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Strong and unified, community assembles on day impossible to forget

By GREG MAKER

From tragedy comes unity. Residents of New Rochelle, dignitaries, military personnel, firefighters and police officers gathered at the American Legion Post 8 Hall last Friday to remember the nearly 3,000 lives lost eight years ago on Sept. 11, 2001.

"The purpose of tonight is to never forget," said President of the United Veterans Memorial and Patriotic Association (UVMPA) Peter Parente. "We would like to express as veterans that we will never forget where we come from."

After the Pledge of Allegiance led by Cub Scout Pack 1 and Daisy Scout Troop 2695 and an invocation, former New York State Assemblyman Ron Tocci took to the podium as the evening's keynote speaker.

"Besides it being very very tragic and we lost so many lives, there was heroism expressed by so many people on that day," Tocci, the former deputy commissioner of New York State Veteran's Affairs, said. "On that day we watched emergency responders and a bunch of volunteers rally around looking for something to do to help others survive. From that we realized how vulnerable we were to an attack from people who hate us just because we are Americans. They misunderstand what this country is all about."

Tocci pointed to criticism that America faces but noted that America is the first country to re-



spond in times of need for other nations.

"Rather than criticizing America for all the mistakes people think we made, they can thank God that America exists because this world would be worse off if America was not around,"

Tocci said.

The crowd sang "America the Beautiful" before Fire Commissioner Raymond Kiernan recalled his time on 9/11. He spoke about being covered in white dust and how some days rescue workers were never rewarded with finding a living person. He explained the surrealism of not seeing computer screens and furniture in the rubble due to the damage, and how the New Rochelle Fire Department stayed at "Ground Zero" and worked diligently as long as they could.

Kiernan also warned Americans to be on alert since this is the eighth anniversary of 9/11. The original bombing of the World Trade Center in 1993 took place eight years before 9/11.

"We cannot rest on our laurels," Kiernan said. "We always have to be careful because these terrorists are diabolical."

He went on to say that the whole 9/11 experience still bothers him to this day.

"We can never forget for a whole lot of reasons," he stated. "We need to always support our military because I don't think Osama Bin Laden and his boys in the hills never thought the U.S. would react like this. I hope people remember this as they grow older and this

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THE IMPORTANCE OF REMEMBRANCE

Last Friday, residents gathered at Amy's Greenhouse on the grounds of Henry Barnard School to remember the victims of the attacks on Sept. 11, 2001. The greenhouse was built in memory of Amy O'Doherty, a retired Barnard teacher's daughter, who lost her life in the tragedy. Shown right, Maura O'Doherty cries while she remembers her sister Amy, and thanks the community for coming out to honor her memory and the memory of every person lost on 9/11. For more on the story, see page 2.

Photo/Greg Maker



DiFiore wallops Castro in county DA primary

By CHRISTIAN FALCONE

A third time didn't prove the charm for Tony Castro, failing once again in his bid for county district attorney.

On a night when incumbents proved largely victorious, Westchester County District Attorney Janet DiFiore moved one step closer toward re-election scoring a resounding victory in the Democratic primary over rival Castro, a Rye resident, in one of the nastiest District Attorney campaigns to date. DiFiore, in her first foray on the Democrat ticket, won in a landslide securing unofficially 62 percent, 18,106 votes, with 96 percent of districts reporting as of press time. Castro had scored 38 percent, 10,914 votes.

There was no love lost between the two candidates, having squared off in two separate district attorney races. Castro, who attacked DiFiore's credentials, had his integrity scrutinized by his opponent largely due to his relationship

with controversial *Westchester Guardian* publisher Sam Zherka.

"I'm exceedingly pleased with the results but I'm not surprised," an elated DiFiore told supporters at her White Plains campaign headquarters, "because the Democratic voters of Westchester County are smart, informed and they know and understand the value and importance of good government."

She thanked her office and staff, labeling it unmatched anywhere in the country. "Over the past four years I've worked very hard to keep families here in Westchester safe," she continued. "We've done this with honor, integrity and with respect for the rule of the law and the democratic voters of Westchester obviously agree."

DiFiore, seeking a second term in office, said she would take the night off to celebrate but was back to work the following morning serving the public safety needs of

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Morabito tests the waters, loses Democratic primary to Idoni

By GREG MAKER

Republican-endorsed county clerk candidate Robert Morabito, a lifelong Democrat running on the Republican line, garnered 36 percent of the vote in the Democratic primary election held Tuesday. Incumbent Tim Idoni, who is seeking a second term, received 15,277 votes to Morabito's 8,421.

"I ran on the Democrat line to gauge my opportunities come November," Morabito explained. "County government is a heavy Democratic administration and I wanted to see how much base support I would get from that party. I also wanted to get my name out there."

Morabito, who currently holds the Republican, Conservative and Independence lines, is happy with how many votes he received. Since Democrats outnumber Republicans

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WITH PASSING OF TIME, PAIN OF 9/11 DOES NOT SUBSIDE



Mayor Noam Bramson in attendance at Amy's Greenhouse eight years to the day of Sept. 11, 2001.



Henry Barnard School teacher's assistant Millie Radonjic (left) led the ceremony. Here she stands with the "Amy's Greenhouse Committee" comprised of teachers at Barnard.

By GREG MAKER

Eight years later, the loss of a loved one remains fresh in the mind of Maura O'Doherty, whose sister Amy O'Doherty was one of nearly 3,000 people who perished on Sept. 11, 2001. Residents from across the city gathered at Amy's Greenhouse on the grounds of Henry Barnard School to honor O'Doherty's memory and all the others who lost their lives on that fateful day.

"Remembering is the best part because it is so important how many people are here to remember Amy and all the others who were lost that day," Maura O'Doherty said as the tears flowed from her eyes. "I like to remember how wonderful and bright a shining spirit she had and now she is giving this to the children. Even though she can't be here today she is thanking you all from the bottom of her heart. This could not be possible without your support."

Rain poured down on the Greenhouse as people in attendance such as New Rochelle firefighters, Fire Commissioner Raymond Kiernan, Police Commissioner Patrick

Carroll, members of the Barnard community, Mayor Noam Bramson came to remember O'Doherty, and the other victims lost that day.

"One of the tests of our character as individuals and as a society is whether we can accept full burden of grief and memory and not be consumed by despair," Bramson said. "This greenhouse represents that out of tragedy there is life. All these kids have a chance to learn from the past and look to the future and hopefully do a better job than we did of building a world where nobody is violent towards anyone else."

Barnard Principal Patricia Lambert stated that O'Doherty and the rest of the victims of 9/11 will forever be in the hearts of the Barnard community.

"One thing about Barnard is we always come together in times of happiness and in sorrow," Lambert said. "This is in remembrance of all that were lost in that day."

Maura O'Doherty summed up the event in eight words:

"After eight years it doesn't get any easier."