

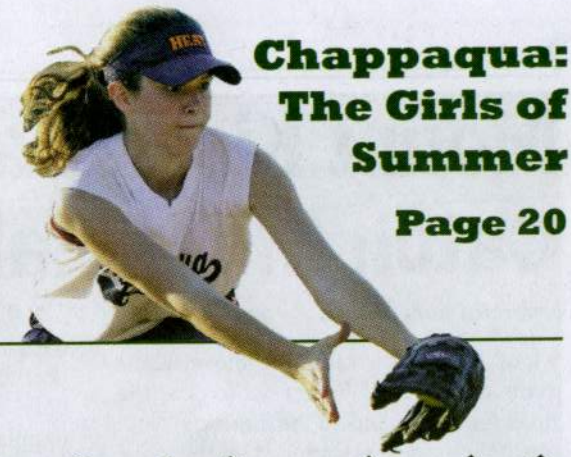
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SMALL NEWS IS BIG NEWS

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Day Laborers Catch More Flak

*Incident Triggers
Calls For Change From
Mt. Kisco Merchants*

By Martin Wilbur

A minor disturbance last week involving a day laborer and an employee of a Kirby Plaza business renewed some merchants dissatisfaction with the large congregation of immigrants looking for work near the Mount Kisco train station.

Several business owners interviewed last week said the typical daily crowds of several dozen workers who gather hoping to be hired for the day is an eyesore and potentially drives customers from stores, particularly some women.

"It really devalued the area," said Lawrence Cesari, co-owner of Plaza Hair Salon, who has seen the changes on the street during

last Wednesday afternoon when the police were called in after one of Cesari's employees took exception to comments made toward her by one of the men. Cesari said that he has often escorted customers and sometimes his employees to their cars when they leave his store.

Debbie Schaber, owner of Hollywood Flower Shop, said she understands the sentiment. Many women are uncomfortable with large groups of men watching them, and sometimes making comments, she said. Business owners also cited other quality of life issues, such as increased littering.

"There's a lot of guys out there, a lot of garbage all over," Schaber said. "As a woman, they're harmless, I know that, but they constantly say things."

Merchants like Cesari and Schaber refrain from blaming municipal officials who have done what they could to help,

a more suitable location.

Mayor Michael Cindrich said during the past few years there has been a significant decrease of laborers searching for work at Kirby Plaza. There used to be two to three times the number on a typical day but thanks to the efforts of Neighbors Link, which offers English classes and other services along with an authorized place to be hired, that number has dwindled.

Still, Cindrich, who acknowledges a consistent flow of complaints from the public regarding the issue, said the village can't bar people from peacefully standing on the street.

"We have a Constitution to protect people's rights," Cindrich said. "But in my opinion the merchants have rights and the landowners have rights. We have to make this area available to all residents. We have to make it safe."

Several years ago the village created a



BEN ADDONIZIO PHOTO

Some nearby merchants are tired of seeing the

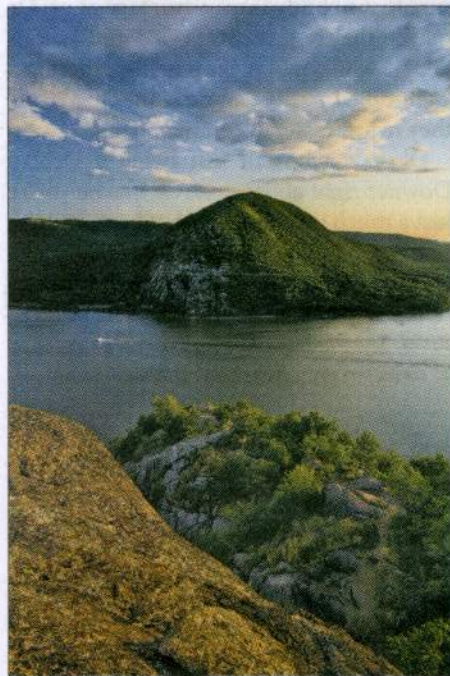
Rodriguez's Photos Reflect the Beauty of the Hudson Valley

By Amy Kefauver

If you had any doubts that you live in one of the most beautiful places in America, Robert Rodriguez Jr.'s photographs will erase them immediately.

Currently on display at The Hidden Gallery in Pleasantville, "Edges of Light" is Rodriguez's latest exhibition of his photographs of the Hudson Valley and showcases the finest of this award-winning landscape photographer's art.

If you said his images of light and land "sing," you would be right in more ways than one. With a degree in Professional Music from the Berklee College of Music in Boston, Rodriguez worked as a professional musician for over 10 years. His talent as a musician and his interest in technology led him to open his own music and video



"In order to get the essence of a landscape, you have to be familiar with it, with its mood. That's why I photograph the Hudson Valley," Rodriguez's photo of Breakneck Bridge.

production company, with such weighty clients as Sony Records and Disney.

The transition from a successful music producer to photographer evolved with his passion for nature.

"I loved spending time outdoors, in nature and I always had a camera with me," Rodriguez said. "The transition from creating music to creating photography was easy because the aesthetic was already there—creativity and composition."

Rodriguez, 42, was born and raised in the Bronx, and currently lives in Beacon with his wife and young son. Although he enjoys traveling and photographing such spectacular locations in the U.S. as the Grand Canyon and the coast of Maine, his first love is the Hudson Valley.

"I live and hike here, I'm intimate with this area," he explained. "Because it's my own backyard, I really try to capture the character and mood of the valley throughout the year."

However, capturing the perfect photograph is not simple. Don't expect to find him and his truck in the pull-off area of a "scenic view."

"I don't usually set up my tripod by the side of the road," Rodriguez said. "I often hike for miles to get an image. That way, I can look for new and interesting perspectives perhaps not photographed before. I'll go back to the same location over and over again to get the right image; at different times of day or in different seasons to best express how I feel about that place. Luck favors the prepared."

In addition to scrambling over mountains and walking off-trail to get the perfect photograph, Rodriguez continues his art in the processing of each photo.

"The sensor in a digital camera does not 'see' like the human eye sees. So I make adjustments to the color and contrast of a photo so that it represents exactly what I saw and felt at that moment."

Emotion and feeling are mentioned

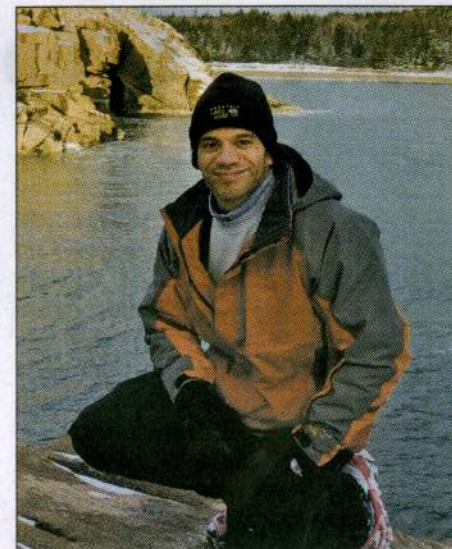
often when Rodriguez speaks with you. His connection to nature and the land is deeply felt. Rodriguez takes his commitment a step further by working with Scenic Hudson. The non-profit organization aims to protect and preserve nature in the Hudson Valley, and has over 28 parks in the region.

Rodriguez has donated his photographs and his time to support them and their cause.

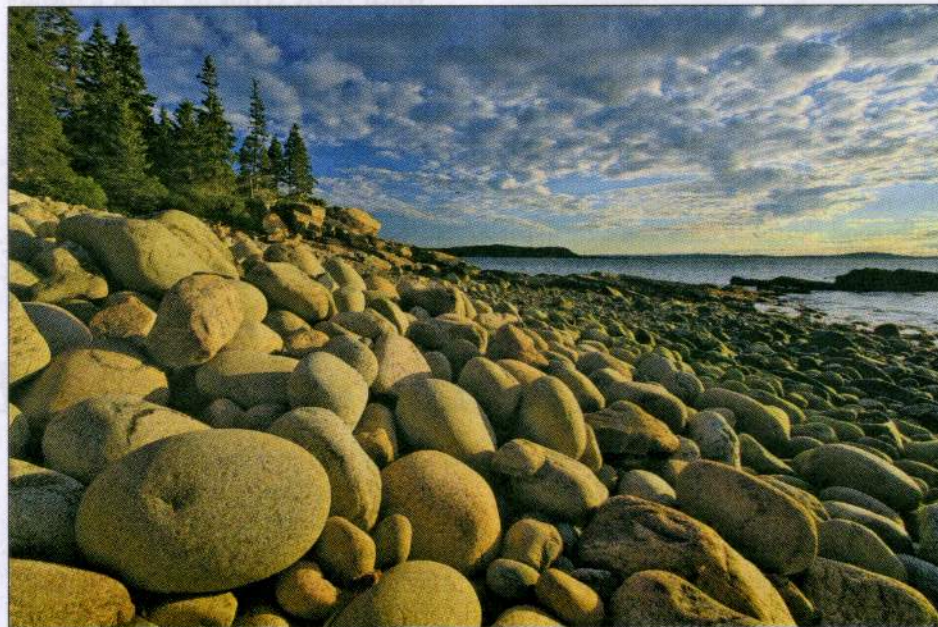
"I use my camera to help bring a view of the valley perhaps others have not seen," he mentioned. "We all need nature, also including the beauty in landscapes that man has changed."

Robert Rodriguez Jr.'s work is on display at The Hidden Gallery from Aug. 1-Sept. 30. A reception for the artist will be held on Friday, Aug. 8 from 4 to 7 p.m.

For further information on Robert Rodriguez, Jr. log on to www.robertRodriguezjr.com.



Robert Rodriguez Jr.'s (pictured above) photographs are on display during August and September at The Hidden Gallery in Pleasantville.



A photo of Boulder Beach: "Music and photography share composition and rhythm. I create harmony out of chaos by composing random elements and I influence how fast your eye moves over a photograph by composing its rhythm."