarsdale real estate, prominent. Scarsdale has an elected board of trustees, a village administration headed by a village manager, and a Scarsdale Chamber of Commerce. There are owners of the buildings mentioned in the article as well as owners of other Scarsdale buildings, and real estate brokers and agents. All of those referred to in the last two sentences have a stake in the well-being of Scarsdale, all could have provided valuable information and perspectives on the downtown downturn problem, and all are totally missing from the article. The only mention of anything beyond what comes from the business owners is at the end of the article, that is, conversations between such owners and the village trustees and the village manager.

The Inquirer article has comparisons of Scarsdale to Bronxville and Larchmont. I have lived in Westchester County since 1951. Every town, village and city in the county has its own characteristics. They are not fungible. There are knowledgeable people in the real estate field, missing from the article, who could have given information on Bronxville and Larchmont and explained whether the comparisons of Scarsdale to Bronxville and Larchmont are, or are not, valid.

On parking. Some years ago a village parking garage was built on Christie Place that was supposed to help with the parking problem. The article has no information on whether the garage has helped, or hasn't, and why, something the village manager or his staff could have clarified.

Published in the Inquirer on April 4, 2014 is my Op-Ed, "My man-icures. Hold the polish!" (headline compliments of Linda Leavitt). Around that time I switched to Iris for a manicure/pedicure, which started when I worked at Bloomingdale's, as the Op-Ed relates. I might have used "nail salon" in relation to a manicure/pedicure. I did not use it to dump on another business.

Donald Nawi