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Flood Mitigation, 2024/2025 Tentative Budget Discussed



BY STEPHEN E. LIPKEN

On April 8, the Village of Mamaroneck Board of Trustees meeting began with the announcement that Human Resources Department employee Tamika Wells had passed away suddenly on April 6. A moment of silence followed.

A presentation by Peter Fellows, President of the Mamaroneck Historical Society (MHS), followed. Fellowes remarked that just as his father has a shadow box filled with personal mementos outside his geriatric residence room, which helps his father to find his way back to his room, the MHS has photographs, artifacts, and landmarks, which are touchstones to the past so that "old residents can remember, and new residents can discover the heritage of our community." Visit www.mamaroneckhistoricalsociety.org for information.

Reporting on Flood Mitigation, Deputy Village Manager Daniel Sarnoff discussed the need for pumps, saying that SLR Consulting contemplated this but did not include it in their final report. The County will do further engineering analysis on whether pumps are an effective solution for the reclamation of the flood plain around the Ward Avenue area, specifically by the Ward Avenue bridge and in Columbus Park.

"I anticipate that the grants we will apply for are the Green Infrastructure Grant Program which is managed through the Environmental Facilities Corporation and comes from Federal money, which hopefully, would pay for 90% of the project and we would try to match that through Water Quality Improvement Program Funding, a State program," Sarnoff said.

Visit www.village.mamaroneck.ny.us/home/events/125066 for links to the complete meeting.

School Superintendents Share An Update on Our Public Schools

In today's K-12 classrooms, kids are being asked to deal with the same tumultuous emotional, social, and technological issues as adults, and helping them navigate these modern challenges so that they can academically thrive is central to an educator's mission, according to local school officials.

In an hour-long conversation, Mamaroneck Superintendent Dr. Charles Sampson and Rye Neck Superintendent Dr. Eric Lutinski discussed how their schools are evolving to support today's learners at the April 16 meeting of the Larchmont/Mamaroneck Local Summit.

"Schools are much more dynamic now, they're much more student-focused," said Lutinski. "And I think one of the biggest positive shifts is taking the teacher out of the role of the sage on the stage that stands in the front and just dictates things, to more of a coach that facilitates learning."

Rapid technological advances have upended the teacher-student relationship and challenged teachers to engage in new ways. "Google Classroom and platforms like artificial intelligence and ChatGPT and things of that nature...allow students to instantly access all of this information that traditionally the teacher possessed," said Sampson, who started as Mamaroneck's superintendent last November.

While the prospect of AI in the classroom raises concerns similar to the introduction of the calculator, Sampson and Lutinski want students



Mamaroneck Superintendent Dr. Charles Sampson and Rye Neck Superintendent Dr. Eric Lutinski

to learn how to use the near-ubiquitous technology responsibly and ethically. They are also exploring AI's potential to help teachers. For example, Mamaroneck has launched a pilot initiative to evaluate AI's ability to give students early and immediate feedback on their writing, so drafts are more refined when they reach teachers' desks.

Schools are also grappling with political polarization and the heated rhetoric amplified by social media, as well as incidents of bias. "Discussions in hallways mirror those happening around

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Sprint to Flint is Back



The Sprint to Flint is an annual community running event that takes place in the heart of the Village of Larchmont in early summer. Not just a race, it's a true summer party along the iconic route that weaves its way around Larchmont Manor. After their dash around the local neighborhood, runners and walkers make their way back to Flint Park for live music, pizza, and summer fruits.

Sprint to Flint traces its roots back to the 70s. After a long hiatus, the event was resurrected in 2012 by legendary race director, Carolyn Lee and grew from just 300 participants to over 900 participants at its peak in 2019. After a pause during the COVID-19 pandemic, the event has been back since 2022 when, after 9 years as race director, Carolyn passed the torch to local runner Rachel Thompson, who is also the co-organizer of local community running club, Larchmont Track Club.

The plans for this year are for Spring to Flint to be bigger and better than ever. The race will be held on Friday, June 14. This year, there will be an inaugural "tots race" - a 200-yard dash around Flint Park for the younger runners in the community who are six and under, which will take place at 6:00 p.m. The 1-mile race will begin at 6:30 p.m., and the 5K race will begin at 7:15 p.m. Visit www.events.elitefeats.com/24flint to register.

LMC Media Welcomes New Board President, Chris Gianutsos

LMC Media recently announced that Chris Gianutsos will be its new Board President and thanked President Emeritus Mark Litvin for his years of service as Board President from 2022-2024. Litvin will resume his previous role as Treasurer.

"LMC strives to be everywhere our residents are," said Gianutsos. "Between the growth on digital channels and streaming media, and the newly opened Studio on the Avenue, this is an exciting time. I am thrilled to help LMC grow both as an important voice for our community and as a resource to train the next generation of filmmakers and journalists."



Chris Gianutsos

Robert Wolterstorff to Step Down as the Susan E. Lynch Executive Director and CEO

The Board of Trustees of the Bruce Museum, Connecticut's premier institution of art and science, has announced that Robert Wolterstorff, the Susan E. Lynch Executive Director and CEO of the Bruce Museum, will be leaving his role on June 30, 2024. Mr. Wolterstorff joined the Bruce in June 2019 and assumed responsibility for the New Bruce Capital Campaign with the goal of more than doubling the size of the museum with a 43,000-square-foot addition. Under his leadership, the Museum finished the \$68 million campaign and completed construction of the addition. Mr. Wolterstorff added important promised or loaned art collections to the Museum including the extraordinary Impressionist and Modern art in the William L. Richter Gallery and the David Hockney collection on loan from Roy B. and Edith J. Simpson on display in the Blavatnik Family Gallery. The new Bruce opened in April 2023 and has been heralded as a "true gem" in Greenwich and the broader tri-state area.

The Board of Trustees of the Bruce Museum has a plan in place to ensure a smooth transition with an Interim Executive Director from the Board and has immediately begun a search for a new Executive Director/CEO.



Robert Wolterstorff

Mr. Wolterstorff noted, "With the new building up and running, growing pains being thoughtfully addressed, new fiscal leadership in place, and the strategic plan providing a road map for the future, I feel like I have accomplished what I set out to do. It is a good moment for me to step away."

Simone McEntire and Bill Deutsch, Co-Chairs of the Bruce Museum Board of Trustees added, "We are sure everyone joins us in our ap-

preciation for all that Robert has done to launch the new Bruce and in our best wishes for the next step in his career. Robert has made numerous contributions to the New Bruce for which we are grateful."

Separately, the Bruce Museum announced the appointment of Jonathan Rohner as its new Chief Operating Officer (COO), effective immediately. In this role, Mr. Rohner will be responsible for all operations of the Museum including Finance, IT/Systems, Communications including marketing, public relations, and social media, Human Resources, as well as the Security, Facilities, Retail, and Café operations of the Museum. Mr. Rohner will serve as co-leader of the Museum

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Board Adopts 2024/2025 Budget



BY STEPHEN E. LIPKEN

The Larchmont Board of Trustees meeting on April 15 began with a public hearing concerning the 2024/25 Tentative Budget. One resident objected to the 2.95% Tax Levy Increase and recommended a 2.4% as he maintained that a 2.95% would destroy the ability of some to continue in the community and wasn't needed to provide services.

Village Administrator/Clerk Justin Datino rebutted that expenses are thoroughly vetted with regard to the cost drivers of inflation, which include an increase in Larchmont employees' health insurance premiums, and retirement plan rates, settlements of collective bargaining agreements, and an increase in the Village's contribution to the Larchmont-Mamaroneck Sanitation Commission. The tentative budget was adopted.

Also adopted was an amendment allowing the increase of fines for vehicle and traffic offenses.

Police Chief Christopher McNerney reported on frauds by phone, text messages, and emails. He reminded residents not to give account information or send funds if contacted by others but rather to go to or call their banks to verify that the requests are for information or funds are not fraudulent.

McNerney also stated that electric leaf blowers are permitted for spring cleanup until April 30 and then allowed again from October 15 to December 15.

Visit <https://lmcvtvny.new.swagit.com/videos/302778> for more information about this meeting, including Chief McNerney's report on Intermunicipal Agreements with Westchester County.

Former Mamaroneck Library Employee Charged with Grand Larceny Takes Plea Bargain

On Wednesday, April 24, former Mamaroneck Public Library employee Mary Soto pled guilty to a Class E Felony for defrauding the Mamaroneck Public Library. Her plea bargain includes a \$43,900 fine and 3 years probation.

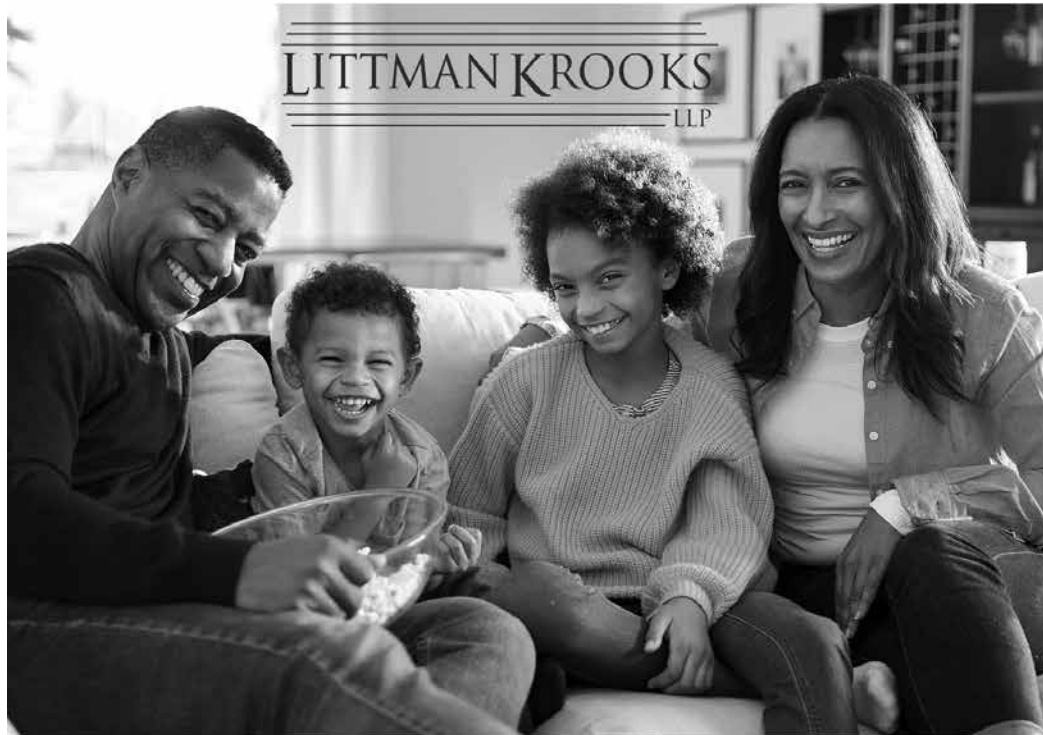
"It does not begin to repair the damages done," stated Library Director Jennifer O'Neill, "but we will have to turn the page and continue the long struggle to make the library whole again. I have faith that, going forward, the library board will secure adequate, sustainable funding - which will enable us to pay back the funds we were forced to borrow in order to keep the library open. We are grateful to Renee Hassel, Westchester County Assistant District Attorney of the Public and Law Enforcement Integrity Bureau, and her team, for their commitment and professionalism in this matter."

Mary Soto was not charged for the years of knowingly and willfully deceiving the Library Board with false financial statements, leading them to believe that the Library had millions of dollars in cash reserves that did not exist. As the Board creates the annual budget based on these financial statements, a massive shortfall was discovered and nearly closed the Library. The Board was compelled to ask former Mayor Tom Murphy and the Village Board for help in securing \$1.2 million to keep the library open. The library is on track to pay that amount back by the end of fiscal year 2025.

In February 2023, the Mamaroneck Public Library Board of Trustees became aware of financial irregularities within the Library's business office. In response, swift action was taken. A comprehensive financial forensic audit was initiated, focusing on potential misappropriation and the examination of all Library accounts. The outcomes prompted the Westchester District Attorney to charge former employee Mary Soto with grand larceny in the third degree for the theft of \$44,769 from 2016-2023.



Mary Soto



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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, 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, contact Doris-Patt Smith at momdsmith1@yahoo.com.

Yoga in the Park Returns!
Fridays in May & June
11:00 a.m. – Noon
Constitution Park
Sponsored by the Village of Larchmont.
Free and open to the public.
Instructed by Frank Shire
All levels are welcome. Bring your own mat.

At Home on the Sound
An In-Depth Look at Election 2024
May 14, 4:00 p.m.
St. John's Episcopal Church, 4 Fountain Square, Larchmont
The talk is free and open to all. Drop-ins are welcome but advance reservations are appreciated. Email admin@athomeonthesound.org to RSVP.

Award Winning Movie: It Happened One Night
Larchmont Library, The Village Center
Friday, May 17, 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.

The First Ever Grit Ninja Games is Coming to Croton Point Park

Race, swing and move through obstacle courses at Croton Point Park in Croton-on-Hudson, and compete in the first ever Grit Ninja Games, presented by The Grit Ninja, Saturday, May 18. Registration is open.

Children and young adults ages nine and up can compete in various tournaments in divisions based on age. Celebrity ninjas from American Ninja Warrior and American Ninja Warrior Jr. including Daniel Gil, Vance Walker, Isaiah Thomas, and Isabella Wakeham will be available for meet and greets. The entire day will be fun for the whole family as there will be local food trucks, beginner ninja obstacles suitable for all ages, raffles, and a professional ninja racing competition for everyone to watch. Rain date is Sunday, May 19.

Westchester County Executive George Latimer said, "The Grit Ninja Games is a great way for families to come out and support each other, local vendors and spend time outdoors at the park. I'm excited to welcome The Grit Ninja and all participants to the County and Croton Point Park for the first-ever Grit Ninja Games."

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

Le Tour de Larchmont
Sunday, May 19, 2:00 p.m.-3:30 p.m.
Constitution Park
Easy 1-mile bike ride through the Manor. Bike decorating at 2:00 p.m. Ride begins at 2:30 p.m. sharp. Music, Ice Cream Truck, Helmet Fitting by Westchester Bike Camp, and Tune-up by 10583 Bicycles. Visit www.larchmontny.gov/news_detail_T27_R46.php for more information.

Hospice of Westchester Hosts 22nd Annual Golf Invitational
Westchester Hills Golf Club - 401 Ridgeway, White Plains
Tuesday, June 4, 2024
10:00 a.m.: Registration and brunch/lunch
12:30 p.m.: Shotgun start with scramble format
4:30 p.m.: Cocktail reception, dinner, and awards
Individual and foursome registrations, journal ads and sponsorships are now available.
For more information, contact Holly Benedict, 914-682-1484, ext. 122 or hbenedict@hospiceofwestchester.com.

Sprint to Flint is Back!
Friday, June 14
6:00 p.m., Inaugural Tots Race, a 200-yard dash around Flint Park for those 6 and under.
6:30 p.m., 1-mile race will begin.
7:15 p.m., 5K race will begin at 7:15 p.m.
After their dash around the local neighborhood, runners and walkers make their way back to Flint Park for live music, pizza, and summer fruits! Visit www.events.elitefeats.com/24flint to register.

Westchester County Parks Commissioner, Kathy O'Connor said, "Croton Point Park is a great setting for The Grit Ninja Games. Participants will have a one-of-a-kind experience competing with the view of the Hudson next to them."

The Grit Ninja Co-founders, Allison and Eric Meltzer said, "We are so excited to bring The Grit Ninja Games to Croton Point Park and show the larger Westchester community the fun and excitement that the growing sport of ninja has to offer. We are looking forward to the excitement of having top ninja athletes race against each other in a brand new 4-lane format, while also providing fun and active experiences for the whole family to enjoy!"

Croton Point Park is located at 1A Croton Point Avenue, Croton-on-Hudson. Parking is \$10 per car.

Visit www.thegritninjagames.com for more information about the event, and www.thegritninja.com to learn more about the other programs The Grit Ninja has to offer.

School Superintendents Share An Update on Our Public Schools

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the country," said Sampson. "We try to prevent offensive speech in the first place, and when it does occur, [we are] training staff to react in real-time." He said the district is working to build community by giving students from different elementary schools the opportunity to meet before coming together in middle school. Lutinski added that his teachers try to turn difficult situations into opportunities to discuss historical protest movements, as well as instill the importance of civil discourse.

To create a supportive environment for learning, the districts are addressing these and other issues as part of a broader approach to student well-being. The superintendents reported higher incidences of student mental health issues such as anxiety and depression – reflecting a national trend that preceded but was exacerbated by the pandemic – which requires integrated care involving parents, teachers, and community partners, at increased levels. "It's not just, you know, go down to the hall and make a right and then, the back room, and that's where the psychologist is," said Lutinsky.

Additionally, Dr. Sampson discussed his district's ongoing efforts to ensure students feel accepted and supported. One initiative, the Student Belonging and School Climate Survey, asks students to rate their engagement with the school as well as their feelings about its overall environment. Elementary school-age children participate in regular discussions on social and emotional learning and equity.

Questions over how to address the growing needs of students (and the increased physical space that is required) are addressed in the coming year's budgets. Both districts' proposed budgets are within their respective tax levy caps.

For Mamaroneck, which is projected to serve 5,524 students in 2024-2025 – 11 more than this

year, with a significant increase in the high school population – Sampson has proposed an annual budget of \$159,204,563, a 2.37% year-over-year increase, supported by a 2.59% increase over the current tax levy. According to Sampson's office, the increase is primarily due to the rising cost of salaries, employee benefits, and supplies, including Chromebooks. The District will also make use of expiring debt to put forth a new bond proposal, which would fund \$28 million in maintenance including roofing, masonry, and waterproofing repairs, and expand the cafeteria at Hommocks and kitchens at Central and Murray elementary schools.

For Rye Neck, which is projected to serve 1,461 students – 20 fewer than this year – Lutinski has proposed a budget of \$51,127,223, a 2.97% increase year-over-year, supported by a tax levy increase at the local cap of 2.19%. The increase is needed to support the rising cost of staff benefits and maintain teacher-student ratios, according to his office. Also up for a vote, Proposition II proposes using the District's capital reserve to support paving, fencing, and masonry repairs at the district's elementary schools, a new roof for the high school gymnasium, as well as an infrastructure study for potential improvements elsewhere.

These proposals will be put before voters on May 21.

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 May 14 at 8 a.m. at the Westchester Jewish Center in Mamaroneck, will focus on avoiding scams and fraud. Visit the Local Summit online: <https://www.localsummitlm.org/> LMC Media: <https://lmcmedia.org/>.

Annual Salute to Seniors Returns May 30

In celebration of Older Americans Month, Westchester County is holding its 56th Annual Salute to Seniors event at the Westchester County Center on Thursday, May 30 from 9:30 am to 1:30 pm. Salute to Seniors is an opportunity for businesses and non-profit organizations to showcase their products and services to more than 2,000 seniors across the County.

Westchester County Executive George Latimer said: "I am excited that our annual Salute to Seniors event is returning to the Westchester County Center. Salute to Seniors is our premier event in the County for the senior community, and we look forward to an event that will foster connections and provide access to programs, services, and resources for seniors to stay healthy and maintain their independence."

Westchester County Department of Senior Programs and Services Commissioner Mae Carpenter said: "Our Salute to Seniors event is an opportunity to celebrate our seniors throughout the County while providing an environment of fun for them to explore aging. This year's theme, Powered by Connections, aligns with our Salute to Seniors event as we connect our senior population with access to available programs and resources for them to thrive and maintain their quality of life."

Attendees will have an opportunity to connect with companies and organizations such as recreational groups, residential and health care facilities, government offices, wellness activities, hospitals, assisted living centers, financial providers, social service resources and more. In addition to exhibitors, there will be demonstrations, workshops, and live entertainment to enjoy.

This year's Salute to Seniors events is sponsored by the Westchester County Senior Programs and Services (DSPS); Westchester County Parks, Recreation and Conservation; Westchester County Department of Public Works and Transportation; and The Westchester Public/Private Partnership for Aging Services. Special Thank You to New York Presbyterian, this year's Annual Partner Sponsor.

Stepinac HS Students Run Successful Campaign to Support Lifting Up Westchester's Mission



Stepinac High School's Riley Colon, left, and Jordan Prado—both seniors (Class of '24)—display some of the items in the 120 care bags they and other members of the school's A Helping Hand Club contributed to support homeless men, women, and children in the White Plains community through the efforts of Lifting Up Westchester. Club members at the renowned all-boys Catholic high school ran a successful bake sale to purchase the contents of the care bags including warm socks, a thermal blanket, hand and feet warmers, breakfast bars, various snacks, and bottled water.

Westchester County Executive and County Leaders Shine Light on Autism Awareness in Commemoration of World Autism Day

Westchester County Executive George Latimer, County Legislator Catherine Parker, and Department of Community Mental Health (DCMH) Commissioner Michael Orth, commemorated World Autism Day on April 2 along with New York area representatives of Autism Speaks. As part of National Autism Acceptance Month, Latimer dedicated the day to recognizing the needs of the autistic community while lifting up available resources.

Latimer said: "As we commemorate World Autism Day, let us reaffirm our commitment in Westchester to fostering understanding, acceptance, and support for individuals on the autism spectrum. We must be champions of inclusivity across every avenue, program and opportunity that presents itself. That is how we keep this County pointed forward."

Parker said: "I am proud to stand together in solidarity to shine a light on the diverse experiences of individuals with autism, emphasizing the importance of inclusivity. Let's unite in our efforts to create a brighter, more accepting world for all."

Orth said: "The Westchester County Department of Community Mental Health is committed to staying at the forefront of assisting individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Join us in taking the time today to help continue to transform the narrative surrounding Autism, fostering accep-



tance, and sharing our appreciation for all those who support and are part of the Autistic Community."

Autism Speaks New York Sr. Area Executive Director Carla Sterling said: "When it comes to inclusion, awareness of autism is not enough; at Autism Speaks, our relentless commitment to amplifying the voices, sharing the stories and recognizing the spectrum of needs of the autistic individuals drives the work we do every day."

In addition to the County naming April 2 as World Autism Day, the Governor Mario M. Cuomo Bridge was lit that evening in recognition of Autism Speaks and National Autism Month. To learn more about Autism Speaks or their month long "Act Fearlessly for Change" campaign visit autism-speaks.org.

Student Advocacy, Inc. to Host 29th Annual OTO Awards

Student Advocacy, Inc. a Westchester non-profit dedicated to providing legal representation and advocacy on education matters to students and their families, is thrilled to announce its 29th Annual Overcoming the Odds (OTO) Awards Celebration on Wednesday, May 22, 2024 at 6 pm at The Barbara Walters Campus Center at Sarah Lawrence College in Bronxville.

At this year's event five inspiring students will be celebrated for overcoming challenges to achieve success in school and for the contributions they have made to their communities.

Since 1982, Student Advocacy, Inc. has been the only non-profit in Westchester County whose mission is exclusively devoted to advancing and protecting the educational rights of all students, especially those who have been marginalized due to learning or physical disabilities, mental health issues, and other complex challenges. Services are provided at no cost to families, focusing on students from low-income backgrounds.

The work of Student Advocacy is made possible by the generous contributions received from dedicated donors who ensure that the organization can sustain its mission of assisting students in accessing the educational resources and services necessary for learning, fostering confidence, and achieving success.

"For over four decades, Student Advocacy has been instrumental in opening doors of opportunity for children who are often overlooked in our community," says Diane Rosenthal, Executive Director. "The Overcoming the Odds Awards Celebration,

now in its 29th year, encourages us to come together to recognize the remarkable young people who are actively shaping their destinies through their positive choices."

Student Advocacy is also proud to recognize PCSB Bank as its 2024 Community Partner Honoree. "Receiving the Community Partner Honoree award reflects our commitment to helping families and businesses in the Lower Hudson Valley overcome challenges, meet goals and more easily manage financial affairs," said Michael P. Goldrick, PCSB Bank's president and chief executive officer. "We are honored to receive this award, and to be a trusted and valued partner in the community that supports the visions of our customers with personalized banking solutions, cutting-edge technology platforms, and outstanding customer service."

Student Advocacy expresses its sincere appreciation to Champions for Children Sponsors and Honorary Committee Co-chairs Beth and David Shaw, and Ambassador for Advocacy Sponsors, Acquavella Family Foundation and Igor Tulchinsky and the WorldQuant Foundation.

Dave Price, the esteemed meteorologist at WNBC, will serve as the master of ceremonies for the event.

The 29th Annual OTO Awards Celebration includes opportunities for brands, businesses, and individuals to support Student Advocacy through the purchase of Sponsorships, Tickets, & Ads including sponsorships ranging from \$1,000 - \$50,000, individual tickets at \$375 and digital ads ranging from \$250 - \$1,000.

The Picture House and Italian American Forum Present the Westchester Film Festival

The Picture House Regional Film Center announced that the Westchester Italian Film Festival will take place the weekend of May 17-19, in partnership with the Italian American Forum. Opening night, at The Picture House Bronxville, will begin with a dessert reception before a screening of Alejandro Monteverde's *Cabrini* and a special in person Q&A with actress Eugenia Forteza.

"The Picture House is thrilled to host once again the Westchester Italian Film Festival," said Clayton Bushong, Executive Director, The Picture House Regional Film Center. "Over the course of three days, the festival will showcase sixty years of Italian film. From a contemporary gem like *Cabrini* to a timeless classic such as the 1961 comedy *Divorce Italian Style*, we have curated an exceptional lineup of films and discussion aimed at engaging and enriching our audiences."

"The Italian American Forum is proud to partner with The Picture House to bring new and old films to enrich Westchester's cultural scene," said Anna Malafronte, Executive Director, Italian American Forum. "This year's lineup showcases Italian excellence with modern academy nominated and internationally renowned films such as *Io Capitano* and *Cabrini* while bringing a nostalgic tone with our favorite classics."

In addition to *Cabrini*, highlights of the weekend include an advance screening and Westchester premiere of Marco Bellocchio's *Kidnapped*; as well as screenings of Academy-Award Nominated for Best International Film (Italy's submission) *Io Capitano*; America's Last Little Italy: The Hill with a Pre-taped Q&A with Director Joseph Puleo; and a tribute to Italian Comedies like *Johnny Stecchino*, *Pane e cioccolata*, and *Divorce Italian Style* with special discussion led by TPH Film Critic Joe Neumaier.

Italian wine and beer will be available at The Picture House throughout the weekend.

For more information about The Picture House and to purchase tickets, visit www.thepicturehouse.org, call (914) 738-3161, or email info@thepicturehouse.org.



Treasures from the Westchester County Historical Society Exhibit on Display at New Rochelle Public Library

In celebration of the 150th Anniversary of the Westchester County Historical Society (WCHS), a digital exhibit featuring treasures from the WCHS collection will be traveling throughout the county to various public venues. A sampling of the Society's vast holdings, the exhibit's images are in a looped slideshow that reflects various eras and geographical areas of the county. The exhibit will be on display at the New Rochelle Public Library through May 6, 2024.

The eleventh oldest county historical society in America, WCHS is primarily a library and research center. The non-profit organization is located in the Westchester County Records Center in Elmsford, where the county's public records and archives are also housed. The work of the professionally-run WCHS library falls into three categories: acquisition of new materials, processing, and preserving the library's collections, and providing public access to those WCHS collections. Documents, maps, photographs, manuscripts, books and other materials have been collected since the inception of WCHS, the only history organization that is steward of materials representing all of Westchester. The collection of over a half million materials are preserved in 10,000 square feet of state-of-the-art, temperature controlled vaults, on shelves equivalent to the length of 215 football fields. WCHS continues to add new materials to the library by gift, purchase, and long-term loan.

Additional 150th Anniversary events showcasing the work of the society and Westchester's extraordinary heritage include a county-wide family 150th History Hunt and a public presentation and birthday party in October.

For more information, contact Barbara Davis, WCHS Co-director, at (914) 231-1437 or barbara@westchesterhistory.com.



Department of Environmental Facilities Hosts 5th Annual Eco Awards



Westchester County Executive George Latimer and Westchester County's Department of Environmental Facilities (DEF) celebrated Earth Day early by hosting the 5th annual Eco Awards at Glen Island Park in New Rochelle. The Eco Awards recognize outstanding contributions to the environment and sustainability made by residents, students, schools, municipalities, businesses, and other organizations.

Latimer said: "The initiatives and projects led by the recipients of this year's Eco Awards have made a significant impact on Westchester County's environment. These winners range from students to municipalities and organizations that epitomize a dedication to sustainability and community well-being. These achievements inspire all of us to continue to help make Westchester County, and our planet, the best it can be."

First Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Facilities Louis Vetrone said: "The Department of Environmental Facilities is privileged to host the Eco Awards and recognize the contributions made by this year's class of exceptional winners. Westchester County continues to be a leader in environmental efforts in large part because of the contributions of the people here today."

The 2024 Eco Award Winners include:

Greystone Food Scrap Program: For developing a food scrap recycling program at The Greystone Co-op, which resulted in diverting 8 tons of food scraps from the waste stream in 2023.

Melanie Tucker: For a Capstone Project that educates on the importance of recycling not only for people but also for animals and our

Lifting Up Westchester Announces Winners of Seventh Annual Student Essay Contest



Lifting Up Westchester (LUW), a nonprofit agency providing life-changing support to people who have lost their housing or are struggling to meet other basic needs, announces the winners of its Seventh Annual Student Essay Contest. Open to all 7th through 12th grade students attending school in Westchester County, students were invited to learn about LUW's programs and write a fictional story about an individual or family who benefitted from one of those programs. Called "Walking in Someone Else's Shoes," this year's essay contest looked to dispel some of the myths and stereotypes associated with the men, women, and children LUW serves.

The essay contest was established in 2017 in memory of Beth Massey Rubens, a lifelong resident of Westchester and a teacher, tutor, and mentor who had a love for language arts.

"Individuals or families who experience homelessness are often associated with stereotypes and prejudices that perpetuate misconceptions," said Anahaita Kotval, CEO of Lifting Up Westchester. "Misinformation is extremely problematic. It contributes to stigmatization of people who are already marginalized and impacts the resources we, as a society, are willing to devote to help these members of our community get back on their feet. By inviting our students to spend time and 'walk in someone else's shoes,' we hope to dispel some of these myths that have stubbornly remained part of America's collective consciousness."

A panel of 45 judges reviewed the essays – submitted from schools all across Westchester –

to select the ultimate winners. First, second, and third place cash prizes were awarded in each of the three grade groups: 7th and 8th grades, 9th and 10th grades, and 11th and 12th grades. Winners were honored at an Awards Luncheon on April 14th at Buon Amici Italian restaurant in White Plains. The Awards Luncheon was generously underwritten by Salvatore and Ritchie D'Errico, owners of the D'Errico Jewelry stores in Scarsdale and Mt. Kisco and loyal supporters of LUW's youth programs.

Local winners of the 2024 Lifting Up Westchester Student Essay Contest include:

7th and 8th Grades: 1st Place – Stephanie Collins, Eastchester Middle School

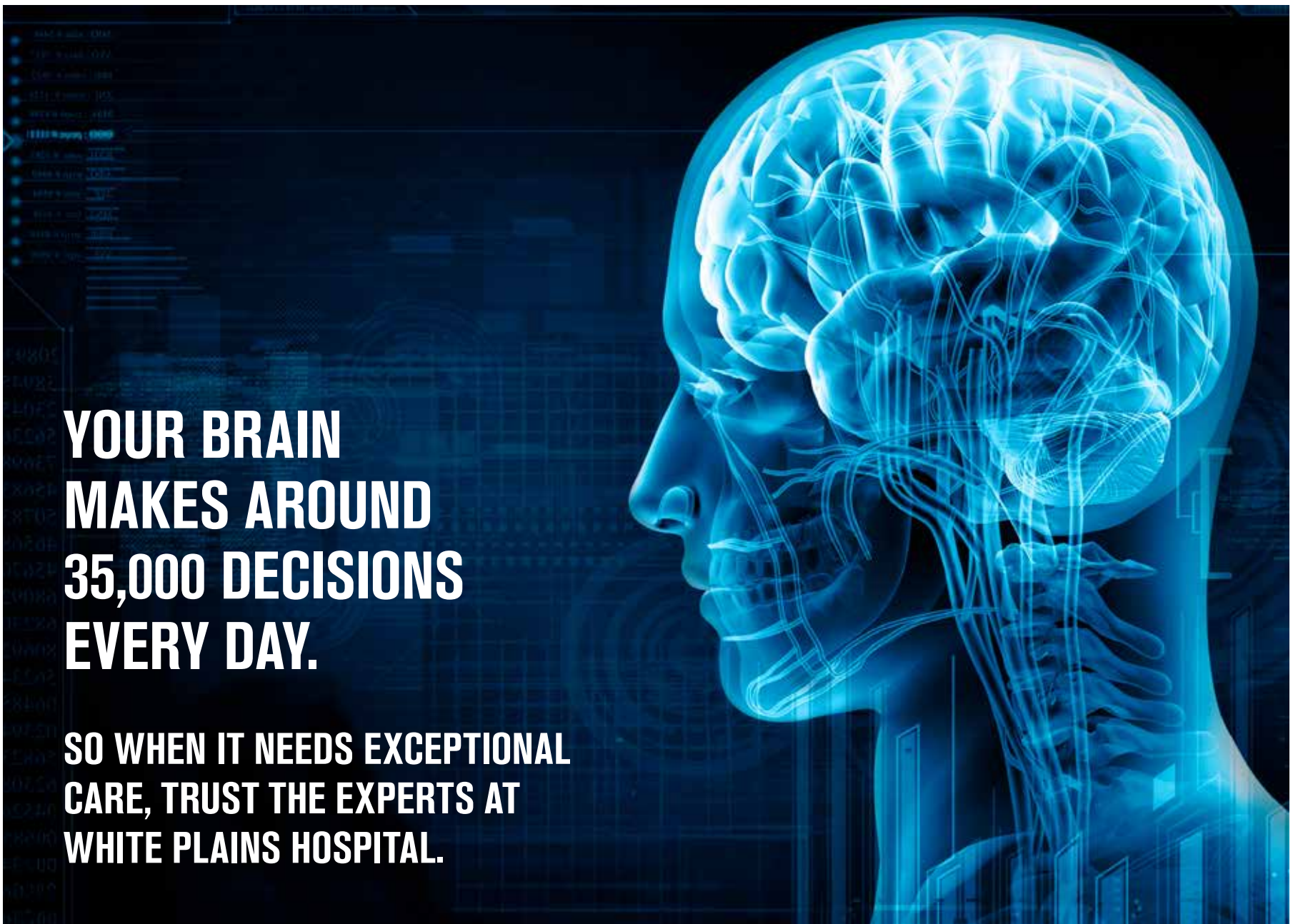
9th and 10th Grades: 1st Place – Sonali Browning, Rye Neck High School

11th and 12th Grades: 1st Place – Ella Grann, Rye Neck High School; 2nd Place – Isabella Vembenil, The Ursuline School; and 3rd Place – Sara Hanna, Harrison High School.

Founded 45 years ago, Lifting Up Westchester is a 501(c)3 nonprofit providing life-changing support to people who have lost their housing or are struggling to meet other basic needs. Each year, the organization works with over 3,000 men, women, and children experiencing homelessness, hunger, and extreme poverty to build a more secure future for themselves and their families.

For more information about Lifting Up Westchester, visit www.liftingupwestchester.org.

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Rye Neck High School Junior Christina Pirrone, LMC Media's Spring Future Filmmaker

LMC Media recently congratulated Christina Pirrone, its Spring Future Filmmaker and the first Rye Neck High School Student in the Future Filmmaker Project. Christina is a Junior at Rye Neck High School. Inspired by the community she grew up in, Christina loves being both on and off camera and hopes to inspire people through her films to never give up on their dreams. Christina is involved in Advanced Video Production taught by David Golden, which is where her love for filmmaking began.



Christina Pirrone

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Mazda of New Rochelle to Celebrate Grand Opening

Mazda of New Rochelle is thrilled to announce the grand opening of its brand-new, state-of-the-art facility located at 1 E Main St, New Rochelle. This exciting event kicks off with a special Grand Opening Ceremony & Ribbon Cutting on Thursday, May 16th, from 4 PM to 8 PM, and continues through Sunday, May 19th, offering a weekend packed with incredible deals and the chance to explore the new dealership. This special event will feature a ribbon-cutting ceremony, delicious cocktails and hors d'oeuvres, exciting entertainment, and a coffee bar.

The fun continues throughout the grand opening weekend with our Grand Opening Sales Event happening Friday, May 17th & Saturday, May 18th from 9 AM to 6 PM, and Sunday, May 19th from 12 PM to 5 PM. Take advantage of exclusive deals on all new Mazda vehicles in stock, including:

- Special event pricing
- Test drive and receive a substantial \$1,000 off your Mazda purchase
- Maximize the value of your trade-in with offers exceeding Kelley Blue Book value by up to \$2,000
- Food and refreshments
- Exciting activities and prizes

This grand opening is more than just deals – it's a celebration for the entire community! Mazda of New Rochelle invites you to enjoy a fun-filled event with something for everyone.



Georgia Anagnostopoulos

This grand opening is your perfect opportunity to explore the new Mazda of New Rochelle showroom, meet the friendly staff, and discover why "you'll love this place!"

"We're excited to unveil our new dealership and celebrate with our community," states Georgia Anagnostopoulos, General Manager of Mazda of New Rochelle. "This grand opening is the perfect opportunity to experience the Mazda difference firsthand. We look forward to welcoming you and helping you find your perfect Mazda!"

Learn more at MazdaOfNewRochelle.com.

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Family ArtsBash is May 11 at ArtsWestchester

The joy of creativity takes center stage on May 11 at ArtsWestchester's 2024 Family ArtsBash.

The four-hour ticketed event invites kids to join craft workshops like felt flower-making; get their faces painted; or watch a puppet show. Guests of all ages can experience ArtsWestchester's latest exhibition, a survey of 22 local artists who represent the breadth of creative expression in the Lower Hudson Valley.

Visitors can also chat with artists in their studios and find unique artisan gifts to complete Mother's Day shopping lists.

"Art has no age requirements. The Family ArtsBash allows children to explore various art forms as they learn to identify their interests and passions. At the same time, adults can enjoy an exhibition and face time with the creative people who help make Westchester County such an interesting place to live and raise a family," said ArtsWestchester CEO Janet Langsam.

Workshops for children include: card making, mask making, edible art, friendship bracelets, and clay creations.

ArtsWestchester's historic landmark building is a creative hub that artists and creative businesses call home. Thirteen artists will open their studios from 11 a.m. until 3 p.m. The artists will offer visitors insights into processes that include painting, collage, ballet, and photography.

Falafel Taco of Pleasantville will sell food indoors in the gallery and a food truck will be parked outside.

Tickets to the Family ArtsBash cost \$10 per child aged 3 to 17. The event is free for adults, guardians and children under 3. The Family ArtsBash will be held at 31 Mamaroneck Ave. in White Plains. For tickets and a full schedule of events click here.

Family ArtsBash is sponsored by Westchester Family.



New Exhibition Showcases Westchester Artists

A new group exhibition at ArtsWestchester opened last month, featuring the breadth and diversity of the Lower Hudson Valley's cultural landscape.

The Open Call exhibition features 22 area artists who represent a thriving art scene. One standout artist to watch is Elizabeth Diaz, recipient of the prestigious Larry Salley Photography Award for 2024. Diaz's captivating photographs of members of Yonkers' trans community shed light on a social group that is often invisible to the general public.

"This exhibition is part of ArtsWestchester's Arts Exchange series, which aims to promote and support local artists by providing them with a platform to showcase their work," said Kathleen Reckling, ArtsWestchester's COO. "We are committed to nurturing artistic talent and fostering a vibrant arts community."

The exhibited artists represent a wide spectrum of artistic styles and media, from painters to sculptors, photographers to mixed media artists.

The exhibited artists are Nina Ansaldi, Carrie Belk, Gabriela Bornstein, Carol Bouyoucos, Dorothy Cancellieri, Elizabeth Diaz, Lisa Freeman, Bryan Greene, Linda Greenhouse, Natalya Khorover, Wendy Leopold, Mary Ann Lomonaco, Rita Maas, Quinn Martin, Taesha Muhammad, Maxine Nodel, Jill Parry, Lotte Petricone, Karen Simon, Roxene Sloate, Eileen Stodut, and VASH.

Among the various styles, Petricone's artistic process begins by drawing from print images and progresses with deliberate painting and meticulous attention to detail, edges, lines, and the mixing of colors. Khorover's art practice stems from a need to create beauty from that which has been discarded.

The exhibition runs through May 26. ArtsWestchester is located at 31 Mamaroneck Ave. in White Plains. Open Call is sponsored by Etain and Westchester Magazine.



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"Youth Justice Beyond the Headlines: Five+ Years of Raise the Age" Panel Discussion Highlights the Effectiveness of Rehabilitation and Calls for Continual Improvements

On March 21, the Westchester Children's Association (WCA) hosted a panel discussion titled "Youth Justice Beyond the Headlines: Five+ Years of Raise the Age." The panel's goal was to recognize the achievements of the Raise the Age (RTA) law and discuss the challenges that remain.

The panel discussion, moderated by Gary Stern, Editor and Reporter at the Journal News/LoHud, featured insights from key stakeholders in the youth justice system, including:

- Yvonne Borkowski, Legal Aid Society of Westchester
- Honorable Wayne Humphrey, Judge, Westchester County Family Court
- Joshua Jackson, New Rochelle Opportunity Youth Part
- Peter Jackson, Deputy County Attorney, Westchester County Attorney's Office
- Deputy Commissioner Jennifer Lackard, Mount Vernon Police Department
- Commissioner Rocco Pozzi, Westchester County Department of Probation
- Honorable Lyndon Williams, Judge, Mount Vernon Court System

The last 5+ years of RTA implementation have shown the community benefits of focusing on rehabilitation over incarceration. Commissioner Rocco Pozzi noted that approximately 90% of Westchester youth charged with felonies had their

cases moved to Family Court or Probation as Juvenile Delinquency (JD) cases. Over the last 5 years, only 28 children went to placement; before RTA was implemented, approximately 120 youth per year were placed. Placement for justice-involved youth ranges from residential treatment facilities and group homes to juvenile detention centers. Instead, redirecting youth has allowed access to community-based programs that support social-behavioral health, education, and employment, and allows them to stay in their homes.

"Raise the Age put in one word is 'collaboration.' A big part of RTA is 're-integrating' youth back into society. To think that we do this alone is not true. We rely on community-based organizations to support our young people outside the courtroom," stated Judge Williams. An example was shared by Joshua Jackson a participant in the New Rochelle Opportunity Youth Part, a byproduct of RTA. He stated, "OYP isn't about punishment, it's about giving opportunities to those who need it most...it turned my life around 360 degrees." He went on to say that he was able to access job training, employment, and mentorship opportunities that built relationships within his local community.



Mahlaah Desir and Kelly Deng

Adequate state funding solutions were discussed including the potential establishment of a Youth Justice Innovation Fund with \$50M of the

\$250M RTA appropriation which would connect funding directly to community-based organizations, allowing for a continuum of services from prevention and early intervention to alternatives to detention, placement, and incarceration.

The shift of ending the practice of prosecuting all 16- and 17-year-olds as adults has played a crucial role in the lives of young people across New York state. Two WCA interns Mahlaah Desir and Kelly Deng explained, "The continued support of RTA and the passage of additional bills is not merely a matter of legal reform; it is a testament to our commitment to justice and equity. By investing in our youth, we invest in the future prosperity and stability of our communities."

Westchester Children's Association (WCA) is a multi-issue, child advocacy nonprofit that works to ensure that every child in Westchester is healthy, safe, and prepared for life's challenges, regardless of race or zip code. Since 1914, WCA has been the leading independent voice for Westchester's children by identifying their needs, making those needs known to the public, and ensuring those needs are met through advocacy and mobilization efforts. For more information about Westchester Children's Association, visit their website at www.wca4kids.org.

Legislative Highlights from the Westchester County Board of Legislators

On Monday, April 8th, the Westchester County Board of Legislators approved the Westchester Joint Water Works request to exchange land, passed key items to upgrade infrastructure in facilities across the County, voted to expand affordable housing inventory, and set a public hearing to address increasing tax breaks for seniors.

This is the sixth board meeting of 2024, and the Board is making steady progress to improve infrastructure and ease financial burdens on Westchester County residents. The Board is taking a comprehensive approach to address these issues, including physical improvements, affordable housing initiatives, and tax incentives for seniors, among other measures. Our goal is to support all the key areas that make Westchester a desirable place to work, live, and raise a family.

Westchester Joint Water Works (WJWW)

The action before the Board of Legislators was an authorization of an act that would allow the County to negotiate and execute a land exchange.

Since last September, the Board of Legislators has done its due diligence holding committee meetings on the possibility of a land exchange, listening to input from the community, and stakeholders to ensure that if they are to proceed forward it is done with in the best interests of Westchester residents in mind.

The County Law department will be negotiating the terms of the exchange, and the resulting agreement is required to be in conformance with the Act adopted by the Board of Legislators. The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) will have continuing jurisdiction and oversight over the process to ensure that the environmental standards are met and maintained.

Legislator David Tubiolo (D - Yonkers, Mount Vernon) said, "After careful consideration of all factors, the alternative of taking no action at all would leave some residents and households of this County without permanent access to clean drinking water. Additionally, WJWW is under both a permanent injunction from the NYS Supreme Court and an Administrative Order from the EPA requiring this filtration plant to be built. Although this might be a difficult decision, it is a necessary vote."

Legislator Catherine Parker (D - Larchmont, Mamaroneck, Rye) said "As an environmentalist, I believe everyone is entitled to clean drinking water. It is a basic human right. We do not want the residents of Westchester to end up like Flint, Michigan. This water filtration plant is essential to that basic human right for almost the entirety of those living along Westchester's Sound Shore."

Legislator Nancy Barr (D - Harrison, Rye Brook, Port Chester) said, "The vote to authorize a land exchange between the County and WJWW was one of the most difficult of my career. There is no question that building a filtration plant is necessary. There is also no question that chemicals of concern on airport property must continue to be monitored. However, with the appropriate environmental safeguards in place, I felt comfortable supporting the exchange. The land will remain in the NYS Brownfield Cleanup Program and will be subject to DEC oversight. Further, the BOL voted unanimously to pass a resolution stating our intention that the land the County is



BOL Chair Vedat Gashi

gaining will remain undeveloped. I want to thank all the advocates who provided input into this decision-making process, and the professional staff who brought their expertise to the table. The final legislation is better for their input."

Infrastructure

The first of three Infrastructure Bond Acts funded the replacement of the Uninterruptible Power Supply ("UPS") System at the Department of Public Safety Headquarters in Hawthorne. The existing UPS power system is past its useful life. Hawthorne Headquarters is a 24/7 police facility with life safety responsibilities to take emergency telephone calls from members of the public and to dispatch police officers in the field by phone and radio. The police facility always requires a working UPS system.

The second Bond Act was for necessary improvements at the Richard J. Daronco Courthouse in White Plains to replace the existing revolving doors with a new entry vestibule with automatic sliding doors, add egress doors with security card readers, replace the Courthouse Tower and Annex roof, and install isolation valves in the domestic water system to avoid having to shut down the entire system when repairs are needed.

Third, the Port Chester Wastewater Treatment Plant will be receiving an electrical system upgrade and replacement of their heating, ventilating and air conditioning systems, as well as minor upgrades to the Port Chester Sanitary Sewer District.

Legislator Nancy Bar said, "Investing in infrastructure is critical toward ensuring the health and well-being of Westchester's current and future residents, and allocating resources to upgrade infrastructure is an integral component of my job as a Legislator. I thank my colleagues for voting alongside me to support an \$11 million bond to finance the Port Chester Wastewater Treatment Plant Electrical System Upgrade. This funding will go toward the design, construction management and construction to replace and upgrade the electrical system, and to replace the

heating, ventilating and air conditioning systems at the plant, enabling the plant to function more effectively and efficiently."

The Board also approved a Bond Act for \$750,000 to finance the design of improvements to the White Plains TransCenter. The White Plains TransCenter is a major BeeLine bus hub adjacent to the White Plains Metro North train station.

Public Works & Transportation Chair Erika Pierce said, "Our White Plains TransCenter is overdue for a major update, and the funding approved will take these plans from the conceptual stage into design. From better way-finding to improved lighting and safety, from providing real-time information regarding routes and arrival times to improving the experience of those with mobility challenges, this project will have major impacts on bus use in our County."

Legislator Jewel Williams Johnson (D - Elmsford, Greenburgh, Tarrytown, White Plains), Budget and Appropriations Chair said, "The allocation to upgrade our Public Safety Headquarters' uninterrupted power supply underscores our dedication to supporting law enforcement by providing the necessary tools and resources to carry out their duties effectively, especially in challenging circumstances. The investments in designing improvements to the main Bee-Line Transit Center in White Plains, the new electronic entry doors, vestibule, roof, as well as the installation of the

water system upgrade for the Richard J. Daronco County Courthouse reflects our commitment to maintaining and improving our public facilities, as does the approved electrical system upgrade for the Port Chester Waste Water Treatment Plant ensuring they all meet the highest standards of safety and functionality. These infrastructure initiatives prioritize the safety and well-being of our residents and also contribute to the overall vitality of Westchester County."

Affordable Housing

A site was identified at 345 McLean Avenue in the City of Yonkers to add to the Affordable Housing inventory. The parcel has been deeded back to the County from New York State as surplus property. The property will facilitate the development of 92 new affordable housing rental units, available to eligible senior households where all members are over the age of 62 who earn at or below 30% and up to 60% of the Westchester County area median income ("AMI"). The building will also include a community room/lounge, outdoor seating areas, management office, laundry facilities and 47 on-grade parking spaces.

Affordable Housing

Legislator Shanae Williams (D - Yonkers), Housing & Planning Chair said, "This project on McLean Avenue in Yonkers is a perfect example of what a great partnership between State, County, and City government looks like. We all understand how important and necessary good, quality, affordable housing is for our residents, therefore we are all on board to make it happen. I'm especially proud of the work my colleagues and I have been doing at the County level to provide more affordable housing for the residents of Westchester."

Watch the Board Meeting Recap with BOL Chair Vedat Gashi at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iIteV7lNNf8>

Hospice of Westchester Hosts 22nd Annual Golf Invitational

Hospice of Westchester Hosts 22nd Annual Golf Invitational

Hospice of Westchester (HOW) invites members of the community to participate in its 22nd Annual Golf Invitational at Westchester Hills Golf Club in White Plains. Proceeds from the event will benefit HOW's mission and commitment to providing compassionate end-of-life care. HOW combines the highest level of quality medical care with emotional and spiritual support enabling individuals and their loved ones to make the most of each day.

This year's Golf Invitational will honor Bill and Debbie Flocks of Beecher Flocks Funeral Home, Inc. for their steadfast commitment to the organization.

Individual and foursome registrations, journal ads, and sponsorships are now available. For more information, contact Holly Benedict, at 914-682-1484, ext. 122, or hbenedict@hospiceofwestchester.com.

Hospice of Westchester (HOW) is a private, not-for-profit healthcare agency that provides skilled, compassionate, and comprehensive end-of-life home care to patients diagnosed with any serious or life-limiting illness and gives support to their families and loved ones. Hospice of Westchester is located at 1025 Westchester Avenue, Suite 200, White Plains. For additional information, visit www.hospiceofwestchester.org or call (914) 682-1484. For the latest news and updates, find HOW on Facebook.

Maria Regina High School Community Again Answers the Call to Help Address Shortage of Life-Saving Blood

Continuing a tradition of helping to address the shortage of life-saving blood in the region, Maria Regina High School recently hosted a community blood drive to support the New York Blood Center (NYBC).

Students, members of administration, faculty and staff as well as supporters from the community answered the call by donating 45 pints were donated that will potentially help save the lives of 135 area hospital patients (the NYBC notes that each donated pint can save three lives). The drive was held in the gymnasium of the renowned all-girls Catholic high school.

Maria Carozza-McCaffrey (Class of '99), Principal, applauded all those "who volunteered in this critically important drive that will help save lives in our communities." The NYBC notes that the donated blood is typically needed to help treat cancer patients, accident, burn, and trauma victims, newborn babies, mothers delivering babies, transplant patients, surgery patients and others in need.

In addition, much of today's sophisticated medical care such as transplants and heart surgeries rely on blood transfusions. In addition, car



Maria Regina students Sofia Mora-Permalee (left) and Maryclaire Wissner

accident and trauma victims may need as many as 50 or more red cell transfusions and severe burn victims may need as many as 20 platelet transfusions.

The NYBC notes that "donating blood is easy and our blood supply relies exclusively on the generosity of volunteer blood donors," adding: "Most people qualify as a volunteer donor." To make a blood donation and learn more about the New York Blood Center, nonprofit organization that is

one of the largest independent, community-based blood centers in the world, visit www.nybc.org.

Maria Regina High School is a Catholic school where young women are encouraged to achieve academic excellence, empowered to be compassionate, empowered to be compassionate leaders, and enriched with the Spirit to live a life of Charity, Truth, and service to others. To learn more, visit www.mariaregina.org

Northwell Health Physician Triumphs in Fight Against No. 1 Killer of Women

Dr. Marla Koroly, associate ambulatory physician executive for Northwell Health's Westchester and Connecticut regions, has been named the American Heart Association's Go Red for Women Westchester 2024 Woman of Impact Winner for her work to raise funds and spread awareness in the fight against heart disease and stroke in women and improve health and well-being in the local community. In the United States, cardiovascular disease is the leading cause of death in women, claiming the lives of 1 in 3 women.

Over the course of nine weeks, Dr. Koroly, along with a team of family, friends, and colleagues, competed for the Woman of Impact title by participating in various community awareness and fundraising activities. After raising critical funds and driving women's health education initiatives, including a community women's heart health educational event, Dr. Koroly was named this year's winner. The Woman of Impact campaign is part of the American Heart Association's signature Go Red for Women's movement, a comprehensive platform designed more than two decades ago to increase women's heart health awareness and serve as a catalyst for change to improve the lives of women globally.

"In participating in the Women of Impact campaign, it was important for me because heart disease is a woman's number one health threat, and not enough women recognize that," said Dr. Koroly. "I am honored to have received this recognition, but most importantly, I am proud of what we, all of the women nominated for this recognition, have accomplished together over the last nine weeks to support the Go Red for Women movement and the future of women's heart health."

The Woman of Impact campaign launched in over 100 cities on National Wear Red Day, February 2. In Westchester, five community leaders were nominated to participate. Collectively, this year's Westchester nominees trained over 100 people in Hands-Only CPR and raised over \$50,000 for the American Heart Association's Go Red for Women movement.

Other local nominees included: Christina Collins, NeverStopMoving365; Alice Schoen, Project Adam NY; Dana Colasante, Project Adam NY; and Betty Wu, Franklin Templeton



Dr. Marla Koroly

Investments.

"We are so grateful to Dr. Koroly and all of our nominees for their work elevating the Go Red for Women message and raising critical funds in support of our local mission," said Cara Pensabene, M.D., Vice President, Global Medical Director at Mastercard and the 2024 Chair of Go Red for Women in Westchester/Fairfield Counties. "While our work is far from finished, we've made considerable progress. Westchester and Fairfield are stronger, and our future is brighter."

Women naturally experience unique life stages that increase their risk of developing cardiovascular disease over the course of their lifetime. While the large majority of cardiac events can be prevented, cardiovascular disease continues to be a woman's greatest health threat, as nearly 45% of women over age 20 are living with some form of CVD. Women involved in Woman of Impact are paving the way for the future of women's heart health and enabling more women to live longer and healthier lives.

Larchmont Residential Electricity Supply Rate Comparison

Westchester Power Program Background

The Village of Larchmont participates in a Community Energy Program known as Westchester Power. This electricity supply program is managed by the local nonprofit Sustainable Westchester on behalf of the 29 participating municipalities in Westchester County. The program empowers the county and its residents to actively work towards a vision for a healthy and sustainable future by supporting renewable energy. Residents benefit from the fixed price program model that provides cost control assurance on their electricity supply charges.

Westchester Power Contract - March 2024 Rate Comparison

The Westchester Power program offers two supply options for 100% Renewable and Standard. These rates are fixed until 10/31/2024.

March 2024 Residential Rates

Average Con Edison Standard Rate
8.50 ¢ / kWh

WP 100% Renewable Fixed Rate
15.449 ¢ / kWh

WP Standard Supply
13.685 ¢ / kWh

Below is an approximate electricity cost comparison for a hypothetical Larchmont resident in March who consumed 1,000 kWh of electricity for the month:

- Larchmont resident on the ConEd supply = roughly \$85.00 for the month
- Customers enrolled in Westchester Power 100% Renewable Fixed Rate = roughly \$154.49

for the month

- All Westchester Power Standard Users = roughly \$136.85 for the month

Options for Larchmont Residents

Residents who wish to enroll, change their supply, or opt out, can visit the Westchester Power web page and fill out the applicable online form on the Sustainable Westchester Con Ed Energy Choices webpage, email westchesterpower@sustainablewestchester.org, or call Sustainable Westchester at (914) 242-4725 ext. 111 for live assistance. You can also review additional information on Community Energy for Westchester Con Edison Participating Municipalities.

Want to enroll?

Larchmont residents who are not currently enrolled in the program (including those who have previously opted out of the Westchester Power electricity supply in the past) still have the ability to opt in and participate, as the current contract price is locked in until October 31, 2024.

Want to change supply options?

For residents already participating in the program at either the 100% Renewable or Standard Supply fixed rates, you can change your supply option at any time. Whether you want to move into the 100% Renewable supply to maximize your clean energy impact, or switch to the Standard Supply for a better financial option, the choice is yours.

Want to opt out of Westchester Power altogether?

Residents participating in the program can opt out at any point they wish with no hassle, penalty, or fees.

Guardianship Can Be Expensive



BY BERNARD A. KROOKS, CERTIFIED ELDER LAW ATTORNEY

With the recent news concerning several high-profile individuals being subjects of guardianship, we thought it would be a good idea to discuss how expensive guardianship can be and what you can do to avoid it.

If there is someone who you care about who is having difficulty managing their personal or financial affairs, they may need a guardian. Guardianship in New York is supposed to be the least restrictive form of intervention for a person who cannot manage their own affairs. However, the least restrictive does not necessarily mean that it is not expensive.

Here's a summary of the expected costs:

1. When you file for guardianship for someone else, the legal papers you and your attorney draft must be filed with the court and served on the person you are seeking guardianship for. The court filing fees and process server fees can run several hundred dollars.

2. Your lawyer's fees will be several thousand dollars, and up, especially if you hire an experienced guardianship law firm to represent you. However, if your case is contested then the fees will be much higher. For example, if you file a guardianship petition seeking guardianship of your mother and your brother hires an attorney to contest the guardianship in any way, then all bets are off as to what the guardianship will cost. Among other things, your brother may claim that mom does not need a guardian, or he may disagree with you as to who the guardian should be. This is called a contested guardianship, and there is no way to predict the total costs involved. Suffice it to say that it will cost much more than an uncontested guardianship proceeding. Your legal fees will be your responsibility regardless of how the proceeding turns out. In some cases, your legal fees can (subject to court approval) be reimbursed from the incapacitated person's resources if you are successful in obtaining guardianship. However, most lawyers will expect to be paid out of your funds while they are working on the case, and not wait until someone has been appointed guardian who has access to the in-

capacitated person's funds to pay certain expenses, including legal fees.

3. In addition to your own lawyer's fees, the court may appoint an attorney for the person you are seeking guardianship for. These fees can be several thousand dollars. Fortunately, in most uncontested cases, there usually is no need for a court-appointed lawyer.

4. The court evaluator is someone else who is appointed by the court to be the eyes and ears of the court and who files a report with the court describing your family member's circumstances. In most cases, this person is a lawyer despite the fact that this person does not necessarily perform a legal function. The cost for that investigation and report is frequently in the range of a couple to a few thousand dollars.

5. If someone is appointed guardian of the property, they are typically required to obtain a bond. The premium for this insurance policy can be paid from your family member's assets. The cost of the bond varies by the size of the estate being managed.

As you can see, the fees can add up pretty quickly. Moreover, if the guardian needs legal assistance after the appointment, there could be additional fees incurred, depending on the complexity of the guardianship.

If you and your family are interested in taking the necessary steps to try to avoid guardianship, make sure you and your loved ones have executed advanced health care and financial directives such as a health care proxy, living will, and durable power of attorney. In addition, you should discuss your wishes with the people you appoint as your agents under these documents. By taking these steps you will reduce the likelihood that guardianship will ever become necessary. Nevertheless, sometimes guardianship becomes necessary even if you have taken care of your estate planning in advance. For example, if the person you appoint as power of attorney is not doing their job properly, someone may commence a guardianship to try and have the power of attorney revoked.

While guardianship can be expensive, there are things you can do to minimize the likelihood that your family will go through this process. As part of your overall estate plan, make sure you take the time to think about who you would want to manage your affairs if you can no longer manage them yourself. This can go a long way towards saving your family a lot of money and heartache.

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.

Table Hopping with Morris Gut: Local Kitchens are Blossoming

I have had delicious culinary encounters so far this spring, and I'd like to share a few with you...

Northern Italian at Torcello Ristorante Italiano: The Eggplant Rollatini and Rigatoni Bolognese are terrific. Marking their first anniversary, Imer Rraci and his veteran team reimagined the former La Riserva, a lovely setting for the Italian classics. Named after an island off the coast of Venice, Chef Avni turns out such winning dishes such as colorful Mozzarella Caprice, Veal Chop Parmigiana, classic Rack of Lamb, and delicious Pollo Torcello, topped with applewood bacon and melted fresh mozzarella in a light bourbon mushroom sauce. Rraci spent years working for the former Giambelli in Manhattan and at Valbella in Old Greenwich, CT. Open 7 days for dinner starting at 3:30 p.m. Bar/cocktails. Happy hours: Wed. - Fri. 4 p.m. to 6 pm. Outdoor patio. Free parking. Torcello, 2382 Boston Post Road, Larchmont. 914-833-1118 www.torcellolarchmont.com

Irish American with Pizzazz at Jack's Bar & Restaurant: Their Buttermilk Chicken Sandwich is a winner. Owner Shane Clifford and his staff have been drawing a fine crowd. Jack's offers an enhanced Irish/American tavern menu. Generous specialties coming out of Chef Brendan Donohoe's kitchen include decadent Short Rib Mac N' Cheese, Lamb Lollipops, Burrata Pizza out of their woodfired oven, Guinness braised Short Ribs, and a variety of Burgers. Check out their decadent Grilled Cheese Menu. The staff could not be more friendly. Open daily. Weekend brunch. TVs. Municipal parking; free evenings. Jack's Bar, 219 Main St., Eastchester. 914-652-7650 www.jackseastchester.com

Comforting Polenta with Shrimp at Trattoria Vivolo: Chef/owner Dean Vivolo's new spring menu includes a wonderful Paglia e Fieno con Funghi. The Linguine Vongole is not to be missed, and, oh, those seafood combos! Sit at the counter, tuck into a booth, or take a table in the rear greenhouse and enjoy the surprising contemporary and traditional flavors emanating from his kitchen: tasty thin-crust pizza; fresh old-fashioned Meatballs and Sausage; Crostino di Polenta with shrimp or mushrooms; Lasagna Bolognese al Forno; Osso Buco, tender braised veal shank; or traditional Baccala. Great staff. Good wine list. Sparkling lights. Outdoor patio. Closed Mondays. Free parking. Trattoria Vivolo, 301 Halstead Ave., Harrison. 914-835-6199 www.trattoriavivolo.com

Southern Comfort at Freebird Kitchen and Bar: The Pimento Cheeseburger is a favorite. We devoured Fried Calamari, Oysters, meaty Pork Ribs, Cobb Salad, spicy Chicken Wings, crispy Brussels Sprouts, Shrimp & Grits, and Braised Short Ribs. The cooking here is very satisfying, all done with a friendly Southern theme. Portions are ample and shareable. The lighting and those artsy birds hanging from the ceiling in the dining room give it a magical atmosphere. There is a seasonal rooftop. Friday & Sunday Night Jam sessions. Sprawling bar. Craft beers. Now open for lunch. Happy hours: Tues.-Thurs. 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.; Fri. 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. Weekend Brunch. Closed Mondays. Freebird, 161 Mama-



roneck Ave., White Plains. 914-607-2476 www.freebirdkitchenandbar.com

Soup Dumplings at Mister Chen: Mister Chen in Mamaroneck and Scarsdale serves a modernized Chinese menu espousing their most popular traditional regional dishes. While it is located in a cluster of Asian-Fusion eateries, it is carving out a place all its own thanks to owner Paul Chen and his mom, who is head chef. I was excited about the dumpling station where you can watch the cooks prepare a variety of Chinese dumplings from scratch. Soup dumplings have always been a pet passion of mine, and one evening I was so smitten that I ordered two rounds, six to an order, served in their steam boxes. Take a careful bite and suck up that delicious warm broth, then savor the delicious pork or crab filling. If you are a novice, the staff will show you how. I have also enjoyed their Pork Belly Sandwich, General Tso's Chicken, and Jumbo Prawns with garlic sauce. Mister Chen, 265 Mamaroneck Ave., Mamaroneck. 914-777-1212 www.mistercheny.com

Wings Fly at Tuck'd Away Bar and Grill: Owner Michael Cuozzo operates a convivial restaurant and bar a short walk from the Tuckahoe Metro North Station. He has built a loyal following for his kitchen, especially his chicken wings. You can debate about the best chicken wings in Westchester, but no one has it over Tuck'd. Every Wednesday, unlimited Wings & Beer are served from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. for \$30 per person. There is a bustling Happy Hour Monday through Friday from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. featuring half-off selected cocktails and menu items. Tuck'd Away Bar and Grill, 90 Yonkers Ave., Tuckahoe. Open daily. 914-222-9162. www.tuckedaway90.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)

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Edward Shapiro, President and Publisher
es@shorelinepub.com

Joyce Farrell, Editor
joyce.farrell@shorelinepub.com

Cynthia Pena, Art Director
shorelineproduction@gmail.com

Lauren Levine, Advertising Account Executive
levinelaur@gmail.com

Mary DeYoung, Advertising Account Executive
mdeyoung.61@gmail.com

www.shorelinepub.com

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