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Huntington Station



A COMMUNITY ON THE RISE

PRESENTED BY HUNTINGTON STATION

BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

Getting mixed up in the family business since '68

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The iconic Corleone family, of 1972's *The Godfather*, and the Bonawandt family have one thing in common: they're both dedicated to the family business.

While one of the businesses deals with casinos, hotels, and horse heads; the other deals with pools and spas.

Can you guess which business is the Bonawandts'?

Haven Pools, a 45-year-old firm that builds and services gunite pools, was incorporated in 1968 by principals Karl and Muriel Bonawandt. Ever since then, the firm has become premier builder on Long Island, dealing mostly with high-end, expensive pools and spas.

Today, Craig Bonawandt – son of the founders – is a certified building professional of the firm, along with his own son, Patrick.

But Bonawandt's involvement with the firm stretches all the way back to his days in high school.

"I used to help out with the family business all through high school," Bonawandt, 61,

of Northport, said. "I've been building pools full time ever since I graduated from college in 1975."

This involvement in Haven Pools is what ultimately brought Bonawandt to becoming active with the Huntington Station Business Improvement District (BID).

"We had just moved one of our business branches to Huntington Station and the attorney who was formulating the whole thing suggested that I [get involved]," Bonawandt said of the BID which was at that time just a steering committee. "Now I'm on the board of directors and I think we get a lot done for the district."

Bonawandt detailed programs like the security camera systems that were conceived by the BID, installed across Huntington Station, and are now used by the local police.

"It turned out to be huge," Bonawandt said of the security camera system, which at a time consisted of just one, single camera. "Also there are little things that we do like: pur-



Meet the BID Board
Craig Bonawandt

Craig Bonawandt, left, and his son, Patrick, a certified building professional for Haven Pools, a business that's been with the Bonawandt family since it was founded in 1968.

chase garbage cans and put them out onto the street for the town to empty, have the streets cleaned a couple of times a year, and even put up holiday decorations.

Bonawandt described the board, which was conceived in 2003, as "hardworking," and credited its ability to do "wonderful" things for the district.

And yet, without Bonawandt's family business,

his involvement with the BID may have never come to pass.

Thankfully, Bonawandt's father made him an offer he could not refuse in 1968 – a time before the Corleone family, oddly enough – and can now be contacted via Haven Pools' phone number: 631-271-5511; or by visiting the firm's main office at 1152 E. Jericho Turnpike in Huntington.