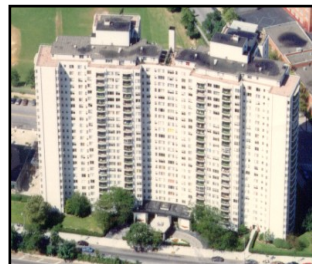




“...If you’ve got a rich imagination, give it a whirl, give it a try...”  
—Frank Loesser

# The Whitehall WHIRL



3333 Henry Hudson Parkway  
Riverdale, NY 10463

AN INFORMAL NEWSLETTER FOR ALL RESIDENTS OF THE WHITEHALL  
WINTER 2017

## GREEN ROOF PROGRESS REPORT

**CAN'T SEE MUCH ACTUAL 'GREEN' YET,  
BUT... "YA GOTTA BELIEVE!"**



Aerial photo taken in late January shows full expanse of the green roof project. Installation of 6" of insulation (light blue color) is virtually complete; dark area at south end of the roof shows start of installation of drainage mats over the insulation and the waterproofing membrane below. At the very top of the photo (arrow) playground installed by Bright Horizons for its exclusive use along 232nd St. is quite green and complete.

To the casual observer peeking out of a south-facing apartment window, it doesn't look like much is happening on the 30,000 sq. ft. of the

*Continued on page 4*

## **EFFORT TO IMPROVE Bx10/Bx20 BUS SERVICE PICKS UP STEAM (UPDATE REPORT)**

The Ad Hoc committee of Riverdale residents' drive to improve service on the local Bx10 bus, and restore full service on the local Bx20 bus, got a bit of wind in its sails recently when representatives of the group participated in the January 17 monthly Traffic & Transportation Committee meeting of Bronx Community Board No.8.

### **MTA reps attended the T&T meeting**

At the meeting, the group presented the petition requesting improvements in Bx10 and Bx20 service that was signed by more than 1,000 Riverdale residents, including more than 50 Whitehall residents and featured in the initial report of the group's activities in the Fall 2016 issue of *The Whitehall Whirl*. Significantly, the January CB8 "T&T" committee meeting was also attended by City Council Member Andrew Cohen, and representatives of State Senator Jeff Klein and Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz, all of whom have voiced support for the objectives of the grassroots group. Equally important, the meeting was attended by several senior representatives of the MTA, including Bronx borough chiefs and top officials of Bronx road

*Continued on Page 6*

## **KEY PHONE NUMBERS**

Office/Garage.....718-796-3383  
Front Desk.....718-548-7522  
Club.....718-796-2100

## IT'S REAL! BRIGHT HORIZONS at RIVERDALE IS GEARING UP FOR A "LATE SPRING" OPENING IN THE WHITEHALL SCHOOL ANNEX

Bright Horizons at Riverdale, an early education and preschool center that will be this worldwide company's first location in the Bronx, is getting set to open its doors in "late Spring" in the Whitehall's school annex, according to company officials.

The new childcare facility that is opening here may well become a magnet for Riverdale and perhaps even lower Westchester parents of infants, toddlers and pre-schoolers, and could definitely enhance the desirability of The Whitehall as a place for young families to live.

According to Bright Horizons Division Vice President Donna M. Gretkowski, company senior executives decided to open a center in Riverdale after visiting the area (at the suggestion of the Whitehall Board of Directors), doing their demographic due diligence, and seeing with their own eyes that this is a great family neighborhood. "Knowing that this is a strong and involved community," Ms. Gretkowski says, "we are thrilled to become a part of it by providing a new high-quality childcare option."

When opened, Bright Horizons at Riverdale will operate Monday-Friday from 7am to 6:30 pm on a year-round basis. The center will serve children ages 6 weeks to 5 years, with a teacher-child ratio as low as 1:4 for infants 6 weeks to 1 year in age, and no higher than 1:12 for kindergarten prep children ages 4-5. Contrary to an early belief that the Bright Horizons school year was set up on a trimester basis, Ms. Gretkowski states that programs run throughout the year and admission is rolling. Bottom line: As soon as



*Main entrance to the center has been expanded and moved to directly front Independence Ave. The temporary "coming soon" signage will be replaced by awnings with the Bright Horizons logo to match in color the Whitehall service entrance canopy.*

Bright Horizons completes its staffing-up process, which is now underway, and receives all of its permits, certificates of occupancy and licenses, it will open its doors.

### **Planned to serve up to 140 kids**

The Riverdale Bright Horizons center is geared to serve up to 140 children, and will offer a curriculum that features science, technology and math (the "STEM" program), a beautifully designed outdoor playground (see photos), touch-screen computers, and more. Such subjects as foreign language, yoga, culinary arts and music appreciation are also included in the tuition. "Children will be taught using 'The World at Their Fingertips' program, our own curriculum designed to empower children to become confident, successful lifelong learners and secure, caring people," Ms. Gretkowski says.

The Bright Horizons center does not have a kitchen to prepare hot meals, but will have fresh fruits, vegetables, nutritious snacks (including Kosher snacks) and milk for the children. One thing that is not planned, however (at least for the present), is separate classes for boys and girls.

As company spokespeople explain, "The Bright Horizons community is a vibrant tapestry of children, families and employees who represent myriad cultures, backgrounds and experiences."

### **Registration process is underway**

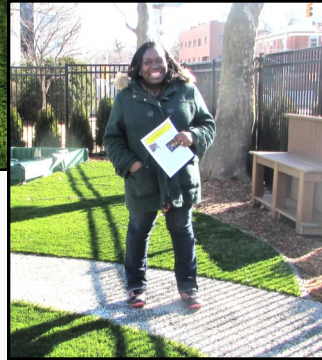
What's happening now is a multi-pronged effort to reach out to parents with young children in the area. Interested families can call **718-514-6974** to get general information, or be guided through the registration process, which requires a \$150 one-time fee. The newly appointed Center Director, Chandele "M.", who has been in education since 2004, and trained in 4 different Bright Horizons locations prior to being tapped to head up Bright Horizons at Riverdale, is available to meet with parents by appointment at the Spuyten Duyvil library, to provide more information and answer any questions. *The Riverdale Press* ran a lead story on Bright Horizons in its January 4th edition, and Bright Horizons has been stickering issues of the paper with a "Coming Soon" teaser. There's also an evolving website, [www.brighthorizons.com/riverdale](http://www.brighthorizons.com/riverdale), with full information available and a downloadable registration form.

Bright Horizons has a reputation for doing everything in a first-rate manner, and that can be seen here in the way the company has designed and constructed the playground that stretches along 232nd St. The area is separated into distinct sections for age groups, and each section has its own play equipment, structures to house equipment and musical instruments, and even performance areas, in the form of small stages. It's





**Above:** Well-designed playground has a variety of structures and separate areas for different age groups. A tall fence with locked gates, fronted by trees that will grow to a substantial height, affords privacy as well as security. **Right:** Center Director Chandeale "M." is excited and ready to greet the first students at this new center.



planned that the students will actually put on outdoor shows in the playground, and that the community may be invited in to enjoy the show. Bright Horizons also plans to have the children use the playground every day when the weather is not overly problematic. A company spokesman says that even in snow, the kids will be dressed in their snowsuits and boots, and allowed to romp around in the playground.

Bright Horizons has an open door policy for parents and caregivers to visit whenever and however long they like. At the same time, the child-care center will accept drop-in care as space permits to registered families who are not currently looking for full-time care, according to Division VP Donna Gretkowski.

The relationship between Bright Horizons and The Whitehall may become more than simply one of

landlord and lessee. The firm has expressed interest in putting on parenting seminars for Whitehall residents and club members in our club ballroom, and in general, as Ms. Gretkowski points out, "Bright Horizons looks forward to collaborating with The Whitehall on how to best communicate upcoming center events to residents." w

#### WHITEHALL CLUB MAY EXTEND "POSTURE CLINIC"

Building on the success of a well-received 4-week "posture clinic" taught by the Whitehall Club's yoga instructor Lynn Crimando, the program may be extended for another 6-week trial, with the day and time still to be determined. In this new program, the scope of instruction will be broadened to cover "Alignment, Core and Balance." Please check with the Club office for more information.

## THIS and THAT



**IT'S BEEN NOTED** that bread crumbs have been strewn around the base of the large tree in the center courtyard by some well-meaning resident(s), presumably to feed the birds in the harsh winter weather. We've had to have our porters take time out to clean up the mess. The fact is, bread crumbs on the ground draw more rodents than birds, and if the practice continues, we may find ourselves in the same boat as Seton Park, where rats are said to be a major problem as they are feasting on food scattered on the ground for the birds. Please stop!!!



**AGAIN WITH THE CARTS:** Once again, we remind all residents to make sure they (and their aides or helpers) promptly return all shopping carts to the garage after use, as per our House Rules. Do not leave them in the service vestibule or ferry them into the elevator to ride up and down endlessly until someone else "does the right thing."

### FROM *The New York Times* METROPOLITAN DIARY

*Dear Diary:*

When I was a boy in the early 1940s, a visit to New York City always meant at least one highly anticipated stop at Horn & Hardart's Automat on 42nd Street, just across from Grand Central Terminal.

The fruit pies, thickly frosted cakes and other tempting foods behind the little glass doors were all dazzling, but to me, the real star of the show was the elderly cashier sitting in a booth at the center of the restaurant.

I would plunk a \$1 bill down on the counter in front of him for change. Without uttering a word or taking his eyes off me to look down at what he was doing, he would reach one hand into a metal pail on his lap and toss a handful of coins onto the counter.

Exactly 20 nickels. Never 19. Never 21.

To me, it was magic.

Even IBM could not have designed a better cash dispenser. *Ed Donlon*

## GREEN ROOF TAKING SHAPE, STEP BY DELIBERATE STEP

*continued*



Composite photo shows the full sweep of the south end of the green roof, facing 232nd St. from Henry Hudson Parkway on the left to Independence Ave. on the right, where work is proceeding apace. At center, some construction workers are installing dark drainage mats, held in place by cinder blocks, above the 6" layer of insulation, which in turn sits atop the waterproofing membrane. At left in the composite, other workers are building wooden forms where concrete is being poured for curbs for walls and planting bed foundations.



Above: Workers prepare concrete footing for storage shed. Fence at left abuts the cooling tower installation alongside the Henry Hudson Parkway.



Above: Wooden form along Independence Ave. side will be filled with concrete to form curb for wall. To the right, river rock will provide a natural filler to the fence. Left: One of several drains installed in the roof clearly shows 6" depth of insulation. Porous drainage mats will completely cover the insulation. Topsoil can be heaped up directly on the drainage mats.

Whitehall's green roof. But that impression would be incorrect. There is plenty going on, as the photos on these pages, all taken at presstime in late January, will demonstrate. Whitehall General Manager Gene Staudt says that "it's nice seeing our green roof literally take shape." Mr. Staudt adds that "we are basically on schedule for an opening timed to the beginning of the summer season." He notes that "we've lost some days due to the weather, but we've been lucky so far in terms of no major winter weather delays, and in any event, we built in a cushion to account for down time due to weather delays." Gene Staudt also details progress on the installation of a lift to afford disabled and handicapped residents access to the green roof on our pool deck level, as well as new bathrooms on the pool deck level. "We've always treated this as a separate project from the green roof itself," he says, "but our architect and building management are reviewing bids received from our RFPs, and our plan has always been to have both projects completed at the same time." However, Staudt cautions, "anything can happen."





Construction enclosure along Henry Hudson Parkway sidewalk shields ongoing construction and delivery activity from passers-by and lockable gate provides an added measure of security.



Inside the enclosure, workers can mix concrete and perform other activities off the actual green roof. Enclosure also allows for convenient truck delivery and off-loading of construction materials.



Whitehall General Manager Gene Staudt (right) goes over construction details with crew foreman. Wooden form in rear of photo will be moved into position and filled with concrete to provide foundation for part of the Whitehall's own green roof playground, and also the footing for a circular planting bed with large tree.



Workers take measurements for placement of electrical conduits and irrigation pipes, as the installation of drainage mats moves closer to completion. The undersides of the mats are ribbed to direct water to the several drainage pipes on the roof. Actual topsoil and planting mediums can be placed directly atop the drainage mats.

## COMING EVENTS!

### **.Saturday Nite At the Movies “Currents & Classics” Showing at 8pm In the Club Ballroom**

**February 11, 2017**

**“Sully”** starring Tom Hanks  
Directed by Clint Eastwood

**March 4, 2017**

**“On the Map”** the incredible  
Story of the Israeli basketball  
team that won the 1977  
European Championship

Produced by our own Nancy Spielberg

**May 20, 2017**

Academy Award Nominee  
**“Arrival”** starring Amy Adams

**June 10, 2017**

**“Music of the Heart”**  
Starring Meryl Streep



**Sunday, March 19, 2017**

### **WHITEHALL TOWN HALL**

11am—1pm in the Ballroom  
Give and take with our local  
elected political leaders...

U.S. Congressman Elliot Engel

State Sen. Jeff Klein

Assemblyman Jeff Dinowitz

Council Member Andy Cohen

**Must sign up at front desk  
to participate —**

Serving “Coffee and...”

See flyer for more details



### **CABARET NITE**

**Saturday, April 22, 2017**

7: 30 In the Club Ballroom

We turn the lights down low  
and feature Song Stylist  
(and Whitehall Club Member)

**MARIA GUIDA**

In an intimate nightclub setting  
(See flyer for details)



### **Bx Arts Ensemble for Kids**

**Sunday, May 7, 2017**

**“The Princess & The Pea”**

Shows at 1 & 2:30 pm

In the Ballroom

Watch for tix & pricing details



## THE CATSKILLS ARE ALIVE AND WELL AT WHITEHALL'S 2017 BAGEL BRUNCH

Nearly 100 Whitehall residents and club members boarded a time machine on January 22nd, and took a trip back in time to the heyday of the Catskill Mountains' Borscht Belt resorts of the 1940s and 1950s...all thanks to the Events Committee's 2017 "Schmooze and Schmear" Bagel Brunch, the traditional kickoff event of the new year. And also thanks to Dale Grand, the standup "schtick" comic who was making his second appearance at a Whitehall Bagel Brunch in as many years. In the parlance of comedians around the world, Dale Grand "killed," as his one-hour routine covered everything



***Packed Whitehall Club ballroom enjoyed the fast-paced delivery of standup comedian Dale Grand, who was making his second appearance at a Whitehall Bagel Brunch.***

from marriage and relationships, to psychiatrists and doctors in general, to politics and world affairs. And, true to the best of the Catskills comedians, like Henny Youngman, Alan King and Morey Amsterdam, Grand managed to keep the audience in stitches without vulgarity and without profanity.

Of course, the food served at the Bagel Brunch was right in line with what guests would expect at any topnotch Catskill Mountains resort, from Grossingers, the Concord, Kutscher's, the Granit, the Raleigh or Paul's — bagels and cream cheese spreads, rugelach, fresh baked cookies, coffee, tea and juice. The Whitehall crowd (literally) ate it up, and the chow line (see photo at right) was more than ready to get down to business. w



## Bx10 & Bx20 Service Update *continued*

operations. During the meeting, an MTA spokeswoman stated that a 2016 traffic study of the Bx10 line is currently underway, and if it indicates increased ridership on the route vs. the prior year's study, then additional buses would be added to the route this year. As to Bx20, the MTA stated that there are no plans to restore full 24/7 service on the route, which was truncated to weekday morning and evening rush hour service only in 2010. However, the MTA reps seemed open to adding Bx20 buses to the route during weekday midday hours. This move alone would help relieve pressure on the Bx10 route, which makes identical stops to Bx20 on the Riverdale portion of its route, from Henry Hudson Parkway to 231st. St. and Broadway.

The most recent completed traffic study on the Bx10 route indicates weekday ridership of about 11,000 per day. With a total of 280 Bx10 buses on the route in both directions weekdays, that equates to an average of 39 passengers per bus. A 39-passenger average is a strong indicator of serious overcrowding on the route during peak traffic hours. At the same time, the MTA indicated recent ridership on the Bx20 route, which turns South on Broadway at 231st. and continues into the Inwood section of Manhattan as far south as 207th St., of only 800 passengers per day. But the Bx20 route only runs a total of 38 buses on the route during its shortened weekday-only hours of operation, so average ridership on the Bx20 buses is actually 21 passengers per bus — a substantial number which also indicates some potential for overcrowding during peak traffic times, and dramatizing the need for more buses running the route.

As a measure of the importance of the subject to Riverdale residents, both **News 12 The Bronx** TV news and the **Riverdale Press** both covered the T&T committee meeting, and News 12 devoted substantial air time to the story. [w](#)

# DINING OUT IN THE RIVERDALE AREA

## HUDSON GARDEN GRILL

at

## THE NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN

2900 Southern Blvd., Bronx, NY 10458

646-627-7711



*Left: When the weather cooperates, diners at the Hudson Garden Grill can enjoy their meal at an outdoor patio. Above: The main dining room has a wall of arched glass windows that overlook the grounds, with the Haupt Conservatory in the distance. Elegant chandeliers and wall murals add beauty.*

❖ If you're looking for a dining experience that's relatively close at hand and offers some of the most beautiful vistas you could want, not to mention World Class cooking, then you need not look any further than our own New York Botanical Garden, and its top rated on-site restaurant, the Hudson Garden Grill.

The restaurant, which replaced a pre-existing, undistinguished cafeteria-style eatery at the location in 2015, is nestled within the 40-acre Ross Conifer Arboretum section of the NYBG. In its new incarnation, it has indoor seating for about 100, and an outdoor patio for another 100-or-so diners when temperature and weather conditions permit. Plus, there's additional counter seating inside, fronting the open kitchen that greets visitors when they first step into the Garden Grill building. The main indoor dining room, incidentally, has walls of white-washed red oak, reclaimed from trees that fell in the garden when Hurricane Sandy hit. Waste not, want not.

The Hudson Garden Grill keeps NYBG hours, meaning it is open for full – menu lunch and light dinners from 11:30am – 6 pm Tuesday-Sunday, and on select Mondays which coincide with observed national holidays. Fortuitously for diners, the food's definitely the thing here, and emblematic of that is the head chef, Julian Alonzo, a native New Yorker who is a graduate of the French Culinary Institute. Chef Alonzo honed his

skills at Caravelle, Maxim's and the Sea Grill at Rockefeller Center, working under many great chefs including David Bouley, David Ruggerio and Edward Brown. This culinary superstar has brought his New American approach of locally-sourced, globally-inspired fare to the NYBG.



*Chef Julian Alonzo presides over the open kitchen at the Hudson Garden Grill.*

The lunch menu, has "Starters" including a lump crab cake with avocado, pickled cucumbers, sea beans and mustard seeds that is quite possibly the best we've ever had, and, at \$17, can easily double as an entrée portion. There's also the Hgg clam chowder, which here also includes lobster, cockles and mussels and, at \$13, redefines any mere mortal's definition of "New England Clam Chowder." Under the heading "Salads and Sandwiches" you will find a gargantuan Chopped Salad at \$19 that features napa cabbage, chicken, tropical fruit, spring vegetables, candied cashews, all in a honey - ginger vinaigrette. Also, there's an Hgg burger, modeled on the beloved "In and Out" burgers that are synonymous with Southern California. Also \$19, these burgers feature grass-fed beef, cheddar cheese and special sauce on a seeded bun, but to be fair, they must be eaten with

**Continued on Page 8**



**DINING OUT IN THE RIVERDALE AREA**  
**HUDSON GARDEN GRILL at**  
**THE NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN**  
*continued*

a knife and fork. Entrees change seasonally, and range in price from \$22-\$26. On a recent visit, entrees included a grilled pork chop, seared tuna, bucatelli pasta with lobster Bolognese and local ricotta cheese, roasted chicken, and bacon-wrapped beef tenderloin. More than just great food, a hallmark of this outstanding restaurant is the food presentation, which is as artful as the cuisine itself.

***Complementary menus tie into Botanical Garden special exhibits***

One of the most innovative aspects of the Hudson Garden Grill is that it can develop complementary menus in conjunction with special exhibits at the Botanical Garden. For example, when an exhibit featuring some of the work of the celebrated Mexican artist Frida Kahlo in South of the Border-style natural settings opened in the Garden in May of 2015, the Grill tied in with an outdoor tequila bar, cantina and on-site taco



*Diners can enjoy a light bite at a food counter that fronts the Grill's bustling open kitchen. The main dining room has seating for more than 100, with special party rooms also available.*

truck serving dishes inspired by Kahlo's own recipes. Just this past year, in conjunction with the Kiku exhibition at the Garden (the Chrysanthemum show celebrating the art of the Japanese garden), the Grill offered a Japanese-inspired menu. A \$35 prix-fixe lunch offered appetizers like a Hamachi salad and a Wagyu Beef entrée. There was also an Avocado Roulade appetizer, a Miso-glazed Cod entrée and Black Truffle ice cream dessert. Chef Alonzo and his staff at the Hudson Garden Grill are looking forward to more themed menus tied into special exhibitions.

As you might expect, the Hudson Garden Grill is available for private parties and receptions, and, when you think of it, what could be more lovely than celebrating a special event in one of the most beautiful settings in the world...and so close to home! If you're going, you can park in the Bedford Park Blvd. multi-level public garage, and walk into the Garden through the Mosholu gate, where it's just a short walk to the restaurant. If you're a NYBG member, you can pull into the main gate, and then drive along the peripheral road to park nearer to the restaurant. The Hudson Garden Grill is open during regular Botanical Gardens hours, has a very nice wine list, yummy desserts and accepts major credit cards. Reservations are strongly recommended — the restaurant is really catching on. w

***Note: The Whitehall Whirl makes no representations as to the consistency and quality of food and service at restaurants we review. We take no responsibility for individual experiences.***



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**BOOK CLUB  
AT  
THE WHITEHALL**



Generally meets the last  
 Thursday of each month at  
 7:30 pm in the Club Card Room  
 Check flyer posted in Health Club  
 Lobby for date of next meeting  
 and selected book title..

**WHITEHALL  
WISDOM**

**"There is nothing  
 wrong with America that  
 cannot be cured by what  
 is right with America."**

— Bill Clinton's 1st inaugural  
 address, Jan. 20, 1993.