

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL GUIDE | TOP DENTISTS IN FAIRFIELD COUNTY

FAIRFIELD



LIVING

JULY/AUGUST 2015 | \$5.95

So good!

• MORE THAN •
86,000
VOTES
200+
WINNERS

Candy Popper Burger
WINNER
Flipside Burgers & Bar



- Hamburgers**
- Happy Hour
- Seafood**
- Pizza
- Juice Bar**
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FLIPSIDE

Pair Up

Creative and delicious food and drinks at Flipside Burgers & Bar



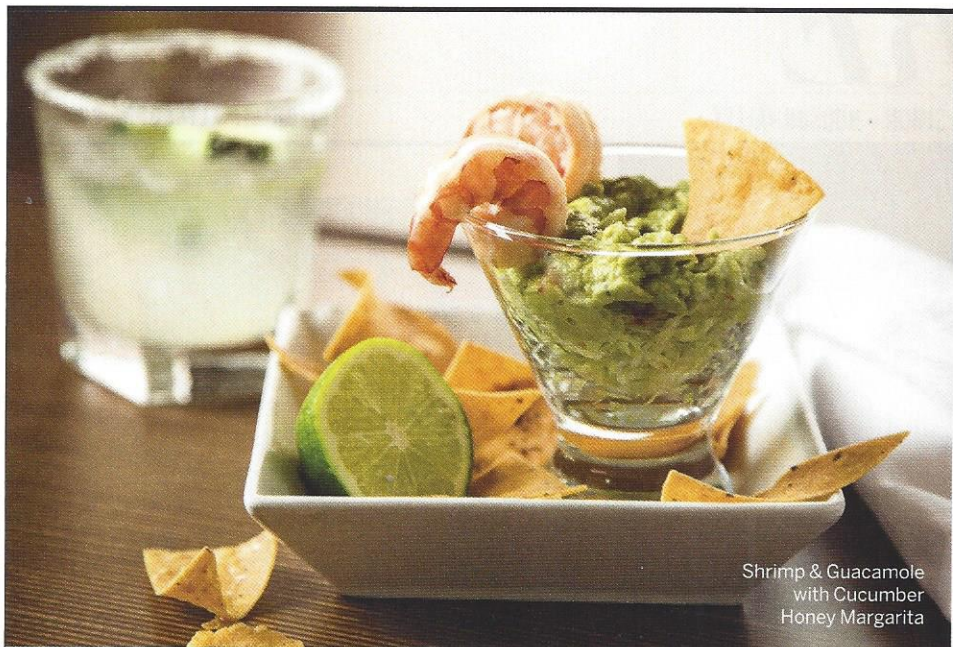
Goat cheese burger with sweet potato fries and Red Sangria

BY DAN HAJDUCKY
PHOTOGRAPHY BY JULIE BIDWELL

Flipside Burgers & Bar's menu crowns the customer the king of customizability; it's filled to the brim with create-your-own burgers and hot dogs, "upon request" substitution choices and an abundance of sandwiches and small plate options. The restaurant's recent renovations also underscore the message that the customer's experience is paramount. "We've been here almost six years, increasing business every year," says owner Mike Baffa. "It was time to put a little back into the place, finish the things I never got to finish."

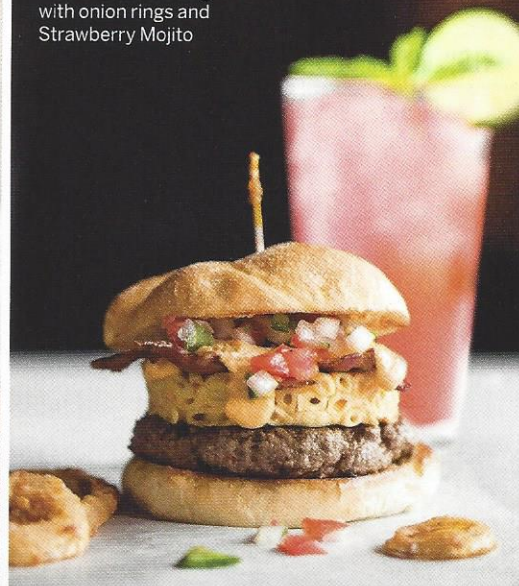
Recent 2015 Best of Gold Coast award wins for Best Happy Hour and Best Hamburger are proof that Baffa gives his customers what they want. But how does he concoct all those burger variations?

"I may go to dinner somewhere and see something I really like," he says. "My goal is: 'How do we fit it on a bun? How do we get a bowl of pho into a hamburger?'" With that in mind, Flipside's famed Candy Popper Burger—a burger topped with cream cheese, candied bacon and a sweet carrot-jalapeño slaw on a pretzel bun—now makes sense. Baffa had been longing for jalapeño poppers when a light bulb went off.



Shrimp & Guacamole with Cucumber Honey Margarita

Mac N' Cheese Burger with onion rings and Strawberry Mojito



CHEERS TO THAT

Check out
Flipside's daily
specials

PALM SUNDAY \$3
Palm drafts all day

MARTINI MONDAY
\$6 specialty
martinis

TAP TUESDAY
\$4 any draft beer

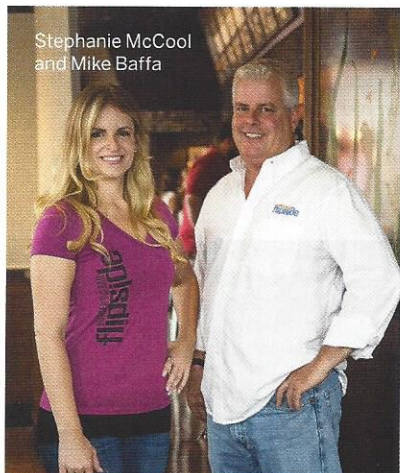
**WINE
WEDNESDAY**
half-price
bottles of wine

**MONSTER
THURSDAY** \$20
monster drinks

FIESTA FRIDAY
\$10 bucket
of Coronitas,
\$20 monster
margaritas

**SEASONAL
SATURDAY**
25% off seasonal
specialty drinks

**DAILY HAPPY
HOUR** \$3 small
plates, \$4 tacos



Stephanie McCool
and Mike Baffa

To enjoy Flipside's award-winning burgers on the lighter side, try a gluten-free bun, order sliders or order the burger as a salad. Otherwise, try the veggie patty made in-house with polenta, celery, corn, peppers, onions and sundried tomato.

To beat the heat, pair your burger with a summer drink. The Candy Popper Burger, for example, is just as spicy as it is savory, so good luck finding a better pairing than the Cucumber Honey Margarita. The drink's refreshing sweetness levels out the burger's peppery kick. It's so new that it isn't listed on the drinks menu yet, though you're more than welcome to order it now.

The Goat Burger features goat cheese, sundried tomato, caramelized onions and a honey-balsamic glaze. The salty-sweet tang is quintessential summer, especially when partnered with the Mango Mojito. Take this meal to the patio and catch some rays.

Opposites attract in love, so take that adage to your plate. The salty-sweet Blue Burger, an unconventional combination of Gorgonzola, caramelized onions and apricot chutney, is greatly enhanced by sipping a Ginger Gold Rush Martini.

Baffa is proud of his limit-pushing menus. "We have twenty-five specialty burgers," he says, "and we make everything here, except the ketchup, mayo and ice cream."

Not in the mood for a burger? Fear not. Flipside serves fantastic sandwiches (the BBQ Jack Chicken wheat wrap with pepper jack cheese, bacon, fried zucchini and ranch is spectacular), and salads, like the Flipside Salad, with candied walnuts, dried cranberries, Gorgonzola and balsamic vinaigrette, satisfy even hearty appetites.

Whatever you do, don't skip out on the appetizers. The Pickle Basket, for example, contains fried pickles sliced thin as potato chips and topped with a deep-fried pickled egg. The Shrimp and Posole (a corn dish akin to polenta) Torta, with tomatillo slaw, salsa verde and chipotle aioli is a taste bud blockbuster, and the Glazed Calamari, tossed in a blackberry-jalapeño glaze with chopped banana peppers, is worth writing home about.

Flipside is renowned for its happy hour and daily drink specials, but the quality of its cuisine, across the board, has been a well-kept secret. Oops. The secret's out. **F**

FLIPSIDE BURGERS & BAR

1125 Post Road,
Fairfield,
203-292-8233;
flipsiderestaurant.com

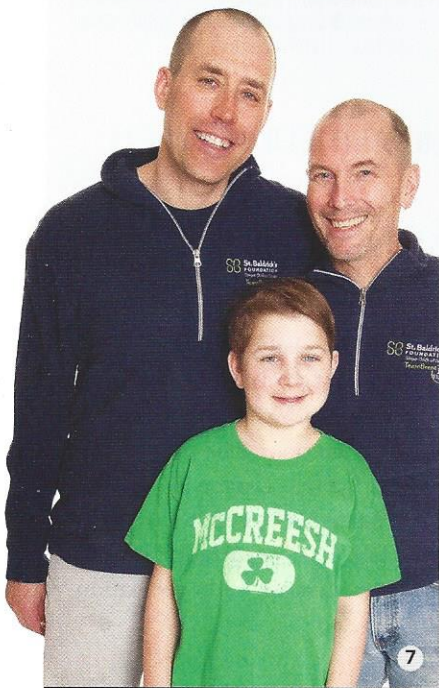
CUISINE:
American

HOURS:
11:30 a.m.-10 p.m., daily
Happy Hour:
3-6 p.m.,
Mon.-Sat.

BY DAN HAJDUCKY

PEOPLE & Places

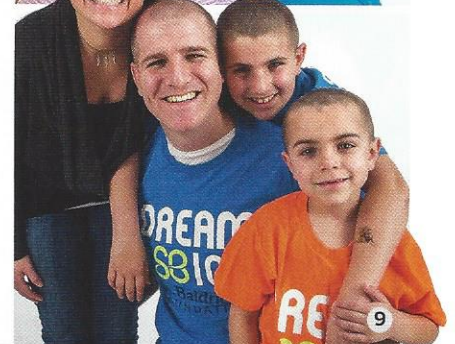
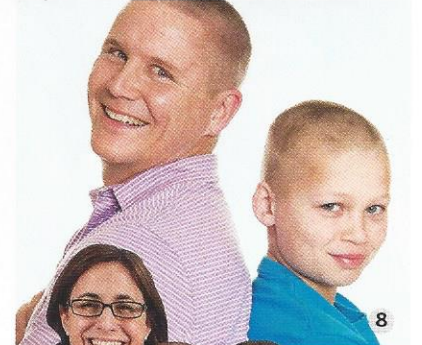
ST. BALDRICK'S FOUNDATION • PHOTOGRAPHS BY HEIDI CURRAN & LAURIE WRIGHT



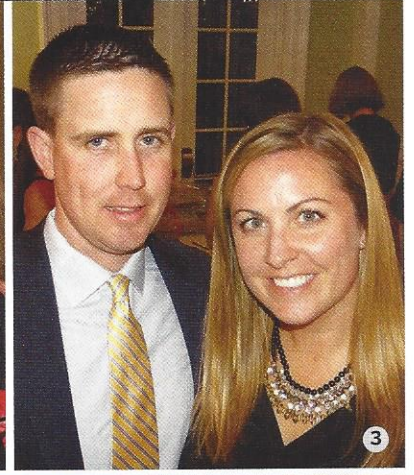
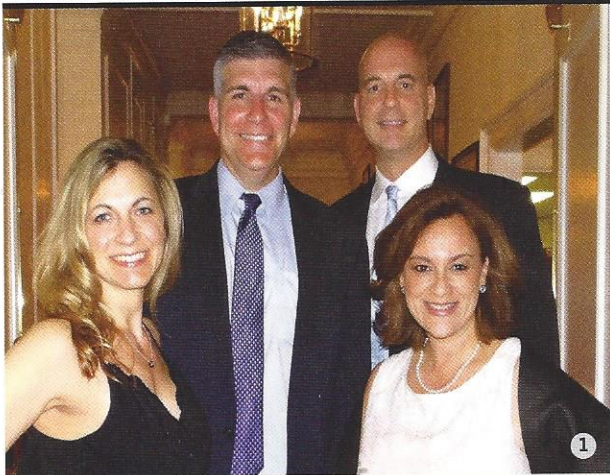
A Close Shave

The Westport Weston Family YMCA hosted TeamBrent's eleventh annual St. Baldrick's event. Almost 200 heads were shaved, raising \$185,000 to fight childhood cancer. The event included twenty-eight kids, ages three to seventeen. Of St. Baldrick's 500,000 global participants, less than 1 percent are Knights of the Bald Table (participating for seven years), but 25 percent of this year's TeamBrent participants were Knights; 33 percent were first-timers. TeamBrent and YMCA are gearing up for the Fit Family 5K run on October 25. »

1 Timmy Donahue and Brent McCreech 2 Diane Partenza and The Larsen Family 3 John Cody, Tim and TK Shanley 4 Jessica Olderman, John, Nolan and Lisa Izzo 5 Cole and Monica Zwynenburg 6 Joey and Joe Rainis 7 TeamBrent co-founder Mike McCreech with son Brent and Roger Haney 8 Jerry Joliet with son Alex 9 The Stupak Family »



PEOPLE & Places



1 Denise and Al Paolozzi with Zoltan and Michele Krasznai **2** Vanessa Theroux and Erica Sawers **3** Jimmy and Julie McCloud **4** Betsy Autry, Lorie Brown, Alix Purcell **5** President Laura Caramore, president-elect Samantha Collin **6** Andrea Shantz, Jake Frame, Andrew Shantz **7** Shaina Monks, Dallas Davis, Christopher Monks **8** Gala Chair Alison Smith, Chair Stefanie Dean, Honorary Chair Phyllis Marsilius and Chair Kristen Frame



|| JUNIOR LEAGUE OF EASTERN FAIRFIELD COUNTY ||

To Your Health

The Junior League of Eastern Fairfield County held its annual gala at the Brooklawn Country Club. In honor of the Junior League’s mission—“building healthy families and healthy futures”—the gala was a night of dining, dancing and silent auctions. The Junior League of Bridgeport, founded in 1920, was the first League in Connecticut. It expanded and changed its name in the 1980s to reflect the breadth of its community-building efforts. The organization is run almost completely by volunteers and was involved in the formation of the Discovery Museum and the Beardsley Zoo.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY MIKE LAITFERBORN

PEOPLE & Places



Executive Director of the Norma Pfriem Breast Center Donna Twist, Celebrating You Hostess Kim Meier, comedienne Joy Behar and Director of Pink Aid Andrew Mitchell-Namdar

|| NORMA F. PFRIEM BREAST CENTER & PINK AID ||

The Power of Pink

Celebrating You, a thank-you party to major donors to the breast care organizations Norma Pfriem Breast Center and Pink Aid, was held at Kim Meier's Westport home. Director of the Norma Pfriem Breast Center Donna Twist and Director of Pink Aid Andrew Mitchell-Namdar talked about the vital nature of donating and about what's next for both organizations. The Norma Pfriem Breast Center is opening a new branch in Trumbull's Park Avenue Medical Center, and Pink Aid is introducing Pink Purse, an emergency aid fund for women in treatment facing medical-related expenses that are not covered by insurance. Comedienne Joy Behar entertained guests and—due to responsibilities to cover the NFL draft—ESPN sportscaster Mike Greenberg addressed the guests via Skype; each event attendee also received a copy of Greenberg's latest novel, *My Father's Wives*.



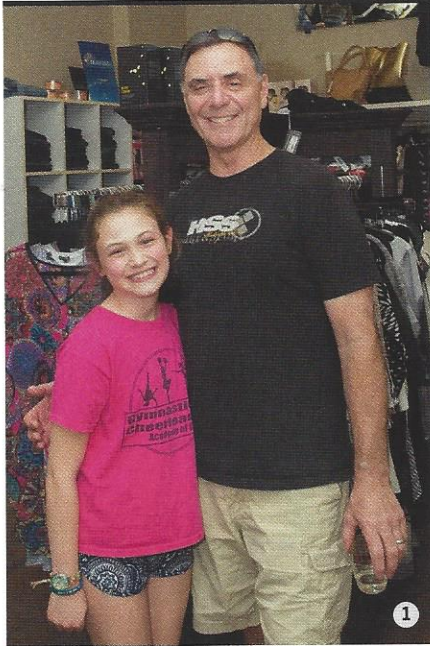
This magnificent, one-of-a-kind country estate, meticulously designed by Michael Greenberg & Associates, is sequestered behind a perimeter of majestic trees and historic stone walls on a beautifully landscaped 2.97 acres within walking distance to the number #1 ranked school in Connecticut. Inside soaring ceilings, spacious rooms, luminous French doors and large windows make the most of the natural light and attractive surroundings. **Lords Hwy, Weston | \$2.850M**

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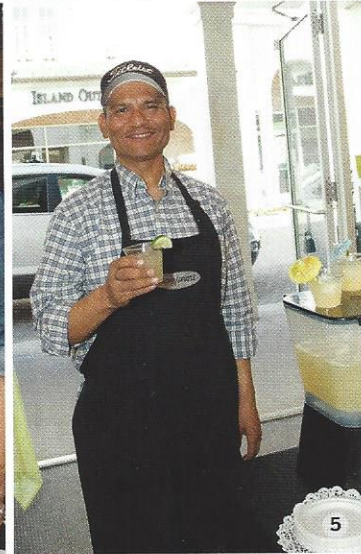
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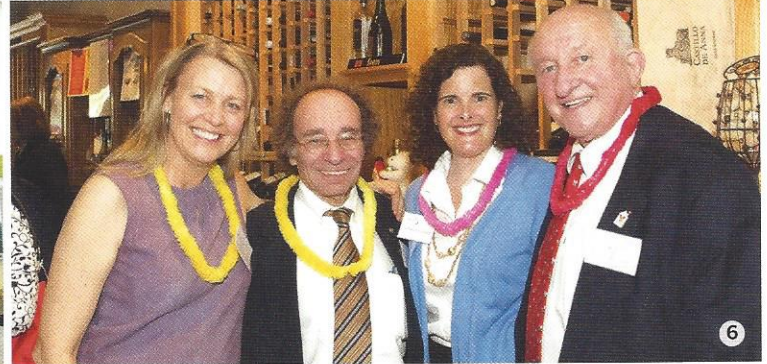
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6



7

1 Abby and Ed Rousseau 2 Cindy Austin and Keri Cocchiola 3 Kathryn Lohotsky and Leah Brown-Wilusz 4 Celeste Elfstrom and Mary Scasino, owner of La Moda 5 John Villanova of Dash 'N Drizzle 6 Fairfield Foundation for Education's founders: board member Pam Foarde, vice president George Markley, secretary Katherine Caulfield and President Dick Popilowski 7 Susan Scalisi, Phyllis Scordo-Duran and Franklyn MacLean

|| FAIRFIELD FOUNDATION FOR EDUCATION ||

On Your Fête

Fairfield Foundation for Education's recent fourth annual Sip, Shop, Nosh event—a wine, appetizer, dessert and shopping affair—enjoyed good weather and good crowds. The foundation provides grants to especially creative public school teachers for exemplary teaching methods. Stores that participated in the fundraisers: Twisted Vine, Capri Clothing, Flip Flop Shop, Beehive, Altan Jewelers, La Moda, Swim 'N Surf, Jenny Boston Boutique and Dash 'N Drizzle. **F**

PHOTOGRAPHS BY MOE'Y MEDIA'S BIG PICTURE/MECHAN ROWE



Lighten Up

Celebrate summer
with these
spectacular events

The Grucci Firework Show returns on Fri., July 3, visible from either Penfield or Jennings Beach. Quality fireworks are a point of pride for Fairfield, a town established 137 years before the Declaration of Independence was signed. The show begins around 9:15 p.m. Parking passes available for \$50 per vehicle, on a limited basis; fairfieldct.org.

PARTY TIME

Join us for the **Best of the Gold Coast Connecticut** party! Mofly Media fills the Hilton Stamford with your favorite drinks, eats and more on Thurs., July 23, 7–10 p.m. General admission tickets, \$65; VIP pre-party (starting at 6 p.m.) tickets, \$100. One First Stamford Pl., Stamford; bestofgoldcoastct.com

BOOK SALE

The **Pequot Library Summer Book Sale**, celebrates fifty-five years this summer. The breadth of books is enough to delight bibliophiles into hysterics. The five-day sales raises approximately \$150,000 to fund the library's 450 programs each year. Fri.-Tues., July 24–28. 720 Pequot Ave., Southport; pequotlibrary.org

LIVE MUSIC

Gathering of the Vibes was recently named one of "50 Must-See Music Festivals" by *Rolling Stone*. This year's stellar lineup includes Weezer, Wilco, Ben Harper & The Innocent Criminals, Trucks Tedeschi Band and Gregg Allman. Thurs.-Sun., July 30-Aug. 2. One Barnum Dyke, Bridgeport; gatheringofthevibes.com

COMEDY

Kevin Hart, the world's premier comedy heavyweight and arguably the hardest-working man in show business, comes to Webster Bank Arena for a stop on his "What Now?" tour. Tickets for the show on Fri., July 10, at 7 p.m. start at \$43 and top out near \$200. 600 Main St., Bridgeport; websterbankarena.com



RIDE IT OUT

CT Challenge's mega bike riding event runs July 24-25

Up to 2,000 riders join in on this charity bike ride, either riding a 10, 25, 50, 75, or 100-mile route that starts at 8 a.m. and finishes at the Fairfield County Hunt Club in Westport. Two-day riders begin on Friday at Bear Mountain State Park in New York and finish at the Hunt Club. The noncompetitive event welcomes riders of all ages and culminates in a celebration with food, music and fun for the family. 174 Long Lots Rd., Westport; ctchallenge.org.