

Inaugural Vanity License PL8S Day Celebrated in Croton

By Rick Pezzullo

A new holiday was celebrated on April Fool's Day in the Village of Croton--Vanity License PL8S Day.

The history-making day was created by Croton resident MH Fryburg and Long Island monthly newspaper editor Stefan Lonce, who share a unique fondness and passion for vanity license plates.

"Today is a day that will live in history," Fryburg told a curious crowd at the Croton Free Library.

"Vanity plates are fascinating and fun and always help you find your car in a crowded parking lot," Lonce said. "Vanity plates are great conversation starters that turn strangers into neighbors and neighbors into friends."

Fryburg and Lonce handed out a dozen awards to individuals who display vanity license plates. One of the recipients of a GR8PL8S award was Westchester County Legislator Catherine Borgia (D/Ossining), whose car has a plate that reads simply "CBORGIA," which she said was a gift from her husband.

"One bad thing is you can't do anything wrong ever," she quipped. "Vanity license plates have made me a better and more considerate driver and my husband is not allowed to drive my car."

According to a 2007 survey, 9.3 million Americans sport vanity license plates. New York drivers rank 35th in the nation in having vanity plates. Fryburg and Lonce were working on a book called "License 2 Roam," but are now repositioning it as a memoir.

The pair did publish a biographical/collectible calendar last year called "Driving With FDR," who Fryburg said was "America's first known vanitizer," with the plate FDR.

Meanwhile, as part of another effort entitled New York 4 A Better Westchester & NYS Association (www.TakeBackOurFutureNow.org), Fryburg and Lonce are lobbying to have the new Tappan Zee Bridge named after Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt and Croton Point Park re-



A PUZZLCAKE created by Stefan Lonce.

RICK PEZZULLO PHOTOS

named after folk singer Pete Seeger.

"They are two of the most influential people in the 20th Century," Fryburg said of the Roosevelts. "Naming the Tappan Zee Bridge after them is a no-brainer."

On March 15, the Croton Village Board of Trustees passed resolutions supporting the bridge and park renaming proposals.

"We just want to lend our support," Croton Mayor Leo Wiegman said. "We're hoping we sent something in motion."

Borgia said a resolution renaming the bridge has been introduced to the county board's Parks and Recreation Committee, while changing county-owned Croton Point Park in honor of Seeger will be discussed in the near future.



MH Fryburg expresses his enjoyment of vanity license plates at Croton Free Library.

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