



White Plains Hospital Opens First Dental Practice

White Plains Hospital celebrated the opening of White Plains Hospital Dental Care, its first dentistry practice and the latest addition to its expanding line of services, with a ribbon-cutting ceremony on January 23. The dental practice, led by long-time White Plains community dentist and Director of Dental Services at White Plains Hospital, Dr. Joseph Leanza, DDS, is located at 79 East Post Road in White Plains, in the same location as the Hospital's Family Health Center and St. Vincent's Behavioral Health Center.



Dr. Leanza was previously the owner of White Plains Dental at 1 East Post Road in White Plains, which he founded in 1993, and has been practicing dentistry since 1984. He has served as Section Chief of White Plains Hospital's Department of Dentistry since 2010, helping to provide emergency dental treatments to patients in the Hospital. Dr. Leanza and his team began as part of White Plains Hospital at the end of 2023.

"My team and I have been part of this commu-

nity for many years, providing high-quality affordable dental care to our patients," said Dr. Leanza. "We are so pleased to formally launch White Plains Hospital Dental Care, where we will continue to serve those who need it the most in a beautiful new office and with the full support of White Plains Hospital."

"White Plains Hospital Dental Care is a perfect complement to the internal medicine and behavioral health services already offered at that location. Dental health, while critical on its own, also plays an important role in general health – so going to the dentist is a great preventative health measure. In addition, having these services under one roof allows us to enhance access to care and help manage referrals for patients and families who need it most," said Susan Fox, President & CEO of White Plains Hospital.

The addition of White Plains Hospital Dental Care was made possible through a Statewide Health Care Facility Transformation Program III grant from the New York State Department of Health.

Ms. Fox and Dr. Leanza were joined at the January 23 ribbon-cutting by White Plains Hospital's Chief Medical Officer Dr. Michael Palumbo; Vice President, Organizational Performance, Karen Banoff; Jill Schulmann, Assistant Vice President; Bernadette Kingham-Bez, Executive Director, St. Vincent's Hospital Westchester; Sari Maenza, FNP, Family Health Center; Larry Smith, Immediate Past Chair of White Plains Hospital's Board of Directors; and Dr. Leanza's staff and family, including his mother Angela.

To make an appointment at White Plains Hospital Dental Care, call 914-849-3488.

New Law Requires Merchants to Provide Clear Disclosure of Credit Card Surcharges to Consumers

Westchester County Executive George Latimer, New York State Assemblywoman Amy Paulin, and County Director of Consumer Protection Jim Maisano are working together to ensure that residents are well-informed about a new law aimed at promoting transparency in credit card transactions. This new state law, which went into effect on February 11, 2024, mandates that merchants in New York State must provide clear and conspicuous disclosure of credit card surcharges to consumers.

Latimer said, "Transparent pricing is essential for consumers to make informed decisions. This new law will empower Westchester residents by ensuring they have clear visibility into any credit card surcharges they may incur, and I thank my colleague in government Assemblywoman Paulin for her efforts on its passage and Governor Hochul for signing it into law."

Paulin added, "This new law protects New Yorkers from hidden surcharges by requiring sellers to clearly post the price of a credit card surcharge. Credit card surcharges now have to be disclosed clearly so that customers are fully aware of them upfront and not just when they go to pay. The new law also prevents businesses from charging a higher fee than what they are charged by the credit card companies. This legislation is ultimately about transparency, fairness, and preventing consumers from being misled when making purchases using credit cards. I thank Jim Maisano, Director of the Westchester County Department of Consumer Protection, for bringing this important issue to my attention. His idea is now a law which will protect



New Yorker consumers."

The new law limits credit card surcharges to the amount charged to the business by the credit card company and requires businesses to clearly display the total price inclusive of any surcharges before checkout. It aims to prevent consumers from being surprised by hidden fees and ensures that they have a clear understanding of the costs associated with credit card transactions.

Maisano said, "This law reinforces the principles of fairness and transparency in commercial transactions. We are committed to ensuring that consumers are protected from deceptive practices, and this legislation is a significant step forward in achieving that goal."

For more information on the implementation of this law and consumer rights, residents are encouraged to contact the Westchester County Department of Consumer Protection.

Learn more about Westchester County by visiting www.westchestergov.com.



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Spring – Oil Paintings by Jacqueline Davis

The Harrison Public Library presents
Spring, oil paintings by Jacqueline Davis on
view March 3-29, with a Meet the Artist event
on March 18 from 6:30-8:30 p.m.



Jacqueline, who creates contemporary
artworks in oils, developed a love for painting
with oils after studying at the Art Students
League in New York and taking workshops
with working artists around the East Coast,
eventually painting full-time herself.

Jacqueline has a strong design background.
Originally from England, she graduated with a
B.A. in Design as well as a Post-Graduate Certi-
ficate in Education from Manchester (UK). She
has worked in Graphic Design, led a High School
Design and Technology department for several
years, and then ran a ceramics business.

She began oil painting with a passion
about 10 years ago and has recently returned
to teaching, leading oil painting classes with-
in Adult Education.

Jacqueline has exhibited her work locally
at The Edward Hopper House, Nyack, The Blue
Door Gallery, Yonkers, The Mamaroneck Art-
ists Guild, and The Rye Arts Center.



Premium Mill Pond

11 Dogwood Lane, Larchmont

Nestled within the embrace of 1.2 acres of verdant tranquility, this time-honored, Tudor-style residence stands as a testament to architectural grace. A captivating waterfront haven, the property now beckons a new owner. A magical and serene setting to enjoy throughout all seasons!

For a Private Showing please contact Cathy Fugazy



Cathy D. Fugazy

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Table Hopping with Morris Gut: Everyone is Irish on St. Paddy's Day

The leprechauns are coming! St. Patrick's Day, Sunday, March 17, will be celebrated with all its local color. Throughout Westchester, towns and villages are hanging shamrocks on storefronts and homes giving the Hudson Valley its sparkling moment in the Emerald Isle. If you want to partake in the traditional foods, spirits, and reveling sprinkled with a good dose of blarney, here are some suggestions. Be sure to check ahead for special events, and larger groups are advised to make advanced reservations. Erin Go Bragh!

Jack's Bar & Restaurant, 219 Main St., Eastchester. Owner Shane Clifford and his friendly crew have all the good cheer, TVs, and finger foods you want. Generous specialties coming out of Chef



Brendan Donohoe's kitchen include traditional Corned Beef & Cabbage; Double-Stacked Smash Burger; Shepherd's Pie; decadent Short Rib Mac N' Cheese; Jack's Meatballs; Seared Scallops; Chick-

en Curry; Shroom Pizza out of their woodfired oven; Berkshire Pork Chop; and Grilled Lamb Sliders. 914-652-7650 www.jackseastchester.com

McShane's Public House, 123 N. Main St., Port Chester. Partners Edmund Cleary and Vincent Furey offer a taste of the Emerald Isle in Port Chester and the crowds follow. Popular traditional specialties include Colcannon Croquettes, Bangers & Mashed, Corned Beef Reuben, and Lamb Sliders. 914-937-7800 www.mcshanesportchester.com

Dunne's Restaurant & Pub, 15 Shapham Place, White Plains. A neighborhood treasure, an authentic Irish tavern with all the traditional Gaelic accoutrements intact. Owner Declan Farrell keeps it a friendly, home-style place with a good kitchen to boot, dishing out generous servings of traditional Irish-style fare. Try their fabulous Corned Beef & Cabbage, Corned Beef Reuben Sandwich, Beer Battered Fish & Chips, or Salmon Crisp, grilled salmon on sautéed spinach topped with baked mashed potatoes. 914-421-1451. www.dunnepub.com

Rory Dolan's, 890 McLean Ave., Yonkers. To many in the greater Westchester Irish community, this is the



motherload. There will be traditional feasting galore all day and evening. Try to get there off-peak, if possible. There is a parking lot. Visit Rory's newest spot in White Plains: Archie Grand. 914-776-2946 www.rorydolans.com

Duck Inn, 128 W. Boston Post Road, Mamaroneck. Proprietor Paul Collins has been at the helm here for 20 years, but the place has been operating in one form or another for 100. You must have noticed it across from Harbor Island Park. The place is strewn with ducks. Friendly barkeeps make sharing a brew most congenial. This is a true pub where spirited conversation takes center stage. Complimentary Irish Buffet on St. Paddy's Day. It is just around the corner from the Emelin Theater and Mamaroneck Library. 914-835-8791 <https://wefind.bizsite.link/duck-inn-bar-grill>

IRISH COOKING AT HOME?

If you are planning to cook up some Gaelic favorites at home, check out these specialty food markets for authentic Irish ingredients: Butcher's Fancy, 961 McLean Ave., Yonkers. www.butchersfancy.com; Prime Cut Irish Butchers (Riverdale) 4338 Katonah Ave., Bronx 718-324-9262; and Food Ireland, they have a Mount Vernon outlet, www.foodireland.com

(Morris Gut is a restaurant marketing consultant and former restaurant trade magazine editor. He has been tracking and writing about the food and dining scene in greater Westchester for 30 years. He may be reached at 914-235-6591. E-mail: gutreactions@optonline.net)

Houlihan Lawrence Announces Winners of Annual Emerald Awards

Houlihan Lawrence, the leading real estate firm serving New York's northern suburbs, has announced this year's recipients of the annual Emerald Awards, a prestigious honor awarded to the top 1.5% of more than 1,450 Houlihan Lawrence sales associates, by gross commission income or units sold. Individuals were recognized from across the firm's offices in Westchester, Connecticut, and the Hudson Valley. The recipients of the award include Pollena Forsman in Larchmont, Chrissy Hazelton, Joan O'Meara and Lisa Murphy in Rye, and Gino Bello and Tony Murphy in White Plains.

"As the top agents at the number one brokerage North of NYC, our Emerald Award winners represent the best of the best," says Liz Nunan, President & CEO of Houlihan Lawrence. "We are proud of all our agents' accomplishments both for their clients and the communities they serve. We look forward to celebrating another year of achievements with our agents, who simply are the best."

Houlihan Lawrence is the leading real estate brokerage serving New York City's northern suburbs. Founded in Bronxville, in 1888, the company is deeply committed to technological innovation and the finest client service. The firm has 32 offices and 1,450+ agents serving Westchester, Putnam, Dutchess, Columbia, Ulster, and Greene counties in New York and Fairfield, Litchfield, and New Haven Counties in Connecticut. For more information visit www.houlihanlawrence.com.

Larchmont Friends of the Family Announces Spring Gala Fundraiser on March 14

Larchmont Friends of the Family (LFOF), a local not-for-profit volunteer organization that has been actively and quietly helping families in the Westchester community for more than 25 years, is pleased to announce that their 2024 Spring Gala will be held at Beach Point Club on Thursday, March 14 at 6:30 p.m.

"We are thrilled to be honoring our founders and long-time members of Larchmont Friends of the Family, whose vision has guided us in serving the community for nearly a quarter century," said Emily Bender, President of Larchmont Friends of the Family.

Guests in attendance will enjoy refreshments, light bites, a silent auction, live music from the local band Downstate Darlings, and commentary from our host, Caitlin Murray, author of Big Time Adulting, a blog about love, life, and parenting.

"We are neighbors helping neighbors in a meaningful way," continued Emily. "We are so appreciative of all of the amazing work our volunteers are doing to help others and extremely grateful for all of our donors who are equally essential to our mission of assisting our neighbors in getting through difficult times."

All Westchester community members are invited to join Larchmont Friends of the Family at the gala by purchasing tickets at www.interland3.donorperfect.net/weblink/WebLink.aspx?name=E362120&id=8.

Donations are also welcome by visiting www.form-renderer-app.donorperfect.io/give/larchmont-friends-of-the-family/donation-form or by mailing a check to:

Larchmont Friends of Family
P.O. Box 74

Mastercard Executive Leads 2024 Westchester Fairfield Go Red for Women® Movement

Cara Pensabene, MD, Vice President, Global Medical Director at Mastercard, has been named Centennial Chair of the American Heart Association's Westchester Fairfield Go Red for Women movement, a worldwide initiative of the American Heart Association designed to increase women's heart health awareness and serve as a catalyst for change to improve the lives of women locally, national and globally.

This year, Go Red also celebrates 20 years of making an impact as the movement continues to make bold moves to save lives and pioneer scientific discoveries.

"I'm honored to serve as the Centennial Chair for the Westchester Fairfield Go Red for Women movement," said Dr. Pensabene. "Since 2004, Go Red for Women has addressed the awareness and clinical care gaps of women's greatest health threat, cardiovascular disease. We need to continue focusing on cardiovascular health in women because it remains the leading cause of death. The simple truth is that most cardiovascular diseases can still be prevented with education and healthy lifestyle changes."

For two decades Go Red for Women has been saving and improving women's lives by advancing equitable research and care, advocating for inclusive health policies, and raising awareness. As women grow and

Larchmont, NY 10538

Are you a local business owner? Sponsorships are also available. Email emily@larchmontfriendsofthefamily.org to learn more.

Larchmont Friends of the Family (LFOF) was founded in 1997 by several Larchmont residents who had suffered severe illnesses in their own families. The generous help they received from neighbors and friends was invaluable, uplifting, and transformative. It made them realize how meaningful and necessary community support can be during a time of crisis, and a wonderful idea took root. Since then, LFOF has been actively and confidentially helping local families through difficult times. Today, LFOF is a focused organization (we like to call it a neighborhood fund) with more than 200 volunteers, and we have helped close to 100 families cope both financially and emotionally.

We are neighbors helping neighbors. Larchmont Friends of the Family is a local not-for-profit volunteer organization that has been actively and quietly helping families in our community for 25 years. Established by compassionate residents, the group offers practical and financial support to those who have been faced with a medical crisis or loss. We hope to bring back a sense of normalcy to the family life in any way we can, and our door is always open.

For more information, visit <http://www.larchmontfriendsofthefamily.org/> or follow us @larchmont_friends_of_family on Instagram, @Larchmont Friends of Family on Facebook or @LarchmontFriendsOfTheFamily on LinkedIn.

change so does their risk for cardiovascular disease. Go Red for Women is here for their health and well-being at every age, stage, and season of their lives.

"The American Heart Association believes everyone deserves the opportunity for a longer, healthier life and it's been the mission to fulfill that vision and I hope we can help provide that through this campaign," said Dr. Pensabene.

The American Heart Association's centennial is a celebration of the lifesaving achievements and shared vision for a bold second century that will exponentially advance heart and brain health. The Association will continue to lead breakthroughs in science and technology, improve healthcare, and advocate for federal, state, and local policies that drive healthier lifestyles.

The 2024 Go Red for Women movement in Westchester and Fairfield Counties is nationally sponsored by CVS Health and locally by Mastercard, White Plains Hospital, Fujifilm, and Northwell Health.

This year's Go Red for Women movement and its local achievements will be celebrated on Thursday, March 21, 2024, at The Whitby Castle in Rye, NY. For more information, please visit www.heart.org/goredwestchester.

Water Pipe Replacement, Southeast Consortium, 2024 Capital Budget Amendments Approved

BY STEPHEN E. LIPKEN

Mamaroneck Town Supervisor Jaine Elkind Eney convened the February 21, 2024 Town Council meeting, saying that she attended a Westchester Municipal Officials Association Membership Meeting at Lionsgate HUB, Yonkers, on February 8th, "Tourism in Westchester County," which also explored film opportunities. Eney also attended the February 14th Sustainable Westchester (SW) virtual Annual Meeting. "SW is a non-profit consortium of Westchester County municipalities, the purpose is the effective collaboration of sustainability initiatives,"

"On February 15th, I attended a Public Listening Session, hosted by the Westchester County Board of Legislators in connection with a request by Westchester Joint Water Works for County approval of a land exchange transaction for construction of a filtration plant necessary to comply with State and Federal government safe drinking water requirements."

Eney reminded residents of the Town Tree Law requiring owners having property of 7,501 feet or greater to obtain permission before cutting down trees on their land. Contact Environmental Coordinator Elizabeth Aitchison, Eaitchison@townofmamaroneckny.org, 914-781-7845.

Next, a Public Hearing was opened regarding



Town of Mamaroneck
Supervisor Jaine Elkind Eney

replacement of approximately 170 linear feet of four-inch diameter asbestos water main pipe with a 6-inch diameter ductile iron pipe at maximum estimated cost of \$202,000 on Brookside. It is a Type II Action under State Environmental Quality Review Act regulations. The measure was approved.

Meeting as Fire Commissioners, the Board approved a bill of \$7,283.06 submitted by Fire Chief Thomas Broderick and bill for \$2,668.74, Fire Headquarters Gas Service, approved by Roll Call Vote.

In Affairs of the Town, renewal of agreement of Southeast Consortium 2024 was reached. The Consortium is a group of

eleven Westchester communities that have joined together to provide special recreation programs and opportunities for residents with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities. Town's contribution to Consortium will increase to \$26,685.75.

The 2024 Capital Budget Amendments encompass 1) Brookside Place Water Main;

2) Hommocks Ice Rink HVAC; 3) Town Center Elevator.

Finally, the Board confirmed the appointment of Melissa Kaplan-Macey to the Housing Authority, Member C, starting date March 6th, expiring December 31st.

White Plains Hospital Announces New Medical Staff Leadership

White Plains Hospital has announced today that Claudia Felberg, MD has been elected the new President of the Medical Staff at White Plains Hospital, a position she will hold until the end of 2025. Dr. Felberg, who was previously Vice President of the Medical Staff, succeeds Dr. George Anastasian as President.

Board-certified in Internal Medicine, Pulmonary Medicine, and Critical Care Medicine, Dr. Felberg is the Medical Director of Scarsdale Medical Group (SMG) and serves as Chief of Pulmonology at the Hospital. Selected as a Healthcare Hero by Westchester Magazine last year, Dr. Felberg is the first female to hold the President position.

Practicing at 600 Mamaroneck Ave. in Harrison, Dr. Felberg received her undergraduate degree from Barnard College and her medical degree from New York Medical College in Valhalla. She completed an internship and residency in Internal Medicine at the Yale University School of Medicine and earned a fellowship in Pulmonary Diseases and Critical Care at the Mount Sinai School of Medicine.

In addition, Otolaryngologist Jk Rasamny, MD, who specializes in head and neck surgery, succeeded Dr. Felberg as Vice President of the Medical Staff, while Pulmonologist Emanuel Wurm, DO was elected Secretary/Treasurer.

While those officers will serve two-year terms, three physicians were elected to three-year terms as delegates. They are breast surgeon Preya Ananthakrishnan, MD; cardiac electrophysiologist James Peacock, MD; and Randy Stevens, MD, Director of Radiation Oncology at the White Plains Hospital Center for Cancer Care.

"I am pleased to welcome Claudia, Jk, and Emanuel to these leadership positions. Their depth of knowledge and experience in both the clinical and administrative areas will serve our entire medical staff well," said Michael Palumbo, MD, Executive Vice President and Chief Medical Officer at White Plains Hospital.

Senate Passes Senator Mayer Bill to Establish Statewide Office of Flood Prevention and Mitigation



On February 13, the New York State Senate unanimously passed a bill sponsored by Senator Shelley B. Mayer to establish a cabinet-level Office of Flood Prevention and Mitigation. The bill heads to the New York State Assembly for a vote and then, hopefully, to the Governor's desk for signature.

Through Mayer's legislation, the Office of Flooding Prevention and Mitigation will be tasked with coordinating existing state work on flooding, supporting municipalities in their efforts to prevent and mitigate flooding, and researching flooding impacts and mitigation in New York.

New York State is facing intensifying climate change-related hazards and storms, causing long-term devastation. Westchester and the surrounding Hudson Valley, Long Island, and New York City in particular face challenges recovering from destructive storms and are often unable to fully recover from one storm before another one strikes. It remains critical to the future of the state that proactive measures are taken to abate flooding.

This legislation will assess the areas of the state and populations at greatest risk, identify the best current emerging practices in flood management, preparedness, and resiliency, and make recommendations to the Governor and Legislature to help develop a high-level strategy for addressing flooding in our state.

From December to January, Senator Mayer conducted a survey of her constituents regarding their concerns and priorities. Twenty-five percent of the respondents chose Flooding and Climate Change as one of their top priorities.

Senator Shelley B. Mayer said, "I am very pleased that my bill, S.3335, to establish an Office of Flooding Prevention and Mitigation has passed the Senate. During severe storms like Hurricane Ida, we lost community members, countless people endured severe damage to their homes, and more faced financial burden. Since Ida, residents and businesses in my district and in neighboring communities have been impacted by increasingly intense and frequent storms brought on by climate change, and are often hit with another downpour before they can rebuild. The Office of Flooding Prevention and Mitigation will provide New Yorkers with a strong, coordinated, and strategic approach to tackling the effects of

climate change, requiring all levels of government and agencies within government to work together to identify and execute mitigation and resiliency plans. It will help provide municipalities, counties, and individuals with the tools we need to tackle the scale of the work ahead."

Senator Pete Harchkham, Chair of the Senate Committee on Environment Conservation, said, "People want meaningful action on the climate crisis, environmental protections, and stormwater mitigation. To do so, we need to put as much effort as possible into passing climate and stormwater legislation this year to safeguard our communities statewide. The

time for action is now, and I am grateful to my colleagues in the Senate for passing Senator Mayer's Office of Flood Mitigation and Prevention bill."

Assemblyman Steve Otis said, "Flood events and damage have become a frequent and repeated challenge throughout the state. Our state agencies have responded by offering more resources, expertise, and guidance to local governments to address flood recovery, mitigation, and preparedness projects. A new State Office of Flood Prevention will be an added benefit. The unit will coordinate state agency assistance and provide a central office for local governments to access expertise from state government."

Westchester County Executive George Latimer said, "Westchester County is no stranger to the devastating impacts of flooding exacerbated by climate change. Senator Shelley Mayer's bill, establishing the Office of Flooding Prevention and Mitigation, marks a crucial step towards coordinated action. By pooling resources and fostering collaboration among municipalities, this initiative promises to empower our communities with effective strategies to combat flooding and safeguard our residents' well-being."

Legislator Catherine Parker said, "As a Westchester County Legislator I want to commend and give tremendous gratitude to Senator Mayer and her colleagues in the New York Senate for recognizing the need to prioritize and address flooding in a significant and impactful way. New York has experienced billions of dollars in damage due to flooding as a byproduct of Climate Change. The creation of a cabinet-level office and position to hold expertise in best practices for funding

Continued on page 14

Artistree Community Theatre Announces Second Annual Production – Guys and Dolls

The Artistree Community Theater has announced that its second annual production, the beloved musical Guys and Dolls, is set to dazzle audiences from July 11-13, 2024, at the Emelin Theatre in Mamaroneck. Following the resounding success of Bye Bye Birdie in its inaugural year, the Artistree Community Theater is poised for an even more ambitious season, under the direction of Lexie Frere, whose vision will bring this classic tale to life.

A public benefit concert for Guys and Dolls will be held on Thursday, March 14 at St. Thomas Church in Mamaroneck. The concert will feature musical performances from the cast of Bye Bye Birdie and the Artistree staff of teaching artists. Tickets are on sale now at artistreecommunity.org and 100% of the proceeds go to putting on the summer show.

Artistree Community Theater Founder and Executive Director, Heather Capelle, shared, "The community theater has made significant strides in its first year to unite people of all ages and abilities through the magic of musical theater. We already have incredible interest in Guys and Dolls, and we have big plans to raise enough funds to ensure we can meet the demand of everyone who wants to participate. More shows, superior sets and costumes, and strategic partnerships with community businesses are all part of the plan for our second season."

The upcoming production of Guys and Dolls represents a unique opportunity for local businesses and families to align with their mission, connecting with thousands of residents and making a meaningful impact on the success of its programming. Businesses or individuals interested in supporting Artistree Community Theater as a partner are asked to contact Heather



er Capelle. A goal has been set to raise \$35,000 to produce Guys and Dolls. Donations of any size are welcome and can be made at artistreecommunity.org/donate.

Bye Bye Birdie cast member Christopher Derhammer-Hill had this to say about his experience, "Whether working on the set, shining in the ensemble, or holding down a feature role, we are nourished by that creative process. We learn to support our fellow actors, guide each other, and grow with each other – all in support of the production."

In anticipation of the summer production, the Artistree Community Theater invites the Sound Shore to mark their calendars for Guys and Dolls auditions on May 7 and 8.

Artistree Community Theater was founded in 2022 and is dedicated to creating theatrical opportunities for all interested in the performing arts, regardless of age or income. We aim to build a vibrant, creative community where the performing arts are explored and celebrated, enriching the lives of our members and our audience. For more information contact: Heather Capelle Email: info@artistreearts.com

For more information about Artistree Community Theater and Guys and Dolls, visit www.artistreecommunity.org or, on social media, go to @artistreecommunity on Instagram.

Philanthropic Luncheon to Support Local Non-Profits

The Woman's Club of Larchmont, Inc. will hold its annual fundraising Philanthropic Luncheon on Thursday, April 25 with the theme Giving Together.

At this enjoyable and worthwhile event browse the gift baskets, and participate in the silent auction and raffles while enjoying with friends the fashions from the Golden Shoe-string, a thrift shop in Larchmont run by the Junior League of Westchester on the Sound.

Funds raised help support various community organizations and in the past year, the twenty-three recipients have included the Larchmont-Mamaroneck Student Aid Fund, STEM Alliance Scholarship Fund, Community Resource Center, SHORE/ICARE, Friends of the Counseling Center Larchmont-Mamaroneck, The Fuller Center for Housing, and Westchester County Federation of Women's Clubs Scholarship Fund.

The luncheon is to be held at the Orien-

ta Beach Club, 1054 Walton Ave, Mamaroneck. Doors open at 11:00 a.m. with the luncheon served at 12:30 p.m. Reservations (\$75/person which includes a \$10 philanthropic donation) must be made by April 18. Include your name, phone number, guest name(s), and entree choice of salmon or chicken, and send your reservation to Anne-Mieke Smeets, 48 Country Road, Mamaroneck, NY 10543. Make checks payable to The Woman's Club of Larchmont, Inc.

Donations are also accepted to help support The Woman's Club of Larchmont's philanthropic efforts and should be sent to Anne-Mieke Smeets as well.

The Woman's Club of Larchmont, Inc. supports civic and philanthropic organizations that contribute to the betterment of the community. The Club is open to both men and women. For more information regarding The Club and membership contact Theresa Fanelli at theresa777@mindspring.com.

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Songcatchers, Inc. Awarded \$40,000 by the New York State Council on the Arts

Last month, in New Rochelle, Songcatchers, Inc. revealed a \$40,000 grant from NYSCA to support the nonprofit, which has been in existence for 46 years and recently relocated after 27 years. The New York State Council on the Arts has allocated over \$46 million in New Arts and Culture Grants, affirming the state's commitment to arts and culture.

Governor Kathy Hochul emphasized the economic and communal impact of arts and culture, underscoring their significance and said, "Research confirms what we've always known here in New York: arts and culture are a powerhouse, with a staggering return on investment for our economy and our communities..." Songcatchers, offering affordable music lessons and enrichment for youth aged 1 ½ to 18+, aims to expand its reach and welcome new students in their new location.

Remaining dedicated to promoting equity in the arts and reaching more families, Songcatchers in New Rochelle continues to make a difference in the community. Executive Director, Jennifer Lanser said "We are grateful for the funding and those who helped us achieve it." She acknowledged Sr. Beth's visionary founding of the program that positively influences children's lives through music and increased programming.

The New York State Council on the Arts strives to advance arts, culture, and creativity across the state by awarding \$127 million in FY 2024 and providing developmental opportunities and resources. Established in 1960, NYSCA continues to support and nurture New York's creative landscape.

Founded in 1978 by Sr. Beth Dowd, OSU, Songcatchers in New Rochelle offers various music programs to children and families, emphasizing community, respect, kindness, and an appreciation for the arts. Their motto, "Reaching for Peace through Music," represents their commitment to fostering musical education and enrichment for all.



Jennifer Lanser



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Source: OKMLS 2013-2023 all property types, sales volume sold by individual agent, Westchester County. Source: OKMLS 2014-2023 single family homes, sales volume or total volume sold by individual agent, Blind Brook, Harrison, Mamaroneck, Port Chester, Rye City and Rye Neck school districts. Source: OKMLS 2010-2023, total dollar volume of single family homes sold by agent, Mamaroneck school district. Source: Real Trends, 2023. Source: OKMLS 2000-2023 single family homes, total volume sold by individual agent.



HOULIHAN LAWRENCE



Benjamin Moore Reinvents Regal® Select Interior Paint Enhanced Formula Designed to Withstand the Mess of Modern Life

Benjamin Moore, North America's favorite paint, color and coatings brand, has reinforced its Regal® Select Interior paint to stand up to the demands of everyday life like never before. The enhanced formulation features proprietary stain-release technology, increased scuff-resistance and washes clean without compromising color or sheen integrity.

Regal® Select is the paint that generations of painting professionals and homeowners have relied on for years to deliver the premium-quality results that Benjamin Moore is known for. Its smooth application and unbeatable flow and leveling allow painters to achieve professional results every time. The durable, washable finish enables easier clean-up of common household stains such as pencil, crayon, coffee and more, across all Benjamin Moore colors.

"For more than 60 years, Regal® Select has been the brand of time-tested premium interior paint that quality-minded professionals and homeowners trust," said Alyssa Scagnelli Figiel, Senior Product Manager at Benjamin Moore. "Our R&D and product development teams sought to make this tried-and-true interior paint even better by ensuring it delivers a flawless finish that is both beautiful and functional, resisting stains, scuffs and daily wear and tear."

To commemorate the launch, the brand has also developed a new creative campaign, entitled "Lovestruck Objects", that showcases a fresh take on what consumers think of when they think of Benjamin Moore. In two new creative spots, the brand features how much objects in the home love the durable qualities of Regal® Select; maybe even, a little more than the homeowners themselves!

The campaign was developed by independent creative agency, FIG.

Available in Flat, Matte, Eggshell, Satin/Pearl and Semi-Gloss finishes, Regal® Select Interior can be tinted in 3,500+ Benjamin Moore colors and is available exclusively at locally owned retailers throughout the US, Canada and international distributors. To learn more or to locate a retailer near you, visit benjaminmoore.com.



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3 Tricks to Find the Right Home



For those beginning the process of home buying, there are many factors to consider. Keep these ideas in mind as you conduct your search - whether it's online or at a series of open houses.

Consider Future Needs

Because life is always evolving, it's important to move into a home that has enough space for your family's anticipated changes. While features and space are always prime considerations, don't forget to, look into the area schools, day care options, parks and other kid-friendly amenities if you plan to grow your family in your next home.

Look for Flexible Spaces

Seek homes that offer rooms with multiple functions. For example, an office area may be suitable for a small child's room, or a sunroom may be converted to a laundry area down the road. Unfinished basements are also blank canvases that can be customized to meet your family's wants and needs.

Get to Know the Area

The purchase of a home goes well beyond the property line. Be sure to examine the neighborhood in which the house is situated. From the condition of the neighbors' houses to highway access and the proximity of necessities like grocery stores and gas stations, be sure to take every factor into account to help ensure you're selecting the right location.

Find more tips to aid you in your home search at eLivingtoday.com.



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Questions to Ask When Considering Carpet on Your Stairs

Are your stairs in good shape or do they need repair?

of your staircase may be, custom carpeting is available and affordable.

If you already have an existing runner on your stairs, is there a defined area between the wood and the covering? This will determine the width of your new runner.

Precise dimensions of the staircase, width of the steps, length of the risers and amount of steps is very important when ordering the correct amount of carpet.

What is the appearance of the area along the stairs? Wallpaper, paint, etc.? Would the carpet pattern clash? Consider the style of your existing flooring and the color of your walls and furniture.

Will your choice of floor covering need to be determined by the traffic flow?

Do you want the runner carpet to continue in the hall?

Consider the style and aesthetic of your home when picking out the right floor covering. The floor covering should complement and enhance the existing decor.

Do your existing stairs have any curves, landings, etc.? No matter how unique the shape

Also consider how often the choice of flooring will need to be maintained. Some materials may require more frequent cleaning and care than others.

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Alzheimer's Association Launches AlzWell Social Club in Westchester

Free Dementia-Friendly Creative Programs
On select Sundays beginning March 10, the Alzheimer's Association Hudson Valley Chapter welcomes community members to its free AlzWell Social Club at the JCC Mid-Westchester.

The AlzWell Social Club is a fun, friendly afternoon of activities designed specifically for people with early-stage dementia or other memory impairment and their families. The program includes lunch, a choice of three creative programs, and a musical performance. The creative programs will vary and can include art, dance, or music groups; a book club; writing workshops; book making; art journaling; and a drama group that will work collaboratively on a short play.

Meg Boyce, vice president of programs and services for the Alzheimer's Association says, "Our goal is to create a welcoming place for people living with Alzheimer's or other dementia. You can meet people facing similar challenges, make new friends, and most importantly, have an enjoyable, relaxing afternoon."

The AlzWell Social Club will meet at JCC Mid-Westchester, 999 Wilmot Rd., Scarsdale, NY

10583 on the following Sundays, March 10 & 17, April 14 & 21, May 5, 19 & 26, and June 2 & 30, from 12:30-3:30 p.m.

Free, but registration is required.

For more information or to register for the Social Club, visit the Alzheimer's Association Hudson Valley Chapter, visit www.alz.org/hudsonvalley/helping_you/social-programs/alzwell_social_club or call 800-272-3900. In addition to AlzWell, the Chapter offers a range of free programs and services for people impacted by dementia in Westchester as well as Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, Sullivan, and Ulster counties.

About the Alzheimer's Association

The Alzheimer's Association is a worldwide voluntary health organization dedicated to Alzheimer's care, support, and research. Our mission is to lead the way to end Alzheimer's and all other dementia — by accelerating global research, driving risk reduction and early detection, and maximizing quality care and support. Our vision is a world without Alzheimer's and all other dementia®. Visit alz.org or call 800.272.3900.



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Estate Planning for Retirement Accounts

By: Bernard A. Krooks, Certified Elder Law Attorney

Estate planning requires a lot of thought and involves so much more than drafting and executing a few documents. One thing you need to ensure is that your overall estate plan is coordinated with your retirement and other accounts so that your beneficiary designations do not upset what you think is a perfectly drafted estate plan. For example, if your will leaves everything to your son and daughter equally, but your 401(k) plan at work lists your daughter as the beneficiary, then she will inherit all the money in the 401(k) notwithstanding what the will says. As a general rule, a specific beneficiary designation in an account, including a retirement account, will control where the funds go upon your demise, regardless of what your will says.

Moreover, retirement account beneficiary designations present additional challenges due to the fact that, for many clients, this is where the bulk of their wealth is, and retirement plan custodians often have their own set of internal rules and policies that must be complied with; many of which don't make sense or are frustrating to deal with. Thus, in many instances, it is difficult to figure out how to complete your retirement account beneficiary designation forms, especially if you have a living trust, would like to leave money to charity, or wish to minimize income taxes. We have heard multiple horror stories from clients about some institu-

tions requiring medallion guarantees for signatures (which can be difficult to obtain), and others not allowing online beneficiary designation changes, among many others. Therefore, it is best to get your retirement account affairs in order before you become incapacitated or pass away so that your beneficiaries don't get caught up in a morass of red tape, causing delay and confusion.

If you are married, naming your spouse as the beneficiary of your retirement plan is usually (but not always, especially in a second marriage situation), the best option. This is due to the fact that a surviving spouse can "rollover" your retirement account into his/her own retirement account which typically leads to the best tax results. If you are re-married and have children from a prior marriage, there may be better options available to you that would involve the use of a trust to ensure that your children inherit the portion of your retirement account that you intend for them to have. However, this area of the law is fraught with traps for the unwary so please make sure you proceed with a competent estate planning attorney.

If you have charitable intentions, leaving



money to a charity from a retirement account is often an excellent choice since the charity will not have to pay income taxes on the distributions from the retirement account after your death. Whereas, if you name an individual as the beneficiary of your retirement account, he/she will have to pay income taxes on the distributions. Thus, if you leave your \$100,000 retirement account to your daughter, depending on her own personal tax situation, she may have to pay \$35,000 in taxes and would net only \$65,000 from your retirement account. If you left the \$100,000 retirement account to a charity, the charity would net the entire \$100,000, a much better result. You could leave your daughter \$100,000 from a non-retirement account and she would receive the entire \$100,000 since income taxes would not be owed on a non-retirement bequest.

The recently enacted SECURE Act made significant changes to retirement plan distributions, including eliminating the stretch IRA, except in the case of eligible designated beneficiaries (EDB). An EDB is a spouse, a disabled or chronically ill individual, an individual who is not more than 10 years younger than you, or a

minor child. For EDBs, the stretch IRA still lives and can result in significant financial and tax benefits to your family if all the relevant criteria are met. However, please note that the rules are complicated, especially if you want to leave your retirement accounts to a trust. A trust could be a good idea if you are concerned about protecting retirement assets from the cost of long-term care for a disabled or chronically ill beneficiary.

Retirement account beneficiary designations can be challenging, and it is important that they be coordinated with the overall estate plan. When updating your estate plan, do not forget to include a review of all your beneficiary designations, including retirement plans.

Bernard A. Krooks, Esq., is a founding partner of Littman Krooks LLP. He was named 2021 "Lawyer of the Year" by Best Lawyers in America® for excellence in Elder Law and has been honored as one of the "Best Lawyers" in America since 2008. He was elected to the Estate Planning Hall of Fame by the National Association of Estate Planners & Councils (NAEPC). Krooks is a past Chair of the Elder Law Committee of the American College of Trust and Estate Counsel (ACTEC). Mr. Krooks may be reached at (914-684-2100) or by visiting the firm's website at www.littmankrooks.com.

Calendar of Events

Larchmont Farmers Market
Saturdays, Year-round
8:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
Metro-North upper lot
Chatsworth Avenue/Myrtle Blvd.
For more information, visit <https://www.downtoearthmarkets.com> or call (914) 923-4837.

Larchmont Library
Project Linus: Knitting and Crochet Group
The Village Center (entrance at rear of Library)
Tuesdays, 10:00 a.m.-Noon
Join this weekly knitting and crocheting group and help make security blankets, which are donated to Hospitals, Day Care Centers, Food Banks (such as L/M Food Pantry), and other places for children who need a little comfort.
No registration required. Bring your own materials!
If you have questions or wish to make a donation, please contact Doris-Patt Smith at momdsmith1@yahoo.com.

Larchmont Public Library
The Village Center (entrance at rear of Library)
Tuesday, March 5, 7:00-8:00 p.m.
The Updated New York Property Disclosure Law and How it Impacts Both Homeowners and Homebuyers

The new Property Condition Disclosure Law, which goes into effect this March 2024, requires sellers to disclose as much property condition history as possible (including flood history). Cassandra Merolla, a local real estate agent at Julia B. Fee Sotheby's, and co-host Dana Montone, a local esteemed real estate attorney, explain what this new law means for both sellers and buyers. For more information, email Paul Doherty at pdoherty@larchmontlibrary.org or call him at (914) 834-2281 ext. 3.

Hommocks Gym
Larch Madness: A College Basketball Themed Event Presented by the Larchmont Recreation Committee
Saturday, March 16, 1:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.
Cost: \$10 per child
There will be screening of NCAA basketball regional tournament games on a super-sized TV wall, and basketball themed competitions for kids such as free throw contests, "Knock Out", and a speed dribbling course. Trophies awarded to the winners!! Come and enjoy pizza, snacks, drinks, games in a fun atmosphere, come to show your skills! There will even be some great silent auction items up for bid! Families with kids of all ages welcome. Visit www.forms.fillout.com/t/onfi35v3n3us sign up.

Emelin Theatre
153 Library Lane Mamaroneck, NY 10543
Saturday, March 16 @ 11:00 p.m. and at 2:00 p.m.
DOT DOT DOT: A NEW MUSICAL
Cost: \$29 per person (\$24 for children under 12). Includes service charge.
The production brings to life the beloved characters from Reynolds' acclaimed books – The Dot, Ish, and Sky Color. Adapted for the stage, the musical follows the journey of Marisol, a young artist and curator of the Musee de Marisol, as she embarks on a quest for emerging talent to enrich her gallery.
Visit www.emelin.org/book-online/65401/ for tickets.

Larchmont Public Library
The Village Center (entrance at rear of Library)
Thursday, March 21, 7:00-9:00 p.m.
"The Senior Prom" a dance party for older adults with Bob Blaufarb
Bob Blaufarb will be spinning rock 'n roll oldies, standards and ballroom hits during this fun dance party for seniors. Robert Blaufarb, is the author of My Bronx, My Oz and a firefighter for the Town of Mamaroneck.

For all Larchmont Library events, visit www.larchmontlibrarycalendar.com/events/month/2024/01.

Emelin Theatre
153 Library Lane Mamaroneck, NY 10543
Saturday, April 6, 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.
THE RAINBOW FISH
Cost: \$29 per person (\$24 for children under 12). Includes service charge.
This production from the Mermaid Theatre of Nova Scotia is an original stage adaptation of Marcus Pfister's award-winning children's story as well two of the author's companion tales, "Rainbow Fish Discovers the Deep Sea" and "Opposites."
Running time: 60 minutes. Recommended for ages 4-8.
Visit www.emelin.org/book-online/72201/ for tickets.

For more information, visit <https://emelin.org/upcoming-shows/> or call 914-698-0098.

www.larchmontledger.com

Benefits of a CPA During Tax Season

Filing taxes can be quite overwhelming for individuals and businesses alike. It often feels like navigating a maze without a clear direction when dealing with tax laws, deductions, and credits. That is where the expertise of a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) becomes invaluable. As a financial advisor, I am an advocate of clients collaborating with a CPA when it comes to filing taxes.

One of the benefits of partnering with a CPA is their extensive knowledge and understanding of tax regulations. CPAs undergo training and must pass comprehensive exams to earn their certification. By staying updated on revisions and modifications in tax codes, CPAs can assist clients in maximizing deductions, minimizing tax liabilities, and ensuring compliance with applicable laws.

Moreover, CPAs can provide personalized tax planning strategies tailored to each client's financial circumstances. Whether it involves optimizing retirement contributions, structuring investments for tax efficiency, or strategizing charitable giving, a CPA can offer invaluable insights and guidance to help clients achieve their financial goals while keeping their tax burdens at bay.

Collaborating with a CPA also brings peace of mind and confidence in the accuracy of your tax filings. They are dedicated professionals who follow standards and ethical guidelines to facilitate accurate tax return preparation and timely filing. This can alleviate the stress often associated with

tax season allowing clients to focus on other important aspects of their lives or businesses.

To sum it up, collaborating with a CPA brings benefits when it comes to filing taxes and managing your finances. Remember, there are CPAs that work as generalists and some that focus on a specific niche. Ask friends and/or other trusted advisors for referrals and make sure to interview several candidates in order to find the best match for you.

Best of luck during this year's tax season!



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Continued from page 5

flood mitigation strategies through collaboration will be a welcome relief to our municipalities.”

Mamaroneck Town Supervisor Jaime Elkind Eney said, “Flooding, and its devastating effects, is a pressing issue here in Mamaroneck. State Senator Shelley Mayer has been a tireless champion for our community. I am delighted that the NYS Senate passed her proposed legislation to create a State Office of Flooding Prevention and Mitigation. This Office will provide critical tools in improving the lives of our residents, as well as many residents throughout New York State.”

Larchmont Mayor Sarah Bauer said, “The Village of Larchmont is extremely grateful to Senator Mayer for her work to pass the legislation establishing a central office for flood prevention and mitigation. As a community that is subject to significant flooding events, which

are only increasing with climate change, we appreciate the willingness of Senator Mayer and the State Senate to work towards assisting communities such as ours that suffer from these flooding events.”

Jirandy Martinez, Executive Director of the Community Resource Center, said, “We at the Community Resource Center firmly endorse the flood mitigation legislation proposed by Senator Shelley Mayer that will establish an office of flood mitigation and prevention. The aftermath of Hurricane Ida in 2021 highlighted the urgent necessity for proactive measures to safeguard our community. We commend Senator Mayer for her proactive leadership in prioritizing the protection of our community. This represents a significant step forward for Mamaroneck and the larger region, and we are thrilled about the positive impact it will have on our community.”

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Select Hommocks Students Achieve High Scores in Advanced National Math Challenge



BACK ROW: Sophie Ingram, Emma Ingram, Noa Grill, Talia Grill, Abigail Swan, Dhanilo Savur, Matthew Roger, Joshua Koenigsberg, Bruno Ibares Hernandez, Patrik Kaleshi, Peter Cinguina, Ethan Bregman, Eleonora Grigorescu, Nathan Rotem, Thea Prislín, Genevieve Perry, Isabella Ducatti. MIDDLE ROW: Zachary Gourevitch, Joshua Smith, Gabriel Wertkin, Felix Zebic, Benjamin Girardi, Sophia Jacobs Guzman, Beatriz Stein, Mariana Stein. FRONT ROW: Katerina Stoichkov, Walsh Houghton, Leo White, Michal Vaculin, Adem Huseynov, Ben Meintjes, Jacob Roth, Jeevan Gupta, Ben Meintjes, Marko Lypchuk. Not pictured - Anna Yang, Adam Polen, Abigail Rocha.

The STEM Alliance was thrilled to collaborate with the Mamaroneck School District to bring the national AMC-8 Math Competition to thirty-eight students - including one elementary student - at Hommocks Middle School in January 2024. AMC-8 is a highly rigorous nationwide mathematics competition for students aged 14.5 years or younger. Test content focuses on advanced high school material tested through 25 multiple-choice questions that need to be completed in a 40-minute time frame. The test provides an opportunity for students to push themselves in analytical thinking, problem-solving skills, and mathematics - all areas that can assist in future careers.

Participating in the AMC-8 is nothing short of impressive. This “challenge by choice” experience showcases the extraordinary dedication and passion these students have for mathematics. To prepare for the test, many of the students also participated in a 10-week AMC-8 Math Club led by STEM Alliance Educator Arthur Washington. The STEM Alliance’s Chief Programs Officer, Walter Gabino Rendon said, “Taking this test is not just about solving problems; it’s about embracing the joy of intellectual exploration and pushing the boundaries of their mathematical prowess.”

Now, the results are in. Again, this year, the Hommocks students excelled in their results. A score of 11 points or higher ranks a student in the top 25% of participants in the country. This year, Mamaroneck

School District had six students who scored 11 or higher. The highest scorers were as follows: 1st Place: Joshua Koenigsberg (Grade 8) with 18 points; 2nd Place: Zack Gourevitch (Grade 6), Leo White (Grade 8) with 17 points and 3rd place: Talia Grill (Grade 8), Gabriel Wertkin (Grade 6), and Felix Zebic (Grade 5) with 16 points each. Felix’s results were particularly impressive as he stepped up to this challenge as a 5th grader at Murray Avenue School!

STEM Alliance President Meg Käufer spoke of the competition saying, “Diving into this rigorous competition willingly speaks volumes about each student’s enthusiasm for learning and their commitment to excellence. They’re really testing their potential and setting the stage for a future where their interest in math knows no bounds.”

About The STEM Alliance: The STEM Alliance is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization creating a network of STEM learning opportunities. With STEM jobs (in science, technology, engineering, and math) expanding at an accelerated pace, there is high demand for skilled graduates. The STEM Alliance is growing the next generation of STEM leaders by creating a community where all are empowered to embrace STEM as a means of solving problems and fostering innovation. For more information, visit www.theSTEMalliance.org or follow them on Facebook at www.facebook.com/TheSTEMalliance




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6 HELENA AVENUE, LARCHMONT

Stunning water views enhance this thoughtfully renovated 1877 Victorian dubbed "Haigh Cottage".
Offered at \$4,495,000



38 WOODBINE AVENUE, LARCHMONT

This Georgian brick Colonial in Larchmont Manor has been tastefully renovated for today's preferences.
Offered at \$3,450,000



246 ROCKINGSTONE AVE, LARCHMONT

Discover this 1927 Tudor with a charming exterior and an interior offering classic architecture with modern updates.
Offered at \$2,450,000



123 BEACH AVENUE, LARCHMONT

Timeless charm and elegance in this quintessential sun-drenched Manor Colonial sitting on a level 1/4 acre.
Offered at \$1,749,000



50 BERRIAN ROAD, NEW ROCHELLE

Steeped in history, this charming Wykagyl center hall Colonial, built in the 1940s, features 3 bedrooms & 2.2 baths.
Offered at \$1,095,000



115 COLIGNI AVENUE, NEW ROCHELLE

Special opportunity to own a completely renovated Victorian with period details.
Offered at \$789,000