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Ledger

Public Hearing Set for 2024-25 Tentative Budget

BY STEPHEN E. LIPKEN

At the Larchmont Board of Trustees meeting on March 18, Trustee Dana Post announced the appointments of Michael Grossman to the Parks and Trees Committee (PTC) and the new PTC Chair, Dawn Magin.

Mayor Sarah Bauer noted that a Public Hearing authorizing a Property Tax Levy over the limit established in General Municipal Law was not needed.

Although Governor Kathy Hochul recently announced a "state-wide initiative to combat ghost cars," which are vehicles that lack license plates or have a fake license or paper plates to avoid red light cameras and/or to commit crimes, Police Chief Christopher McNerney reported that Larchmont police have already been cracking down on ghost cars and have seized such vehicles on seven different occasions.

McNerney reminded the public that from March 15 through April 30 only electric leaf blowers were permitted for spring cleanup. Additionally, Parking Enforcement Officers (PEO) seized three scofflaw vehicles, those having three or

more outstanding parking tickets. The total fines for the vehicles were slightly over \$1900.

Fire Chief Richard Valentine called attention to a \$15,000 grant, facilitated by NYS Senator Shelley Mayer, to supplement their emergency maritime operations using Marine 34 and Marine 43, to rescue citizens from Long Island Sound and flooded Larchmont streets.



Village of Larchmont Mayor Sarah Bauer

Valentine also reminded everyone to make sure that their carbon monoxide and smoke detector batteries have been changed, or better still, suggested switching to 10-year smoke detectors.

Regarding inspection violations, Valentine remarked that extension cords must be plugged into an outlet on a temporary basis only and should not be plugged into a surge protector, refrigerator, or freezer.

Also, Valentine stressed that address numbers should be clear and legible from the street, with a minimum of four-inch-high numbers and contrasting background.

Finally, Administrator Justin Datino recommended a 2.95% Tax Levy increase to close the \$474,575 budget gap. A public hearing regarding the budget is set for April 15.

Possible "Cancer Cluster" in Washingtonville Area Voiced

BY STEPHEN E. LIPKEN

At the Village of Mamaroneck Board of Trustees meeting on March 11, resident Tim O'Connor presented the board with a packet of information regarding the possibility of a link between 21 types of cancer diagnosed within a quarter-mile radius of the Washingtonville area of Mamaroneck. O'Connor requested that an investigation be carried out.

Commenting on the possible Washingtonville cancer cluster, Mayor Sharon Torres stated, "I am deeply moved and concerned, not only about this cancer cluster but that it affects the same group of residents who have suffered through multiple floods and the damage that it brings, not only to their property but also their mental health."

"I support moving forward and working with the county and/or Department of Health to take the next steps in requesting any official studies that need to be done. Water and soil need to be tested, and soon. The Village of Mamaroneck needs to re-prioritize and put the residents affected by flooding and cancer clusters first. This should be our priority. Everything else is second."

On another note, Deputy Village Manager Dan Sarnoff said that he met with Army Corps

of Engineers Brigadier General John P. Lloyd on March 1 regarding potential flooding sites.

"Right now, we have a Floor Area Ratio (FAR) which says that your house can be 'x' number of square feet based on the size of your lot but says



nothing about the amount of impervious surface you have," Sarnoff remarked. "It establishes limits for an effective lot coverage law in the Village going forward. Current FAR is 45%."

Finally, three Public Hearings were approved; the first establishing exceeding the Tax Cap Establishment for the 2024/25 Budget; the second, amending the schedule of Minimum Impervious Coverage Requirements for Residential and Nonresidential Districts; the third, amending Chapter 21, Code of Ethics.



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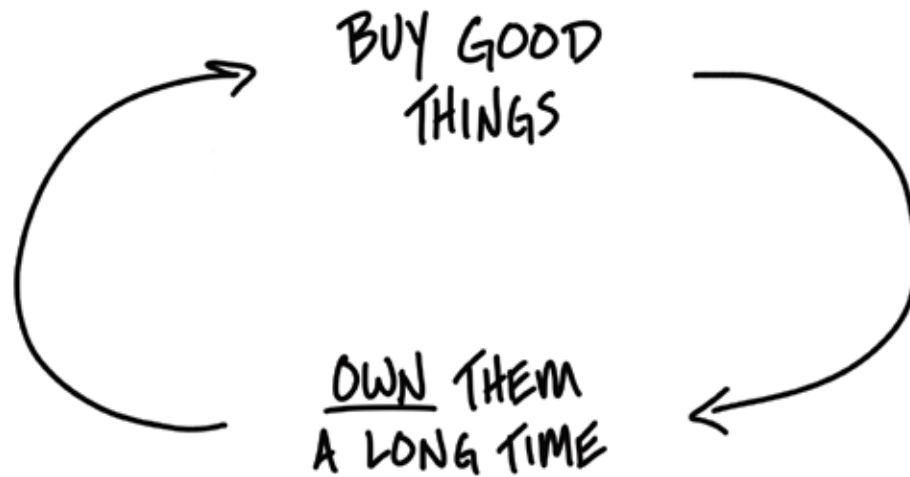


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At Home on the Sound Will Honor NBC News Anchor Kate Snow at its Spring Gala

On Thursday, May 16, At Home on the Sound will return to the Mamaroneck Beach and Yacht Club for its annual spring gala. This year's honoree will be local resident and NBC News anchor Kate Snow. At Home will also pay tribute to long-time volunteer and past president Janet O'Connell.

At Home on the Sound is a grassroots, non-profit organization that helps Larchmont, Mamaroneck, and Rye Neck older residents fulfill their dream of continuing to live in the community they love. Fittingly, the theme for this year's gala is Living the Dream.

Kate Snow is the co-anchor of NBC News Daily, the #1 afternoon news program on all of TV that is available to watch on NBC and stream on NBC News NOW. As an award-winning Senior National Correspondent for NBC News, Kate also contributes regularly across NBC News including Nightly News with Lester Holt, TODAY, and Dateline NBC. During her career, she has covered a wide range of issues, including politics, mental health, substance use, domestic violence, and children's welfare.

"Kate's insightful stories about the human condition make her a logical honoree at this year's gala," said At Home Co-President Colleen Styer.



Janet O'Connell

Janet O'Connell has been interested in issues regarding the elderly since she was a teenager. Janet's involvement with At Home, as a driver, board member, and, for three years, as president, has been a source of great satisfaction and happiness to her. "Enabling people who are over 60 years old to stay in their homes strengthens and enhances the lives of everyone who lives in Mamaroneck, Rye Neck, and Larchmont," Janet said.

Marion Gindes, Co-President of At Home said, "We look forward to recognizing these two women on May 16, Kate for her extraordinary career and Janet for her commitment and dedicated service to At Home on the Sound."

At Home Executive Director Gloria Spedafino-Golle added that the gala will include a Chance Raffle, a D.J., and dancing. Ms. Spedafino-Golle said, "Visit our website www.athomeonthesound.org for more information about gala tickets, sponsorship opportunities, and our activities."



Kate Snow

Parks, Fields, and Open Spaces Headline Local Summit Program

BY JOHN BRADLEY

The Larchmont-Mamaroneck Local Summit played host to a panel on Tuesday, March 12 to discuss plans for the enhancement and preservation of the parks, fields, and open spaces that support outdoor activities for every age group in the Larchmont-Mamaroneck area.

A panel of three included Ben Foster, Director of Coaching for the Larchmont-Mamaroneck Football Club (LMFC) and Founder and Owner of Foster-Soccer; Deborah Maher, Co-President, of Friends of Larchmont Parks and President of Randall's Island Park Alliance, and Todd Norman, Board Member, Fields for Kids, an organization that advocates and raises funds for high-quality sports and recreational facilities in the Larchmont-Mamaroneck Area. The panel was moderated by Claudine Hutton, a member of the Local Summit Board.

"Today we are here to talk about green spaces and the benefits of recreation for families of all ages... I think we learned from the pandemic—now four years out—how crucial open spaces are to our mental health and our physical health," Hutton said, striking a theme that was echoed throughout the hour-long discussion.

Of the panelists, Deborah Maher manages the most varied roster of park projects as both a professional and a volunteer. As co-president of Friends of Larchmont Parks, an all-volunteer not-for-profit organization, she works with the Village of Larchmont to "strategically plan and fundraise for proj-



ects, which will better our parks for all." Among the celebrated entries on her list of recent local park projects are Constitution Park and Turtle Park. Friends of Larchmont Parks' latest project is the upgrade of Willow Park, which is currently in its final stages, and includes enhanced children's play equipment and a new basketball court.

The three panelists are united in their love of sports and their conviction that team membership and organized play promote strong friendships among students of varied backgrounds along with the valuable experience of shared responsibility.

The current explosion in outdoor activity and local sports has brought new pressures on the local municipal park systems and open spaces. More teams want to play on existing fields more often.

Ben Foster reports that "soccer is virtually maxed out," there being too few fields and playing surfaces to accommodate the demand for team play. Foster's work with the Mamaroneck Avenue School, which includes scholarships to provide interested students access to soccer instruction, has fueled interest in soccer and an eagerness of many young people, boys and girls, to play.

Todd Norman reports that his work for Fields for Kids is also driven by the acute shortage of field space, prompting their continuing search for new fields for sports and the funds to make them suitable for regular play throughout the season. Using their private/public partnership model, Fields for Kids was instrumental in the creation of Flint Park's Alma Memorial Field in 2008 and the upgrade of the Memorial Field at Mamaroneck High School to turf in 2011. Among the projects that demand his current attention are the returfing and slight lengthening of Alma in Flint Park and plans for transforming the grass field behind Mamaroneck Town Center into a turf field, both targeted for a summer 2024 start date.

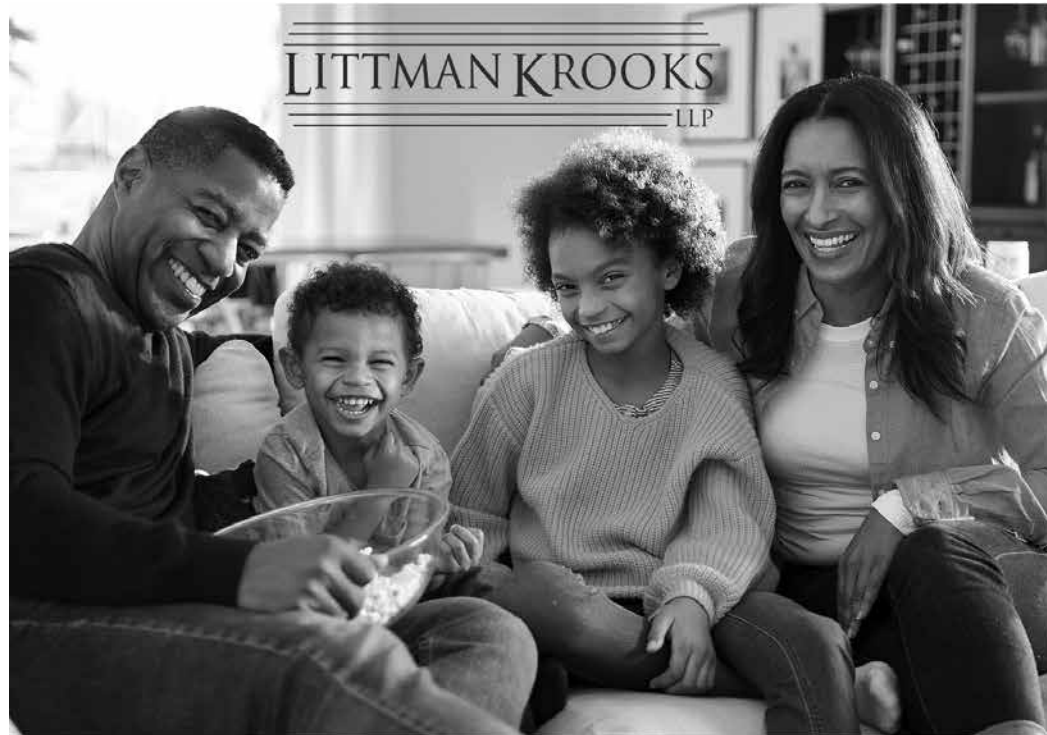
While acknowledging the need to find more

playing fields, all panelists are united in their desire to add healthy surfaces while balancing the needs of large numbers of kids to be outdoors playing with their teams on reliable fields. Responding to concerns raised by audience members regarding the use of artificial turf vs. natural grass fields, all three panelists acknowledged that while artificial turf allows for much heavier usage of fields, it is far from perfect. They agreed that the choice of field turf is a balancing act and decisions about the material for field turf are not made lightly.

Asked how interested community members can participate in their efforts, panelists encouraged people to find out more information about the work of their organizations on their websites:

- Fields for Kids: <https://www.fieldsforkids-mamk.org/>
- Friends of Larchmont Parks: <https://larchmontparks.com/>
- Larchmont-Mamaroneck Football Club: <https://www.larchmontmamaroneckfootballclub.com/>

The Larchmont-Mamaroneck Local Summit is an informal community council that seeks to make a better life for the community by keeping it informed of major issues of concern. Our next meeting, on April 16, 8 a.m. at the Westchester Jewish Center in Mamaroneck, will focus on our public schools and will feature our two Superintendents of Schools. Visit the Local Summit online at www.localsummitlm.org/ or at LMCMedia at www.lmcmmedia.org/.



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Westchester County Parks' Conservation Division to Host Solar Eclipse Events

Westchester County Parks' Conservation Division will host solar eclipse events county-wide, on Monday, April 8, where participants can safely view the solar eclipse and learn more about this astronomical marvel.

A total solar eclipse is where the moon will briefly cover the sun, leaving the sun's outer corona visible. This eclipse will also fall over more places in the United

States than usual.

Westchester County Parks was able to obtain viewing glasses for all events as it is not safe to look directly at the solar eclipse.

Westchester County Executive George Latimer said, "It is rare for a total solar eclipse to be viewable to so many people and it's exciting that it will be partially visible in our area. Experiencing it safely at our parks is

a great way to mark this special phenomenon."

Westchester County Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation Commissioner, Kathy O'Connor said, "Our Conservation Division does an incredible job of hosting educational events that inform the public of seasonal environmental happenings, and this event is sure to be both fun and informative."

The following locations will host solar eclipse

events: Cranberry Lake Preserve in North White Plains, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.; Edith G. Read Wildlife Sanctuary in Rye, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.; Lasdon Park, Arboretum, and Veterans Memorial in Katonah, 2:30 p.m. to 4 p.m.; Lenoir Preserve in Yonkers, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.; Trailside Nature Museum at Ward Pound Ridge Reservation in Cross River, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Events and parking are free.

LMC Media Celebrates Grand Opening of State-of-the-Art Video & Podcast Facility in Historic Village Theater



LMC Media proudly announces the grand opening of its cutting-edge video and podcast facility located within the historic Mamaroneck Cinemas movie theater. This state-of-the-art media center, equipped with the latest technology, is poised to become a vital hub for fostering community ties, documenting local stories, and amplifying the diverse voices that make the Larchmont and Mamaroneck communities unique.

Situated in the heart of the Village's business district, LMC's "Studio on the Avenue" serves as a beacon for creativity and connection, building upon the success of the meticulously renovated historic movie theater just two years ago. The theater, now a multifunctional cultural center and gathering place, has become a cornerstone of Mamaroneck's identity.

Key Features of LMC Media's "Studio on the Avenue" are:

- **Cutting-Edge Technology:** The media center boasts state-of-the-art video and podcast production facilities, providing residents with the tools and resources to create professional-quality content.
- **Community Engagement:** A dedicated space for community members to collaborate, learn, and

share their stories. The center will host workshops, training sessions, and events to empower individuals with the skills needed to contribute to the media landscape.

- **Documenting Local History:** LMC Media is committed to documenting and preserving the rich history of the communities it serves. Through oral histories, documentaries, and podcasts, the center aims to ensure that the unique stories of the community are passed down through generations.
- **Cultural Hub:** Building on the success of the historic theater, the media center will further solidify Mamaroneck as a cultural hub. It will host screenings, live podcasts, and community events, enriching the local arts and entertainment scene.

The grand opening event was celebrated by roughly 125 spectators who gathered in the theater's lobby to hear remarks from LMC Media Executive Director Matt Sullivan and local elected officials, including Westchester County Executive George Latimer, State Senator Shelley Mayer, State Assemblyman Steve Otis, County Legislator Catherine Parker, and others.

For more information visit lmcmmedia.org.

House Passes \$14.6 Million for Rep. Bowman's Community Project Funding for NY-16



On March 6, Congressman Jamaal Bowman, Ed.D. (NY-16), announced that the House successfully passed \$14.6 million in funding for 11 community projects in New York's 16th Congressional District. He advocated for these projects as part of the FY2024 Federal Appropriations package. These funds will be used to support communities and organizations in Westchester and the Bronx with much-needed green space, climate investments, community programming, economic development, affordable housing, and so much more.

"I am so proud to deliver over \$14 million in federal funding for critical resources and supports across our district," said Congressman Bowman. "My team and I worked closely with constituents, our local governments, and community groups to submit funding requests that align with the most urgent needs of our neighbors. From improving the Yonkers Greenway to securing clean buses for Westchester to revitalizing our downtown areas, each of these projects will uplift our community and provide everyone with the resources they need to thrive. I will keep fighting to bring federal funds back to Westchester and the Bronx and deliver for our incredible district."

The eleven Community Project Funding requests in alphabetical order are as follows:

\$500,000 to the County of Westchester to secure clean, climate-friendly hybrid and electric buses for the Bee Line Bus System.

\$1,650,000 to Environmental Leaders of Color for the Mount Vernon Green Tech Park, a community facility space that will include mixed-income housing, art space, and commercial space.

\$100,000 to the Hispanic Resource Center of Larchmont and Mamaroneck to renovate the

Mamaroneck Community Center for flood mitigation after Hurricane Ida and provide critical social and legal services like workforce development, violence prevention, and youth enrichment programs.

\$1,150,000 to HOPE Community Services to support the construction of the New Rochelle Community Center that will create capacity for wraparound services like nutrition, child mental wellness, after-school help, and more.

\$240,620 to Lifting Up Westchester to create the Westchester Housing and Employment Center which will assist unhoused and low-income individuals searching for employment to end the cycle of homelessness.

\$2,000,000 to the Town of Mamaroneck for the Mamaroneck Town Safety and Economic Renaissance Project to create more efficient traffic systems, improve pedestrian safety, and enhance infrastructure in the area.

\$4,119,279 to the City of Yonkers to rehabilitate the Yonkers Greenway and roads and connect jobs, community resources, and greenspace.

\$977,827 to the Village of Ardsley to revitalize the downtown area and promote economic growth, mobility, and pedestrian safety.

\$959,752 to the Village of Rye Brook for the Rye Brook Sewer Rehabilitation Initiative.

\$1,000,000 to the Village of Tuckahoe to improve the Tuckahoe Square and Main Street signal and transform the business district around the Metro-North station into a modern, safe public space.

\$2,000,000 to WestHab, Inc. to develop sustainable, affordable housing and invest in small businesses in Yonkers.

Youth Board Recognizes Four “Sheroes” at 2024 Award Ceremony

In honor of Women’s History Month, the Westchester County Youth Bureau and Youth Board celebrated four extraordinary “Sheroes.” These remarkable women, through their unwavering vision and tireless dedication to Westchester County, have enhanced the lives of countless youth and families in our community.

The 2024 award recipients are:

- Anahaita N. Kotval: As the Chief Executive Officer of Lifting Up Westchester, Anahaita has been a beacon of hope, compassion, and empowerment for those in need.
- Judy Troilo: Serving as the Chief Executive Officer of The LOFT, Judy’s leadership has transformed lives and created safe spaces for our youth.
- Lori Stephens: The Founder and Executive Director of G.O.O.D. for Girls, Lori’s commitment to empowering young women is truly inspiring.
- Jackquelyn Harris Young: As the Program Director of G.O.O.D. for Girls, Jackquelyn’s dedication has shaped futures and fostered resilience.

County Executive George Latimer said: “Westchester is the home of many remarkable people, and particularly the women selected due to their positive contributions and commitment



to serving children, youth, and families. These Sheroes exemplify the spirit of service and compassion which resonates in their immediate communities and far beyond our county borders.”

Youth Bureau Executive Director Dr. DaMia Harris-Madden said: “In their tireless pursuit of positive change, these ‘Sheroes’ have demonstrated what it means to lead with purpose and heart. Having worked closely with Anahaita, Judy, Lori, and Jackquelyn, and witnessing their impact, I am inspired.”

Youth Board Chair Dr. Alexandria Connally said: “I would like to express my gratitude and admiration for the 2024 Sheroes. They are making significant contributions to their communi-

ty, particularly in their dedication to supporting young people. Their commitment, sacrifice, and dedication undoubtedly make a positive impact on the county, enriching the lives of those around them. It’s wonderful to recognize and commend their efforts in making the world a better place to live.”

Anahaita Kovtal said: “I am so proud to accept this award on behalf of my Lifting Up Westchester colleagues who – with our students - work

tirelessly to make sure that housing instability doesn’t hijack our students’ academic and career opportunities.”

Lori Stephens said: “It is with a humble heart that I receive this Sheroes Award from the Westchester County Youth Board; however, I share this honor with all the women (the real unsung sheros), who volunteered their time and shared their expertise to help GfG fulfill its vision of mentoring young girls into confident young women!”

Westchester County Board of Legislators Celebrates Women’s History Month



On March 18, the Westchester County Board of Legislators celebrated Women’s History Month with an inspirational ceremony lauding Dr. Suzanne D. Phillips, a prominent longtime educator and Elmsford School Board member, and Elizabeth Rotfeld, Deputy Clerk and Senior Citizen Coordinator for the Village of Rye Brook.

Board Chair Vedat Gashi said, “I am pleased to say that eight of our 17 outstanding Legislators are women, which is reflective of the demographics of our country and the world. This is a positive and significant step forward. It is heartening to see women holding positions of power and influence in Westchester County, as mayors, supervisors, lawyers, doctors, district attorneys, commissioners, and judges. We have come a long way from the days when women were confined to traditional roles.”

“Tonight, we have the pleasure of honoring two exceptional women – Dr. Suzanne Phillips and Elizabeth Rotfeld. Their contributions to our communities are immeasurable, and we are deeply grateful for their efforts.”

Legislator Jewel Williams Johnson presented the first proclamation to Dr. Suzanne D. Phillips. She said, “I am grateful to gather this evening, to pay tribute to an individual with unwavering dedication and tireless advocacy who has left an indelible mark on our community, and on numerous students across our nation. It is with great honor and deep admiration that we recognize Dr. Suzanne Phillips, a true pillar of strength, compassion, and leadership.”

The Board declared March 26, 2024 “Dr. Suzanne D. Phillips Day” in Westchester County.

Legislator Nancy Barr presented the second proclamation to Elizabeth Rotfeld, saying, “They say if you want something done, give it to a busy person. And nine times out of ten, that person will

be a woman. And no one is more busy and more committed to helping people than Rye Brook’s Senior Citizen Coordinator and my friend, Elizabeth Rotfeld. She is always putting others before herself, and residents in Port Chester and Rye Brook are the beneficiaries. Currently, she is the Senior Citizen Coordinator for the Village of Rye Brook. In that capacity, she organizes and implements a comprehensive set of programming to engage and nurture the Senior residents. If not for Liz and the programs she organizes, hundreds of people would have lives that were less fulfilling, less social, less healthy, and less enlightened.”

Ms. Rotfeld shared, “As a woman, I believe it is very important to lift other women up and give them a chance, just like the Village of Rye Brook did with me. They took a chance on me when they hired me and there is not a day that goes by that I don’t feel thankful and appreciative. My Village Administrator and Elected Officials believe in me and in our seniors program and because of that, I feel very valued. Not everyone can say that - I am truly blessed. I will never be complacent in my position, as I constantly strive to go even further and make a greater effort.”

“In Rye Brook, we focus on healthy aging, lifelong learning, and friendships. We have members from age 55 on up, from all walks of life. In 2019, we opened up our membership so that non-residents can join as members. When I see the way our members interact and care for one another, I realize that we are a model for all Senior Centers.”

“To paraphrase Fred Rogers, ‘Look for those helpers – they are out there and do your best to be a helper.’ This has been a guiding principle in my life. Thank you for recognizing me tonight!”

The Board declared March 23, 2024 “Elizabeth Rotfeld Day” in Westchester County.

Learn more by visiting www.westchesterlegislators.com.

White Plains Hospital Named One of the World’s Best Hospitals by Newsweek for the Third Straight Year

White Plains Hospital has been recognized as a “World’s Best Hospital” by Newsweek for the third consecutive year. Named a “3-Year Champion,” White Plains Hospital is one of just 15 hospitals in New York, and the only one in Westchester County, to be included on the prestigious list.

Newsweek teamed with market data research firm Statista to develop a rigorous methodology to ensure the quality and validity of the rankings. Four data sources were used for the evaluation, including an international online survey of more than 85,000 doctors, hospital managers, and healthcare professionals; patient experience surveys measuring patient satisfaction; hospital quality metrics on outcomes, hygiene measures, patient safety, and staffing; and patient-reported outcome measures. The World’s Best Hospitals 2024 list recognizes the best medical institutions across 30 countries, with 412 based in the United States. This year, White Plains Hospital was also recognized as a global leader in Infection Prevention & Patient Satisfaction.

“Being named as a World’s Best Hospital for a third year in a row is an incredible honor and speaks volumes about the exceptional care we provide to our community,” said Dr. Michael Palumbo, Executive Vice President and Chief Medical Officer at White Plains Hospital.

White Plains Hospital has been awarded numerous accolades over the past few years, including earning a prestigious five-star hospital rating from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) — the highest distinction offered by the federal agency — for the second consecutive year last summer.

For more information, visit www.wphospital.org/.



Dr. Michael Palumbo

Assistant Commissioner of County Department of Health Charged with Filing False Financial Disclosures

Westchester County District Attorney Miriam E. Rocah announced last month that a Westchester County Department of Health Assistant Commissioner was arrested and charged with failing to disclose to the Westchester County Board of Ethics more than \$95,000 in income he received from an environmental health consulting firm in 2020, 2021, and 2022.

The defendant, Peter DeLucia, 54, of South Salem, was arrested by the Westchester County District Attorney’s Office and charged with three

felony counts of Offering a False Instrument for Filing in the First Degree. The defendant was issued a Desk Appearance Ticket for a March 27 arraignment in White Plains City Court.

As alleged in the felony complaint, the defendant failed to disclose a total of more than \$95,000 received for consulting services in checks, wire transfers, and automatic bank transfers from Retired Regulators LLC, DBA Rapid Response Environmental Health Consulting LLC, on his 2020,

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Friends of White Plains Hospital's Annual Luncheon to Feature Best-Selling Author Laura Schroff

Laura Schroff, best-selling author of *An Invisible Thread*, will be the featured speaker at The Friends of White Plains Hospital's annual luncheon, to be held on April 3 from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at Fenway Golf Club, located at 384 Old Mamaroneck Road in Scarsdale.

A former advertising sales executive who worked at several major media companies and publications, including *Time Inc.* and *People*, Ms. Schroff's book, *An Invisible Thread: The True Story of an 11-Year-Old Panhandler, a Busy Sales Executive, and an Unlikely Meeting with Destiny*, became a #1 New York Times and international bestseller. The theme of her address at the Friends' luncheon is "How the Power of Friendship Can Make a Difference."

Throughout the year, the Friends of White Plains Hospital is instrumental in reinforcing the Hospital's mission through volunteer work, fundraising, and outreach around the Hospital's life-saving programs and initiatives. Annual events of the Friends of White Plains Hospital include the spring luncheon, G3 - Girls Got Game, and the Hospital's Fall Gala.

Individual tickets for the event are \$150. For more information on ticket pricing and sponsorships, visit www.wphospital.org/luncheon/, call 914-681-2264, or email plaine@wphospital.org.

For more information, visit www.wphospital.org/



Mamaroneck Schools Foundation's Annual Spring Gala

The Larchmont and Mamaroneck communities are invited to join the Mamaroneck Schools Foundation (MSF) at its annual Spring Gala on April 13, 2024, at the Orienta Beach Club in Mamaroneck at 6:30 p.m. There will be a cocktail reception, dinner, a performance by the Mamaroneck High School student musicians, and a silent and live auction, followed by a DJ and dancing.

Since 1996, MSF has been elevating the educational experience of students in the Mamaroneck School District by granting funds for innovative programs, professional development, and special school facilities and equipment. More than 550 grants totaling more than \$5.2 million have been granted over the past 27 years. Every student in the district is impacted multiple times by MSF grants throughout their educational journey.

"The Mamaroneck Schools Foundation provides teachers with the opportunity to try new approaches in the classroom, pilot promising curricula, and enhance their professional development," said Julie Konvisser, President of the Board of Directors. "In addition, our student grant program enables Mamaroneck High School students to turn their ideas into actions that enrich the community. The Spring Gala is our largest fundraising event of the year. We hope you will join us on April 13 to celebrate our mission and support our work."

To purchase tickets and sponsorships for the Spring Gala, or to learn more about the Mamaroneck Schools Foundation, visit www.mamaroneckschoolsfoundation.org.



Etain Opens Its First Co-located Adult-use and Medical Dispensary in White Plains



On March 1, Etain hosted a historic grand opening celebration for its first co-located adult-use/medical dispensary. As New York's first women-founded medical cannabis brand Etain sells high-quality cannabis products from its premium Etain brand and other women-founded companies like House of Puff.

The grand opening was an opportunity to introduce Etain's gallery-inspired dispensary to the community and educate customers on the company's approach to education and product curation.

Thomas Roach, the mayor of White Plains; Chris Alexander, the executive director of the Office of Cannabis Management; and representatives from the White Plains Business Improvement District and the White Plains Common Council joined Etain's Founders and executives for the day-time ribbon-cutting ceremony.

Over 200 guests attended the evening celebration including Etain patients and customers and members of the White Plains and New York cannabis community. The event also supported other local White Plains businesses, which included lunch catering and party sweets by Iron Tomato and bites and mocktails by Little Drunken Chef.

"Westchester has been Etain's home for many years, and the significance of unveiling the first co-located dispensary in this community holds a profound meaning," said Hillary Peckham, Co-founder of Etain and VP of Marketing. "Since our founding in 2015, we have been ingrained in the cannabis community, consistently uplifting and empowering fellow women-led brands in the industry. We are ecstatic to introduce the Etain brand, featuring our exceptional cannabis products and fellow standout brands, to the White Plains community."

"Etain's commitment to New York and the creation of an inclusive, safe, and thriving market has never wavered. White Plains was selected as the first Adult-Use and Medical Dispensary for the Etain brand, and we are excited to unveil a new,

remodeled store layout to elevate the cannabis retail experience and embrace the unique needs of Etain's adult-use customers and medical patients alike," said Mike Totzke, COO and interim CEO of RIV Capital.

The White Plains dispensary's open floor plan welcomes visitors blending integrative wellness offerings, personal consultations, and premium products to create an inviting space for medical patients and adult-use consumers. The gallery-inspired space features a curated menu of Etain's branded adult-use and medical cannabis products, as well as a selection of cannabis brands showcasing women-founded and locally rooted New York brands.

Honoring Etain's female-founded roots, the centerpiece of the space is a bespoke mural by renowned street artist Claw Money. Inspired by her Etain Limited Edition Motif Vape Battery design and custom Balance Blend Pod, debuting exclusively at the dispensary's opening, the vibrant mural features Claw Money's distinctive claw insignia amidst sharp graphic lines, complemented by locally sourced plants and flowers.

Adjacent to the mural stands another notable feature - an innovative display featuring House of Puff. Customers are immersed in the captivating world of House of Puff, where they can explore their artist-inspired luxe accessories and a new Spritz cannabis product. This space will serve as a focal point to update with additional brands and showcase products and artists from New York.

For medical cannabis patients, a Very Important Patient (VIP) experience awaits, complete with priority access, a dedicated check-out line, and exclusive access to Etain's on-site pharmacist - ensuring continued access to premium medical cannabis products and maintaining the essence of a concierge medical experience. Etain's commitment to providing a unique and enriching environment sets the stage for a new era in cannabis retail.

For more information, visit www.Etain.com.

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White Plains Hospital is proud to be acknowledged for our outstanding quality, safety and patient experience.



Visit wphospital.org/awards



Larchmont's New Bagel Store With a Heart – Empire Bagels

Larchmont's new bagel shop, Empire Bagels, is so much more than just a place to buy bagels and muffins, freshly baked daily on the premises. It is a go-to locale for breakfast, lunch, coffees, etc.

You are instantly impressed by the warmth of the staff, from the store manager, Beverly Guerra, to her team. They are welcoming with a smile, efficient, and really seem to enjoy working together while providing excellent service and delicious fare.

Now this is where the 'Heart' comes in. One day, while in conversation with a customer who mentioned that she volunteers with HOPE Community Services in New Rochelle scheduling meals, Beverly had a thought. As one of the missions of HOPE is to provide meals daily from Monday through Friday to individuals who are experiencing food insecurity perhaps Empire Bagel could play a part. Bagels that are not sold by the end of the day have to be disposed of by the store. So, instead of having them go to waste, Beverly and the owner of Empire Bagels, Jay D'Angelo, donate these baked goods to HOPE.

Empire Bagels is located on Larchmont Avenue diagonally opposite the Chatsworth Avenue School playground.
Submitted article.



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The Rye Arts Center Wants You to Party with a Purpose

On Saturday, May 4th, at 7:00 p.m., The Rye Arts Center will host its annual fundraiser at The Capitol Theatre in Port Chester. The Capitol will be transformed into RAC Studio 51, their version of the iconic 70's nightclub, and an homage to their historic building at 51 Milton Road.

Enjoy an unforgettable evening of glitz and glamour reminiscent of a "night out in NYC" at The Capitol Theatre as The Rye Arts Center honors five individuals who have made an indelible impact on the community. This year's honorees are Kate & Paul Conn, Aida & Julian Koski, and the recipient of The RAC's first-ever "Visionary Artist Award," Meera Agarwal.

Exploding with creativity, this singular "par-

ty with a purpose" amplifies The Rye Art Center's mission of creating Arts for All while shining a light on self-expression, individuality, and inclusivity. The party features renowned local artists, including a live pop-art creation by Lynn Mara, live portraits by David Abrevaya, culinary creations by OnTheMarc, top-shelf hand-crafted cocktails, wine, and beer at our open bar, a vibrant disco floor to bring out your Saturday Night Fever, and a bespoke Jazz Lounge on the mezzanine for those seeking a "chill vibe."

This year, in place of a traditional journal, Studio 51@The Cap will feature the "Corridor of Joy," "Glitter Grams," and "Love Notes" as means to highlight sponsors and local businesses digitally,

providing visual recognition on multiple video screens throughout the event at the Capitol Theatre.

You don't want to miss this unique and fun evening, which will ignite the power of the arts while raising critical funds to sustain The Rye Art Center's world-class arts education programming that the Westchester and Fairfield communities have benefited from for over 60 years.

To buy tickets, purchase a "Glitter Gram" (our version of a digital journal ad), donate, or learn more about the event, visit www.givebutter.com/c/Studio51 or call 914-967-0700.





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This regal Tudor style 5 bedroom home is set on a private knoll overlooking Premium Mill Pond and the Long Island Sound. Enter into a gracious foyer and be drawn immediately to amazing water views through the double doors leading to an expansive terrace. Special features include original wood details and moldings, wide plank flooring, stained glass windows, working fireplaces, built in window seats and more. Imagine early morning or long evenings lounging here as the sunrise or sunset paints the sky with a new hue. A picturesque setting on 1.24 acres of understated tranquility!



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ArtsWestchester Announces CEO Janet Langsam to Move on After 33 Years of Stalwart Leadership

After 33 years leading ArtsWestchester, nurturing artists, and bolstering the county's cultural infrastructure, Janet Langsam will transition from CEO to CEO Emeritus effective June 30.

An American cultural advocate, artist, and journalist with more than 50 years experience as an arts administrator, Langsam is a former Deputy Commissioner of Cultural Affairs for New York City. A seasoned arts executive with an exceptional track record, Langsam's leadership has been transformative for ArtsWestchester since taking the helm in 1991. She guided the organization to unprecedented accomplishments, including the acquisition and adaptive reuse of the organization's neo-classical landmark headquarters, the launch of the ArtsMobile, the commissioning of more than 30 works of Public Art throughout Westchester County and the successful management of the organization's grants program and overall operations throughout the pandemic.

"Janet leaves an indelible mark on New York State. Over her career to date, she has raised hundreds of millions of dollars for the arts as a tireless advocate for arts in our communities," said John Peckham, Chair of ArtsWestchester's Board of Directors. He continued, "We are grateful to Janet for her leadership and more than three decades of contributions that have kept the arts alive and vibrant in the Hudson Valley. But more importantly, Janet has fought tirelessly to support the key goals of diversity, equality, and inclusion for decades - and that is her proudest legacy."

Throughout her tenure at ArtsWestches-

ter, Langsam spearheaded fundraising efforts that secured more than \$75 million for the arts, highlighting her unparalleled dedication to the cultural vibrancy of the region. The arts council flourished under Langsam's leadership, seeing its annual budget grow from \$1 million to nearly \$7 million. During the pandemic, she rallied for the broader arts community by securing \$10 million annually for upstate arts councils and \$1 million in state funds for ArtsWestchester's Restart the Arts Program.

A pivotal moment in Langsam's tenure came in 1998 when under her visionary leadership, ArtsWestchester acquired the historic 12-story bank building in White Plains, transforming it into an arts incubator with new offices, galleries, artist studios, and spaces for creative businesses. The investment created a signature home for the organization as well as an income stream. Significantly, this bold vote of confidence in the city's future played a crucial role in fostering the revitalization of the city's downtown.

Westchester County Executive George Latimer said, "Janet Langsam leaves an extraordinary legacy of cultural enrichment in Westchester County. Her visionary leadership at ArtsWestchester built the leading cultural organization from the ground up and made it the beacon that it is today. She helped shape the cultural landscape of our region, and for decades has shown her tireless dedication to the arts."

A nationwide search for Langsam's successor is underway with a selection expected to be announced this spring.

County Executive and Municipal Leaders Highlight Bold Initiatives Transforming Municipalities

Under the leadership of Westchester County Executive George Latimer, a wave of transformative infrastructure initiatives has swept through municipalities across Westchester County totaling \$893,533,000.

Latimer highlighted many local projects funded by Westchester County Government including roads, bridges, parks, flooding mitigation, and housing issues.

Latimer said: "Unlike some who merely claim success, we have delivered tangible results for the people of Westchester County. Through strategic planning and relentless dedication, our administration has transformed municipalities across the region. Actions speak louder than words, and our record of accomplishment speaks volumes."

New Rochelle Mayor Yadira Ramos-Herbert said: "Westchester County's investments in New Rochelle's infrastructure are vitally needed. We are grateful for the County's support. The new Glen Island Bridge will facilitate easy and convenient use of one of our most treasured parks."

White Plains Mayor Tom Roach said: "The City of White Plains is proud to have a strong partnership with Westchester County. We appreciate the County's continued investment in its infrastructure and facilities located in the City of White Plains; most recently, much-needed resurfacing work on Old Mamaroneck Road and extensive renovations to the Westchester County Center. These critical investments enhance the quality of life for all White Plains and Westchester County residents. Thank you to County Executive George Latimer and his team for their diligence and commitment to building strong partnerships with the villages, towns, and cities."

Some of the local projects for 2024 include:

2024, Noted Projects

- Bronx River Pathway Reconstruction – Multiple: \$6,900,000
- County Center Improvements – White Plains: \$25,000,000
- Glen Island Bridge – New Rochelle: \$52,000,000
- Hilltop Hannover – Yorktown: \$15,000,000
- Murray Avenue – Mamaroneck: \$1,485,000
- McLean Avenue – Yonkers: \$575,000
- Old Mamaroneck Road – White Plains: \$4,000,000
- Tuckahoe Road Bridge over Bronx River Parkway – Yonkers: \$3,500,000

County Executive George Latimer Delivers 7th Annual State of the County Address

Westchester County Executive George Latimer delivered his 7th State of the County Address, highlighting the County's achievements, ongoing initiatives, and vision for the future. The address, delivered in the Board of Legislators Chamber – "the People's Chamber" – was attended by lawmakers and community members, and underscored the County's commitment to progress, innovation, and inclusivity. In the speech Latimer declared the state of Westchester County to be, "firmly rooted in strength while growing and changing for the better."

Latimer said: "Let us see the value in electing leaders who have no scandals, no hate, no conspiracy theories, leaders who aren't breaking campaign pledges or becoming a national punchline. Together, we can build on the foundation laid by those who have dedicated their lives to Westchester."

In his address, Latimer expressed gratitude to Chairman Vedat Gashi and members of the Board of Legislators for their leadership and collaboration. Latimer also acknowledged the contributions of County officials, recognizing their dedication to serving the community.

Latimer said: "We proudly embody the essence of new faces, individuals who bring fresh perspectives and innovative ideas to the forefront. Yet, intertwined with this newness is the richness of experience and a tapestry of accomplishments that defines the very fabric of our community."

Financial Stability – Reflecting on the County's financial stability, Latimer highlighted the passage of the 2024 Westchester County Budget, which maintains the same County property tax levy as 2023, marking the fifth consecutive year without a levy increase.

He emphasized the County's prestigious "AAA" credit rating from Fitch Ratings, as well as its improved credit ratings from S&P Global Ratings and Moody's Investors Service. Additionally, he highlighted the New York State Comptroller lowering the fiscal stress score for the County to zero, indicating outstanding financial stability.

Social Services – Latimer showcased initiatives to support residents, including seasonal suspension of the Bee-Line Bus fares, the expansion of the Child Care Scholarship Program to 500% of the Federal Poverty Level and efforts to address food insecurity.

In honor of Women's History Month, Latimer announced his support of proposed legislation to provide free home lock changes for survivors of domestic violence within the county while also providing shelter for survivors while the locks are changed.

Environment – The new Recycle Coach app was highlighted in the speech, as well as the work of the Department of Environmental Facilities in expanding the County's existing textile recycling program by offering curbside collection and reaching record numbers in waste recovery and recycling.

Latimer also applauded the Board of Legislators for passing the single-use foodware law as well as the Lead Free Parks Act, the Addressing Asthma in Communities of Color Amendment, the Renewable Energy Database Act and the Equity in Environmental Legislation Act.

Latimer pointed out that the County has made a substantial investment of \$20 million to expand electric vehicle charging infrastructure at County parking facilities, adding that "These efforts underscore

our commitment to sustainability and community well-being."

Affordable Housing – Latimer said: "Since our administration first took office in 2018, affordable housing – and the availability of affordable housing throughout the County – has remained a top priority."

Since 2018, nearly six thousand units of affordable housing have been built, were under construction, or are in the pipeline for the future. Additionally, Latimer highlighted the Affordable Housing Investment Flex Fund, a new, affordable housing production tool which was created to help increase the number of units across Westchester.

Mental Health – Latimer announced the launch of Lives Forward, new in 2024. A collaboration between the departments of Community Mental Health and Correction, the program trains much-needed peers to help those with addiction and mental health needs. He also highlighted the County's Opioid Response and Overdose Prevention Initiative, Project Alliance, "Reimagining Policing" efforts, supporting the "988" Crisis and Suicide Prevention Hotline, and the County's Mobile Crisis Response Teams.

Capital Projects – For the first time in Latimer's tenure, he used the State of the County Address to sign the \$52.8-million-dollar Glen Island Bridge construction Bond Act. The Act is among the most significant construction projects in Westchester County in the past decade.

Latimer said: "Here in Westchester we support infrastructure, always, and we vote and enact legislation to support it. We just don't talk about it."

Emergency Services – Latimer highlighted the leadership role taken by the Departments of Emergency Services, Environmental Facilities and Consumer Protection, in developing a lithium ion battery safety program focusing on: legislation, safe disposal, firefighter training and public education. He also spotlighted The HERRO Program and legislation he recently signed aimed at supporting the essential role of volunteer firefighters and ambulance service members by creating a law that establishes guidelines for a property tax break for those who serve, have served and their spouse.

Public Safety – Also highlighted in the speech was the Westchester County Threat Assessment Center (WESTAC) aimed at preventing targeted violence and providing the public a direct way to report persons or groups they fear may be planning acts of mass violence or domestic terrorism.

Health – Latimer affirmed his commitment to support the uninsured and underinsured residents of Westchester, bolstering our Federally Qualified Health Centers with \$3 million in funding while also setting aside more than \$1 million for the County's Black Maternal Child Health Initiative, and \$1.5-million-dollars to promote tobacco prevention and cessation programs.

Economic Development – Latimer applauded the work of the County's Economic Development Department which established the DIG Program, a competitive program in which five municipalities were selected to undergo a market analysis on improvements to their downtowns and the Clean Energy Careers Working Group with Sustainable Westchester.

Read the entire article online at www.larchmontledger.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.

"Creature of Habit" acrylic paintings by Stephanie Fiorino

The Larchmont Library

Orseman Gallery

April 1-29

Reception: Saturday, April 6, 2:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.

Stephanie Fiorino was an art major at Manhattanville College, her main medium being photography. She works in the Bronx in a NYC public elementary school and has been teaching visual art for fourteen years. She had four students' work exhibited in the PS Art citywide exhibition at the Metropolitan Museum of Art and six in the Bronx Borough Arts Festival at Lehman College Gallery. For more information, email Auriyanna Melendez at amelendez@larchmontlibrary.org or call (914) 834-2281 ext. 116.

Larchmont Library

Project Linus: Knitting and Crochet Group

The Village Center (entrance at the rear of the 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 is required. Bring your own materials! If you have questions or wish to make a donation, please contact Doris-Patt Smith at momdsmith1@yahoo.com.

Westchester County Parks to Hold Seasonal Job Fairs

Westchester County Center, White Plains

April 6, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

AND

Muscoot Farm, Katonah

April 13, 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Westchester County Parks will hold two job fairs for those who want to learn more and apply for seasonal jobs at its parks. Attendees can apply on the spot to the numerous positions in the Westchester County Parks Department including Naturalists/Educators, Nature Camp Counselors, Lifeguards, and Recreation Attendants.

Locations span the entire Westchester County Parks system at our 50+ facilities.

Visit www.parks.westchestergov.com/job-opportunities for job descriptions.

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 as two of the author's companion tales, *Rainbow Fish Discovers the Deep Sea* and *Rainbow Fish - 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.

Sheldrake Environmental Center

Exploring the Spring at Sheldrake! with Jocelyn Kleinman

April 9 at 3:15 p.m.

For Adults. Meet under the pavilion behind the white house at 685 Weaver Street. Park in the lot adjacent to the white house or in the gravel lot on the other side of the playground and walk across. Join Jocelyn and Librarian Liam Hegarty on a nature walk at the Larchmont Reservoir with Sheldrake Environmental Center and explore all that's happening in nature right now. This program will be conducted

outdoors but indoor bathrooms are available. Sheldrake's trails are considered an easy hike but note that they are unpaved, and there are a few modest inclines. ATTIRE/PREPARATION: Wear comfortable, weather-appropriate clothes and sturdy, closed-toed shoes. The ground often remains muddy and slippery even days after the last precipitation, so boots might be advised. Also, bring a water bottle.

WAIVERS: Upon arrival, participants will be asked to sign a standard waiver. SIGN UP IS REQUIRED. To do so, visit www.larchmont.librarycalendar.com/event/exploring-spring-sheldrake-jocelyn-kleinman-10034. For additional information about Sheldrake Environmental Center, visit www.sheldrake-center.org. For more information from the library about this event, call (914) 834-2281 ext. 3.

At Home on the Sound

An Afternoon of Chamber Music

St. John's Episcopal Church, 4 Fountain Square, Larchmont April 9 at 4:00 p.m.

Enjoy a concert featuring both young performers and professionals from the Larchmont Music Academy.

Free and open to all. Drop-ins are welcome, but reservations are appreciated.

RSVP by emailing admin@athomeonthesound.org.

APRIL CONCERT WITH THE FRIENDS -

New York Metropolitan Flute Trio

Larchmont Library

The Village Center (entrance at the rear of the Library)

April 14, 4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Reception at 3:30 p.m. The New York Metropolitan Flute Trio with Amy Z. Cohen, April Klavins, and Paul-Lucien Kulka will be playing music by Vivaldi, Bizet, Beethoven, Mozart, Joplin, and Offenbach. For more information, email Paul Doherty at pdoherty@larchmontlibrary.org or call (914) 834-2281 ext. 3.

Scams Against Seniors with the Larchmont Police Dept.

Larchmont Library

The Village Center (entrance at the rear of the Library)

April 19, 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Scam artists assume seniors are unaware of potential harms or are overly trusting of strangers. Often, this exploitation or harm is preventable if the would-be victim is educated and well-informed about the latest techniques used by those who would victimize our seniors. Presented by Lieutenant Ron Knudsen and Detective Danielle Lent of the Larchmont Police Department. For more information, email Paul Doherty at pdoherty@larchmontlibrary.org or call (914) 834-2281 ext. 3.

Award Winning Movie: Lincoln

Larchmont Library

The Village Center (entrance at the rear of the Library)

April 26, 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

For more information, email Paul Doherty at pdoherty@larchmontlibrary.org or call (914) 834-2281 ext. 3.

Healthy Living for Your Brain and Body: Tips from the Latest Research in person or on Zoom

Larchmont Library

The Village Center (entrance at the rear of the Library)

April 29, 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

At any age, there are lifestyle habits we can adopt to help maintain or even potentially improve our health, which may also help to keep our brains healthy as we age and possibly delay the onset of cognitive decline. This workshop covers four areas associated with healthy aging: cognitive activity, exercise, diet/nutrition, and social engagement.

Drawing on the latest research, this program explores steps to take to improve or maintain overall health in each area. Presented by the Alzheimer's Association Hudson Valley Chapter.

Registration is required for a Zoom link. For more information, email Paul Doherty at pdoherty@larchmontlibrary.org or call (914) 834-2281 ext. 3.

To see all of Larchmont Library's April events, visit <https://larchmont.librarycalendar.com/events/month/2024/04>.

Assistant Commissioner of County Department of Health Charged with Filing False Financial Disclosures

continued from page 5

2021, and 2022 forms.

As mandated by Westchester County, certain employees, including the defendant, are required to file Annual Statements of Financial Disclosure with the Westchester County Board of Ethics disclosing the source and nature of any income in excess of \$1,000 related to any outside occupation, employment, business or profession while employed by the County.

The defendant allegedly received and deposited approximately \$14,000 in 2020, \$36,000 in 2021, and \$45,000 in 2022.

The DA's Office learned of the allegations in October 2023 and launched an investigation.

The case is being prosecuted by Senior Assistant District Attorney Renee Hassel of the Public Integrity and Law Enforcement Integrity Bureau in the Trials and Investigations Division.

The charges against the defendant are merely accusations, and the defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

Westchester Parks Foundation Kicks off the Spring Season with Trails Without Limits Program

Westchester Parks Foundation (WPF) kicked off its Spring programming early this year with the opening of the WPF Trails Without Limits program at Ridge Road Park in Hartsdale. Mike Owen of Newton, Connecticut was the first participant for the 2nd season of the All-Terrain Trackchair program that allows individuals who may be living with cerebral palsy, spinal cord injury, amputation, paraplegia, arthritis, cardiac issues, joint replacements, or have other mobility concerns the opportunity to immerse themselves in Westchester County Parks. The event also included a special check presentation from Veolia for continued support of the program and a grant from the Craig H. Neilsen Foundation to expand the program.

Seth Mandelbaum, Chair, Westchester Parks Foundation stated: "We are thrilled to kick off the Spring season with our Trails Without Limit programs and continue to make County trails accessible to more people than ever. We look forward to expanding this program to additional parks throughout Westchester County this year and look forward to seeing everyone this Spring at one of our programs."

George Latimer, Westchester County Executive said, "The Westchester County Parks system is a unique and beautiful aspect of Westchester Coun-

ty that everyone should have the ability to experience and the Trails Without Limits program is the perfect way to ensure that no one misses out."

Kathy O'Connor, Commissioner of the Westchester County Parks Department said, "Thank you to Westchester Parks Foundation for continuing the implementation of this fantastic program that allows those who may not have had the capability to experience our parks enjoy them with their loved ones."

Bill Madden, the director of communications and government affairs for Veolia's New York operations remarked: "Our partnership with the Westchester County Parks Foundation is very important to our organization. As a world leader in the environmental services industry, our support of the Trails Without Limits program aligns perfectly with our commitment to the community and the environment. We think it is one of the most unique initiatives in the Hudson Valley that provides an important service to many of our customers."



The WPF Trails Without Limits program is completely free for users and open to ALL not just Westchester County residents. Individuals with their family, friends, and/or caregivers, will experience a 1-2-mile hike guided by a WPF volunteer or staff person. The program will rotate throughout Westchester County Parks March-November. Slots are currently available this month at Ridge Road Park in Hartsdale, Saxon Woods Park in White Plains in April, and Muscoot Farm in Katonah in May with additional parks added throughout the season. To register for a time slot in the park of your choice, visit <https://www.thewpf.org/trailswithoutlimits>.

Estate Planning for the Family Home



BY BERNARD A. KROOKS, CERTIFIED ELDER LAW ATTORNEY

Retirement accounts and the family home are typically two of the largest (in terms of value) assets our clients hold. Last month, we wrote about estate planning for retirement accounts. This month, we will tackle the family home.

There are a number of ways to own your home, or other real property, including tenants by the entirety, joint tenants with right of survivorship, tenants in common, individual ownership, or in some other entity such as a trust, corporation, or partnership. Community property is another way to hold real estate but that does not apply in New York.

Tenancy by the Entirety: Tenancy by the entirety is unique to married couples. In fact, in New York when a married couple purchases a property, it is presumed that the property is held as tenants by the entirety, unless otherwise noted. Each spouse has an equal, undivided interest in the whole property and the right to use and occupy it. From an asset protection standpoint, this is generally good news since a creditor cannot force a partition (separation) of the tenancy by the entirety unless the debt is owed by both spouses. Upon the death of one spouse, the other surviving spouse automatically becomes the sole owner of the entire property, avoiding probate, even if the deceased spouse's will says otherwise.

Joint Tenants with Right of Survivorship: Joint tenants with right of survivorship (JTWROS) is when two or more people hold title to real estate jointly, with equal rights to enjoy the property during their lives. The parties do not have to be married, or even related in order to hold property JTWROS. Similar to a tenancy by the entirety, upon the death of one of the joint tenants, the property passes to the survivor, avoiding probate. However, unlike a tenancy by the entirety, a creditor of one of the joint tenants may be able to force a sale of the property to collect monies owed.

Tenancy in Common: Under a tenancy in common, each owner of the property has a certain interest in the property. While the shares may be

equal, it is not uncommon for tenants in common to hold title to unequal shares. For example, you may own real estate as tenants in common with someone else where you own 60% and the other person owns 40%. Even in this scenario where the ownership interests differ, each tenant in common has the right to use and enjoy the entire property, not just their percentage of the property. However, unlike JTWROS, there is no right of survivorship. If an owner dies, they have the right to transfer their interest in the property to their family or friends under their last will and testament. If the tenant in common dies without a will, then their interest will pass in accordance with the laws of intestacy.

Individual Ownership: Plain and simple, you may own real property in your name alone and no one else's. The good news is that during your lifetime, you won't have to share it with anyone else. This can make things easier in the event you decide to sell or rent the property. You won't need anybody else's consent or input. On your death, your will controls who gets the property. In addition, your will may create trusts for beneficiaries who cannot manage real property or beneficiaries with other special needs. Setting up a trust in your will allows a third party to manage the home for the benefit of your beneficiaries without the home being titled in their name. If you wish, you can choose to transfer ownership of the residence to the beneficiary when they reach a particular age

or meet some other condition.

Trust: If a trust owns real property, then the terms of the trust control who has the right to use and occupy the trust during your lifetime and who gets the property on your death. As with individual ownership, you may decide to transfer the property outright or continue to hold it in trust for your beneficiaries, upon your death. Thus, you may give them the right to live in the property without actually owning it. Of course, you will need to decide who pays the ongoing expenses of the property, the trust, or your beneficiaries.

Conclusion: We hope this was helpful and not too much legal mumbo jumbo. The best way to own real property depends upon your individual circumstances and your own estate planning goals. One size does not fit all.

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.

ArtsWestchester Announces 2024 Arts Awards Winners

ArtsWestchester will honor nine individuals and organizations at its April 10 Arts Awards event for their contributions to the cultural landscape of Westchester County.

"Our region's outstanding quality of life would not be possible without the inspired work of these honorees," said ArtsWestchester CEO Janet Langsam. "These honorees motivate all of us to continue to support excellent creative work by Westchester artists and arts organizations."

Since its inception in 1976, the Arts Awards have celebrated vision, commitment, and leadership in the arts community. This year's winners represent a diverse array of talents and contributions:

Artist Award: George Otero-Pailos of Rye is recognized for his pioneering artwork and experimental preservation practices.

Arts Organization Award: The Neuberger Museum of Art in Purchase is a world-class museum and cornerstone of arts education and engagement since 1974.

Sophia Abeles Education Award: Arc Stages, in Pleasantville has demonstrated an unwavering dedication to providing contemporary theater programming and arts education to local communities.

Community Award: The New Rochelle Council on the Arts has been a catalyst for cultural enrichment in New Rochelle for nearly five decades.

President's Award: Lee Balter of Tarrytown is honored for his extraordinary support of the arts in the Hudson Valley and his tireless advocacy for arts education and access to the arts.

Larry Salley Photography Award: Elizabeth Diaz of Yonkers is recognized for her powerful photographic work and a portrait series celebrating the transgender community.

Advancing Equity Organization Award: Yonkers Arts and New Era Creative Space are acknowledged for their commitment to promoting equity and inclusion through the arts.

Advancing Equity Individual Award: Andromeda Turre of Katonah is honored for her groundbreaking work in using jazz as a tool for social change.

ArtsWestchester's 2024 Arts Awards will be held at 11:30 on April 10 at the Brae Burn Country Club in Purchase. For more information, visit www.artswestchester.org.



George Otero-Pailos

Westchester Community College Foundation Announces New Board Members

The Westchester Community College Foundation (WCCF) has announced the appointment of new members to its Board of Directors: Lorna Hawthorne, Robert K. McNamara, Shirley Acevedo Buontempo, and Dr. Raymond Sanchez.

"SUNY WCC has been enjoying many successes in recent years, including increasing enrollment and graduation rates, and the support of the Foundation will play an important role in maintaining this trend," said Board Chair Dr. Thomas Lee. "Thanks to the involvement of community leaders like Lorna, Shirley, Ray, and Bob, the WCC Foundation will continue to connect with the community and partner with SUNY WCC to enable students to successfully complete their studies and further their education."

Lorna Hawthorne (White Plains), co-founder of Golden Krust Caribbean Bakery & Restaurants, joins the board with a wealth of



Robert K. McNamara

experience in entrepreneurship and philanthropy. Her commitment to education and community development, exemplified through the Lowell F. Hawthorne Foundation, Inc. will greatly benefit the Foundation's mission of supporting students in their academic endeavors.

Robert K. McNamara (Bronxville) adds a wealth of financial expertise to the board, with a distinguished career in investment banking and finance. His commitment to community engagement and philanthropy aligns with the Foundation's goals of providing financial support and resources to students pursuing higher education.

For more information about the Westchester Community College Foundation, visit www.sunywcc.edu/foundation.



Lorna Hawthorne

Table Hopping with Morris Gut

Where to Dine After the Spring Orchid Show

A beautiful technicolor harbinger of spring, the annual Orchid Show at the New York Botanical Garden in the Bronx runs through April 21. I look forward to visiting NYBG, walking through the beautifully restored Enid Haupt Conservatory, and beholding the seductive floral arrangements and dramatic plantings. This year's theme: 'Florals in Fashion.' (For additional info: www.nybg.org) After taking in all that beauty, we do get hungry. Here are a few suggestions...

Dining At NYBG: There are themed Dining Pavilions throughout the park and near the Enid Haupt Pavilion: the casual Pine Tree Café and farm-to-table Hudson Garden Grill. Open daily. For info: 646-627-7711, or 718-817-8700. www.nybg.org/visit/dining/.

This year visitors can also enjoy cocktails as well as walk the runway during 'Orchid Evenings' filled with entertainment and snacks. These special evening events will take place on April 5, 6, 12, 13, 19, and 20 from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Reservations are suggested.

Good Brews at Bronx Beer Hall: Located inside the historic Arthur Ave. Retail Market, not far from Fordham University and NYBG, the Bronx Beer Hall is a good place to hang out for locally sourced craft beers and wines. Mike's Deli just down the aisle coordinates some of the food service with the bar, and it is good, hearty Italian. Good spot for mingling and networking. Enter-

tainment schedule. Closed Monday. Bronx Beer Hall, 2344 Arthur Ave., Bronx. 1-347-396-0555 www.bronxbeerhall.com.

Bureks at Tony & Tina's Pizzeria: It is a pizzeria, for sure, but this Albanian/Mediterranean-themed eatery on the corner of 189th St. is all about their popular Bureks, flaky Balkan phyllo pies with your choice of fillings: pumpkin, spinach, ground meat, or cheese. Their homemade yogurt goes well as a dipping sauce. There is homemade Baklava for dessert. Open daily. Street parking. Tony & Tina's Pizzeria, 2483 Arthur Ave., Bronx. 718-733-8094 www.tonytinaspizzeria.com.

Dining With a View at the Sea Shore: Just a short drive from NYBG. Jeffrey Weiner and his veteran crew on City Island serve abundant platters of seafood at this sprawling 94-year-old institution: Oysters Rockefeller, daily Raw Bar, Lobsters galore, Surf & Turf, Italian specialties, too. Check out all the dining areas. Daily happy hours. Multiple seating areas. Sea Shore Restaurant, 591 City Island Ave., City Island, Bronx. 718-885-0300 www.seashorerestaurant.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 914-235-659 or by email at gutreactions@optonline.net.

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