

family life

By Jennifer Leventhal

Chappaqua

Historic Charm, Excellent Schools and a Family-Focused Community

Gedney Park

On 126 breathtaking acres, Gedney Park offers something for everyone: hiking and walking trails, scenic views, ice skating, sledding, a picnic area and picnic shelter, a year-round comfort station, playground, soccer fields, tennis courts, horseshoe pits and baseball fields. Entrance is on the right hand side of Rte. 133 in Chappaqua, a 1/2 mile east of Millwood.

Penny Auntie

For almost 30 years, Penny Auntie has been the place for the coolest stuff for tots to teens. From carefully selected toys for every age and stage to camp care packages and teen jewelry, this is a can't-miss stop when you need a great gift. Party favors in any price range are wrapped and ribboned at no extra charge. 11 King St. 238-3242.

Rocky's Millwood Deli

A favorite destination for families, Rocky's serves up sandwiches, burgers, daily specials and treats with so much smiling and laughter that waiting in line is half the adventure. Open 24 hours a day, every day of the year, Rocky's is especially packed on weekends with kids on the way to and from their sports activities. Amazingly, the line moves quickly, and the staff still has time to remember everyone's name. 235 Saw Mill River Rd., Millwood. 941-2165.

Chappaqua Library

Newly-renovated and expanded, the Chappaqua Library is perpetually

buzzing (softly, of course) with activity. Story Times take place almost every day for almost every age group, and other programs include crafts, music, films, book discussions and more. Favorite children's events include "Read Around the World," "Great Stuff for Good Listeners" and the "Chappaqua Challenge." Summer reading lists, teen programs and parent-child book groups are particularly popular. Add computers, children's puzzles, a theater, gallery spaces and a garden and you've got one terrific library. 195 S. Greeley Ave. 238-4779.

Second Story Book Shop

This little jewel is one of the last great independent bookstores. The staff is extremely knowledgeable and has read everything they recommend, including the children's books geared toward preschoolers through young adults. Out-of-print book searches, book groups and free gift wrap add to the joy of shopping in a cozy space. 75 N. Greeley Ave. 238-4463.

New Castle Art Center

The New Castle Art Center offers one of the finest children's workshops in Westchester County. The dedicated staff of teachers provides a unique atmosphere that contributes to the growth and creativity of each participant. The Art Center features a small class size with a 1-to-8 instructor-student ratio for children ages 2 through middle school. Programs offered include pre-kindergarten, kindergarten

art, woodworking, ceramic, youth arts and a summer arts camp. 939 Hardscrabble Rd. 238-3606.

Music in Chappaqua

The whole family can become recording artists and produce top-quality CDs with the help of Chief Engineer Adam Harley. Equipped with Steinway grand pianos and an industry-standard recording system, Music in Chappaqua is dedicated to helping visitors create gifts and keepsakes in as little as an hour. The studio also offers conservatory-level instruction in voice, piano, flute, guitar, bass and drums. 225 N. Greeley Ave. 238-3123.

Go To Your Room

Kids of all ages will go crazy for the unique, custom-designed furniture at Go To Your Room, including whimsical bookcases, armoires, wall units and more. A charming collection of unusual gifts and hand-painted mirrors and knobs rounds out this store's colorful selections. 27 S. Greeley Ave. 238-7100.

Drug Mart

A combination of old-fashioned pharmacy and modern gift shop, Drug Mart is the kind of independent store that we wish there were more of. While you're waiting for your prescription, shop for fun crafts and toys and sophisticated hostess gifts (free gift wrapping) or take your little tot for a ride on the cute mechanical horse or car out front. 230 Saw Mill River Rd., Millwood, 923-9200.