this year include both peerless stalwarts and innovative newcomers, the traditional and the contemporary - a true microcosm of the county's strengths across lifestyle categories such as food & drink, shopping, fun & leisure, home & garden, health & beauty, and more. The exceptional people, places, and things on the following pages showcase the ways in which Westchester is a marvelous place to dine, shop, play, explore, and grow up, whether you're talking about a Rivertown fried-oyster specialist, a modern Japanese restaurant in Rye with a unique take on the cuisine, a team-sports program specializing in children with special needs, or a mobile car wash that comes to you.

Our 20th annual Best of Westchester issue celebrates 111 editors' selections and 261 readers' picks, the latter resulting from more than 38,718 ballots submitted to the online Readers' Ballot from early December to the end of January. The results determined the winners in all major categories except Food & Drink and Health & Beauty (these were done via six elimination rounds in February through early March, when approximately 48,100 additional votes were tallied).

Did we miss anything? Email edit@westchestermagazine.com with suggestions for categories and/or winners. There's always next year's edition!

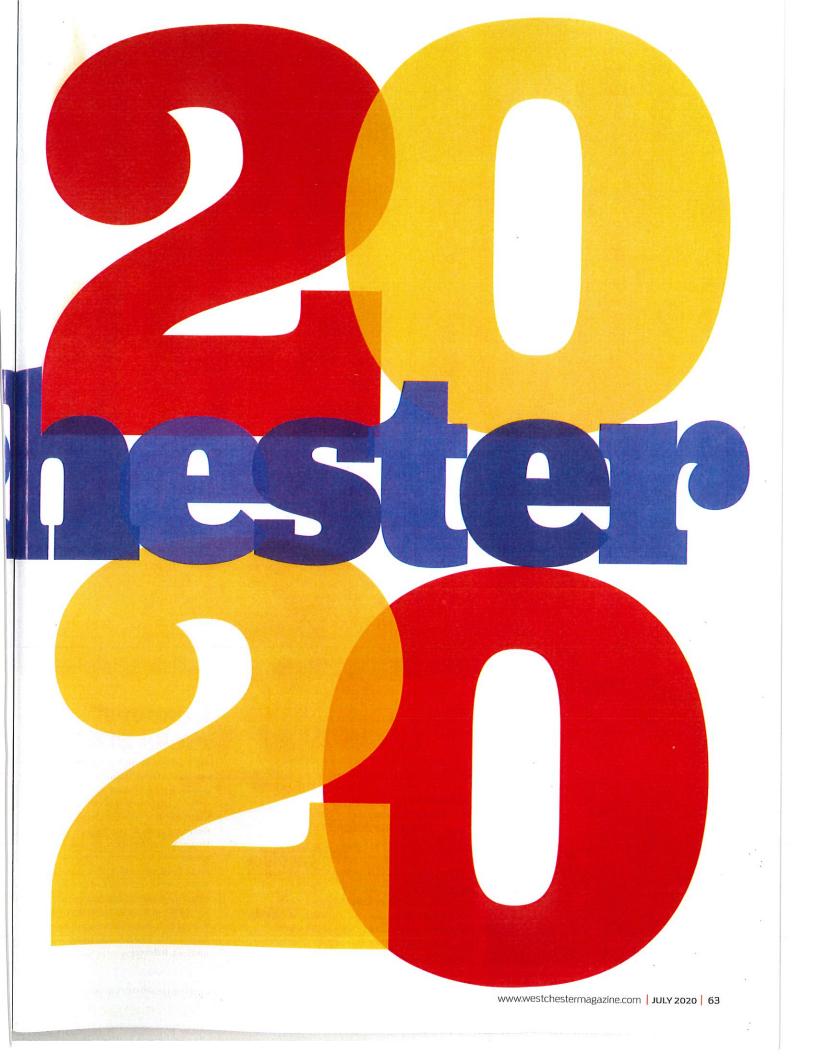
Happy Best Of browsing; look for your favorites among the winners (and, in many cases, tests of their wares) at the August 19th Best Of Party at Glen Island Harbour Club in New Rochelle — Westchester's biggest single-night event of the year.

By John Bruno Turiano,

with Paul Adler, Nick Brandi, Samantha Garbarini, Karen Odom, Erin O'Keefe, Amy R. Partridge, Gina Valentino, and Laurie Yarnell.

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Beer Cheer Sudsters and hopheads can rejoice over three of the county's top beer destinations.

New Craft Brewery

Wolf & Warrior

White Plains; www.wolfandwarrior.com A standout among a sea of party bars in Downtown White Plains, Wolf & Warrior focuses on beer as an art form. Owner Mike Chiltern takes his inspiration from visits to breweries around the world, to create a roster of carefully crafted ales at his NYS-Certified Farm Brewery, the first in White Plains. The spacious location is excellent for small or large groups to pick up a board game from the bar while enjoying lunch or

Beer Bar

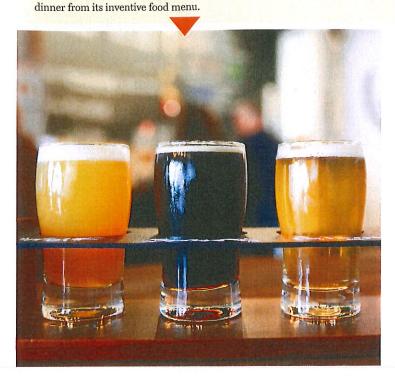
Beer Noggin

Bronxville/Mount Kisco; www.beernoggin.com Featuring a copious selection of mostly local craft brews, the roster of IPAs and double IPAs is especially generous. Try the fruity Down Under Bomb, aromatic Fiddlehead, or the Citra-Mosaic Equilibrium. Northern-lager aficionados should experience the Oxbow, while Tools of the Trade will appease the pale-aler. Noshes are typically available, and your takeout is welcome.

Brewery Food

HAPA at Decadent Ales

Mamaroneck; www.decadentales.com Don't expect a boring pretzel or brat here. Just like its creative beers (Toasted Marshmallow IPA, anyone?) the barfood menu is a little extra. The key to beer-snack success: enlisting the chef of cultish Stamford-based food truck Hapa to create a Filipino-influenced menu of umami-bomb dishes like bulgogi fries with shredded brisket, Manchego, and sesamesoy sauce; furikake fries; and the grass-fed Hapa burger, served on a purple ube bun.





Readers' Picks Food & Drink

Restaurant Service

Blue Hill at Stone Barns Pocantico Hills www.bluehillfarm.com/ dine/stone-barns

Romantic Restaurant

Mulino's of Westchester White Plains; www.mulinosny.com

Salads

DeCicco & Sons Armonk (plus six other county locations) www.deciccoandsons.com

Sandwiches

Mason Sandwich Co. Eastchester; www.masonsandwiches.com

Seafood Restaurant

Eastchester Fish Gourmet Scarsdale; www.eastchesterfish.com

Smoothies

Playa Bowls Bronxville/Pleasantville www.playabowls.com

Southern Restaurant

Southern Table Pleasantville; www.southern-table.com

Special-Occasion Restaurant

X20 Xaviars on the Hudson Yonkers; www.xaviars.com

Steakhouse

Benjamin Steakhouse White Plains; www.benjaminsteakhouse.com

Sushi

Sushi Mike's Dobbs Ferry www.sushimikes.com

Thai Restaurant

Little Thai Kitchen Chappaqua

(plus two other county locations) www.orderltk.com

Tacos

Taco Dive Bar Peekskill; www.tacodivebar.com

Vegetarian-Friendly Restaurant

Sweet Grass Grill Tarrytown www.sweetgrassgrill.com

Wine Menu

Crabtree's Kittle House Chappagua www.crabtreeskittlehouse.com

Wine Store

Westchester Wine Warehouse White Plains www.westchesterwine.com