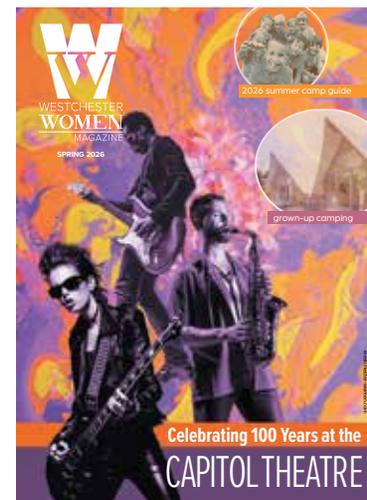


Larchmont Ledger



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IN THIS ISSUE: WW Magazine Spring 2026!

Larchmont Emergency Responders Praised for Work During Blizzard

BY STEPHEN E. LIPKEN

Larchmont Village Administrator Aylone Katzin thanked Emergency Responders at the February 23 Board of Trustees meeting, praising Police, Fire, Department of Public Works (DPW) and the Water Department, “for all that they do, especially during these tenuous times.

“The power has been out for the past 24 hours (February 22-23), plus cleaning, working on the snow. We will be communicating any changes in parking or in other regulations around the Village through our email newsletter, as well as our website and social media and hope that everyone in Larchmont has had a safe 24 hours,” Katzin said.

Police Lieutenant Joseph Paprota noted that the Village has experienced its second significant snowstorm of the sea-

son and thanked residents for staying off the roadways. Their cooperation allowed DPW to efficiently clear the streets.

Fire Chief Richard W. Valentine said that the Larchmont Fire Department responded to multiple incidents related to the extreme cold. “There were several electrical fires, caused by compromised wiring, burst water pipes and numerous water main emergencies. Please be sure that all exterior vents, especially dryers, furnac-



Aylone Katzin

es and hot water heaters are kept clear of snow and debris. Blocked vents can lead to serious carbon monoxide issues.

“We also ask that residents clear fire hydrants of snow; sidewalks must be cleared of ice and snow 24 hours after the snowfall stops,” Valentine concluded.

Deputy Mayor Peter Fanelli reported that March 12 is the Larch Madness Basketball Tournament at Hommocks

continued on page 4

Mamaroneck Appoints New Councilman

BY STEPHEN E. LIPKEN

Mamaroneck resident Andrew Regenstreich was appointed to the Town Board at the February 4 meeting. Mamaroneck Town Supervisor Jaine Elkind Eney said the election of Councilman Anant Nambiar to the County Legislature had created a vacancy on the Board.

Regenstreich was sworn in by Eney and will serve until the end of the year. He will need to run in November’s election to fill the unexpired term.

“I really appreciate the trust you put in me,” Regenstreich said. “I hope to earn that trust over the coming months. It is a great responsibility that I do not take lightly.”

Since 2021, Regenstreich has lived in the unincorporated section of the Town of Mamaroneck with his wife and two children who attend Central Elementary School. He is an affordable housing advo-

cate and oversees 40 multifamily properties in New York City, and Westchester, Orange and Dutchess Counties.

Regenstreich is active in the community, serving on the STEM Alliance and Mamaroneck School Foundation Advisory Board, the Mid Hudson Economic Development Council, Congressman George Latimer’s Task Force on Jobs and the Economy, and the Westchester Housing Opportunity Commission.

In other business, the Board met as Fire Commissioners. According to Councilman Jeffery King, Fire Chief Alex Rapp submitted an invoice of \$9,906.61 for payment, approved by Roll Call Vote. Eney stated that there were 84 alarms, 64 fire, 10 stills, no out-of-town Mutual Aids, 6 drills and 4 EMS calls. Total personnel responding was 979, total working time was 42 hours and two minutes.

continued on page 3



Andrew Regenstreich

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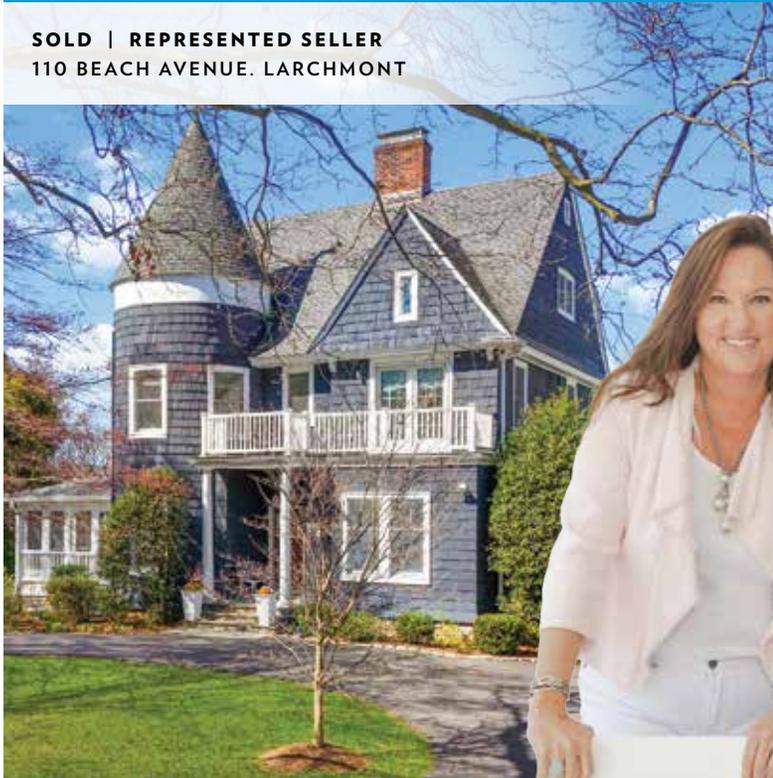
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Senator Shelley Mayer Hosts Successful Toiletry Drive with LifeWay Network

State Senator Shelley Mayer partnered with LifeWay Network's "Safe Housing Program" for a toiletry drive in recognition of human trafficking awareness month. The drive was held from January 5 through January 27 and had four drop off locations throughout Senate District 37 including Yonkers Will Public Library, Mamaroneck Public Library, Pound Ridge Town House, and Senator Mayer's District Office in White Plains.

Senator Mayer and LifeWay's Safe Housing Program collected full-size items, including shampoo, conditioner, body wash, toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorants, moisturizers, and feminine hygiene products.

Thanks to the contributions of community members, LifeWay Network estimates that the donations will cover more than 4,000 night's worth of supplies and will support both their residences for the remainder of 2026.

Senator Shelley Mayer said, "I am grateful for the generosity of so many in my district who donated toiletries to support survivors of human and sex trafficking. So many of us do not think twice when getting ready in the morning—we have everything we need. But that is not the reality for everyone, especially those working to rebuild their lives. I am deeply proud to be



From left to right: Chloe Kastner, Manager of Fundraising at LifeWay Network; State Senator Shelley Mayer; Ali Boak, Executive Director of LifeWay

continued on page 4

Swim Across America—Long Island Sound Raises Funds to Fight Cancer

Brave swimmers will take on a cold challenge by plunging into Long Island Sound for the Swim Across America—Long Island Sound’s inaugural “Freeze Out Cancer” cold water super splash on Sunday, March 15 at 12:15 PM at the Orienta Beach Club in Mamaroneck. Those interested in participating can register at swimacrossamerica.org/longislandsound and click on the Freeze Out Cancer link on the page.

Swim Across America—Long Island Sound is one of the nation’s largest annual open water charity swimming events. This year the organization is expanding its swim activities to include this fun winter-time cold water super splash to make even more waves to fight cancer!

“With the huge success of our 2025 annual open water swim in July, we decided to bring together our incredible swim community in the winter to help make an even bigger splash in the fight against cancer with our inaugural Freeze Out Cancer splash event on March 15,” noted Jean Fufidio, event director for Swim Across America—Long Island Sound. “Everyone is super excited to add this new winter event to our summer-time swims. It will be fun for all ages!”



Swim Across America—Long Island Sound’s Freeze Out Cancer cold water splash brings together swimmers and splashers willing to brave the cold for something bigger than themselves. Participants will take a celebratory jump in cold water to raise funds to give families impacted by cancer hope. Proceeds from the event will support immunotherapy research at the Swim Across America Laboratory of Dr. Luis Diaz at Memorial Sloan Kettering, and the MSK Kids Department of Pediatrics at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, as well as immunotherapy research and clinical trials at the Swim Across America Laboratory at Weill Cornell Cancer Center, pediatric oncology research at Morgan Columbia University Medical Center and patient services with Cancer Support Team.

Participants register with a \$100

self-donation fee. The registration fee is tax-deductible. All registered participants will receive a Swim Across America beanie, a warm beverage and major bragging rights with their peers. Multiple participants can be registered during one registration process. All swimmers and volunteers must complete the waiver on the event page and bring it to check-in. Participants younger than 18 must bring a waiver signed by a parent or guardian. Participants are encouraged to bring a towel, warm clothes, friends and energy to Freeze out Cancer! Those that raise \$500 or more receive a Swim Across America towel in addition to the beanie hat.

For those not able to participate on March 15, donations are welcome to support the effort to fund cancer research, clinical trials, prevention, treatment and patient support services and can be made at swimacrossamerica.org/longislandsound.

In addition, swimmers are encouraged to mark their calendar and register for Swim Across America—Long Island Sound’s 34th annual open water swim on Saturday, July 25. Registration is open for the annual swim, which attracts more than 800 swimmers and volunteers who make waves to fight cancer.

Mamaroneck Appoints New Councilman

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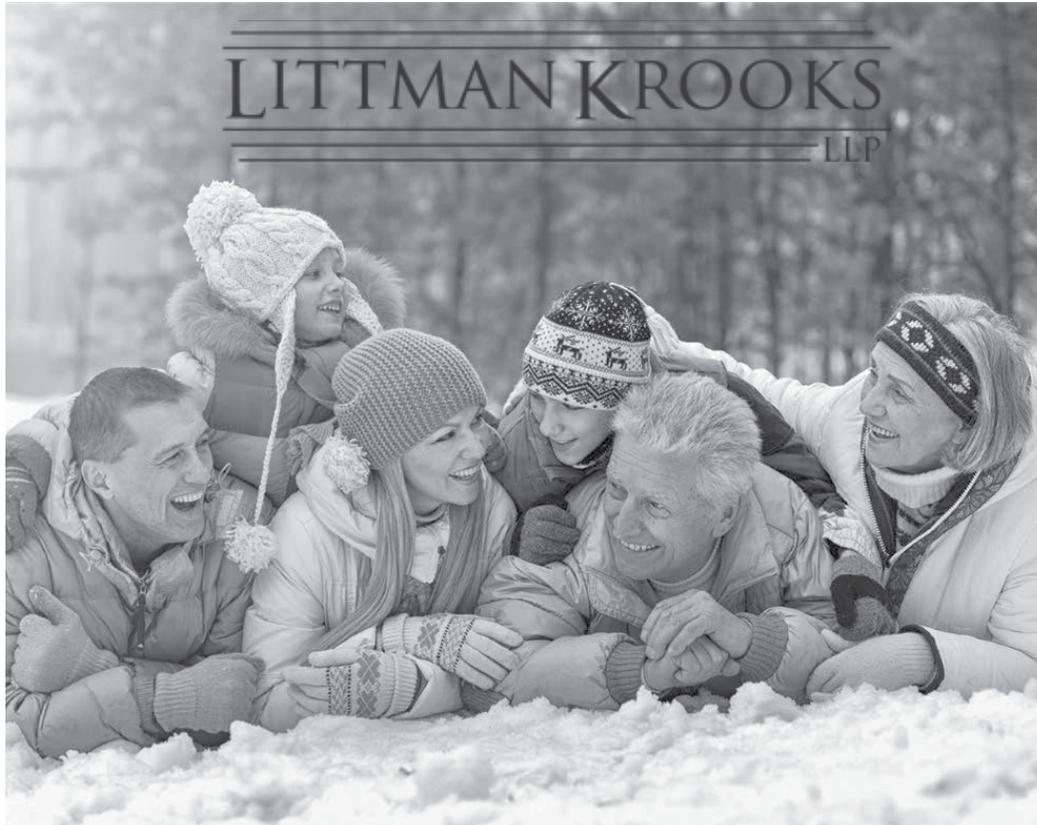
Eney added that she attended the Installation Dinner of new Fire Chiefs Thomas Broderick and Shaun Hughes on February 1.

Under Affairs of the Town, one item was Consideration of Long Island Sound Watershed Intermunicipal Council Bylaws (LISWIC) and Intermunicipal Municipal Agreement (IMA).

“It was waning but we are trying to revive it,” Eney observed. “It is composed of 14 municipalities to jointly address issues such as flooding, storm-water runoff and seeking grants. We feel that it would be more effective if we did it regionally.” The measure was approved.

Appointments to the Recreation Commission included Alexandra Oppenheimer-Delvito and Mary Wender, terms ending December 31, 2031 and December 31, 2032, respectively.

Finally, Town Clerk Allison May noted that people can purchase a single-use daily parking permit for Lot A located at Larchmont Train Center, closest to Myrtle Boulevard, across from Memorial Park for \$10. The Scratch-Off Tickets are valid through 2029. Motorists can hang the regular sized version on their rear view mirror.



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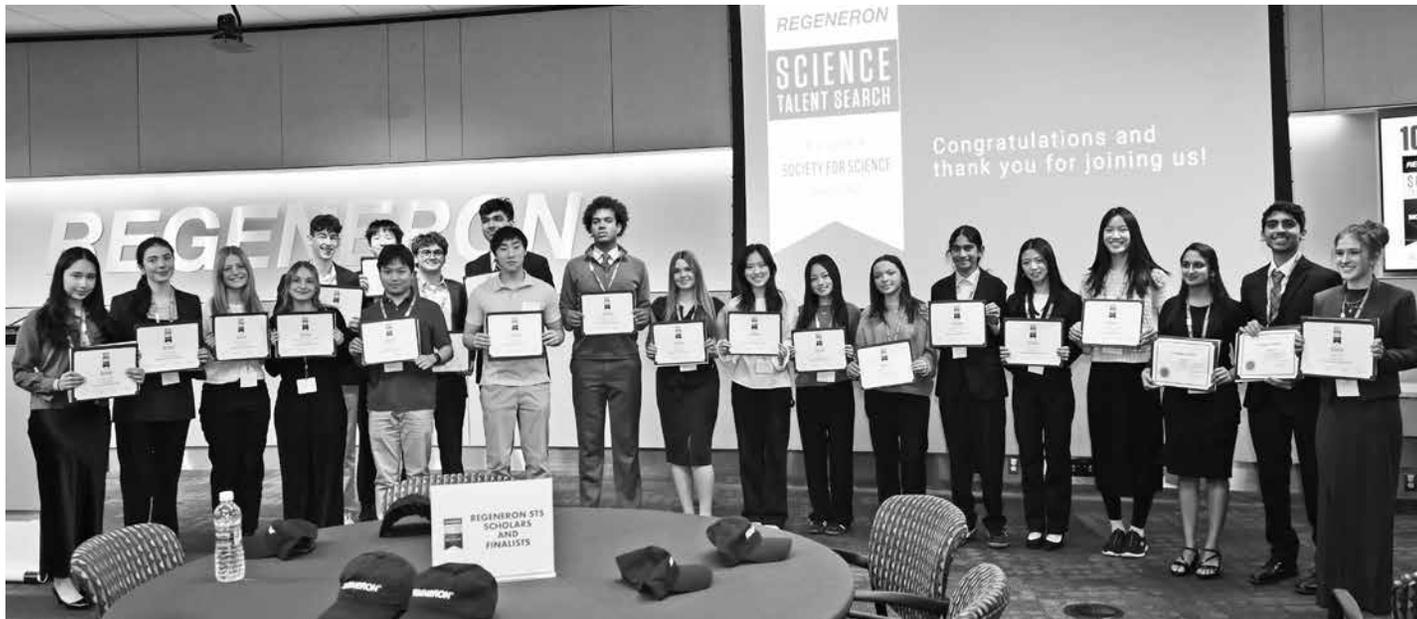
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Board Honors 2026 Regeneron Scholars



Last month, Legislators celebrated 22 Westchester County high school students who were named 2026 Regeneron Science Talent Search (STS) Scholars, including two finalists, selected from a national pool of 2,600 applicants.

The students were chosen as part of a highly competitive group of 300 semi-finalists and finalists in one of the nation's most prestigious science and mathematics competitions, now in its 85th year.

Alumni of the Regeneron Science Talent Search include Nobel laureates, MacArthur Fellows, and recipients of the National Medal of Science. Two Westchester scholars are among the 40 finalists who will travel to Washington, D.C. in March to present their research and compete for the top prize of \$250,000.

Regeneron Pharmaceuticals hosted the annual STS Scholars ceremony at its Tarrytown headquarters, recognizing

outstanding students from 12 Westchester high schools. Legislators presented Certificates of Merit to Scholars from their districts, highlighting the students' innovation, discipline, and commitment to scientific research. The scope and quality of the projects reflect the County's strong academic culture.

Westchester County Board of Legislators Chairman Vedat Gashi (D-New Castle, Ossining, Somers, Yorktown) said,

"Each year, these students raise the bar for academic excellence. Their achievements reflect not only their own talent and determination, but also the vital support of families, teachers, and school communities. Congratulations to all."

Westchester County's 2026 Regeneron Science Talent Search Scholars:

Ardasley High School: Khushi Karthikeyan*, Serina Tomioka
 Byram Hills High School: Max Charney, Lindsay Coady
 Briarcliff High School: Elias Malionek
 Horace Greeley High School: Warren Fu, Kevin Guo, Brady Wang
 Harrison High School: Noelle Roxane Boquet Couderc, Emily Ann Salemo
 Ossining High School: Summerville Beckford

Pelham Memorial High School: Emily Walch

Edgemont High School: Vasu Jain, Ananya Shah

Scarsdale High School: Sonja Xie, Shuyue (Linda) Zhang

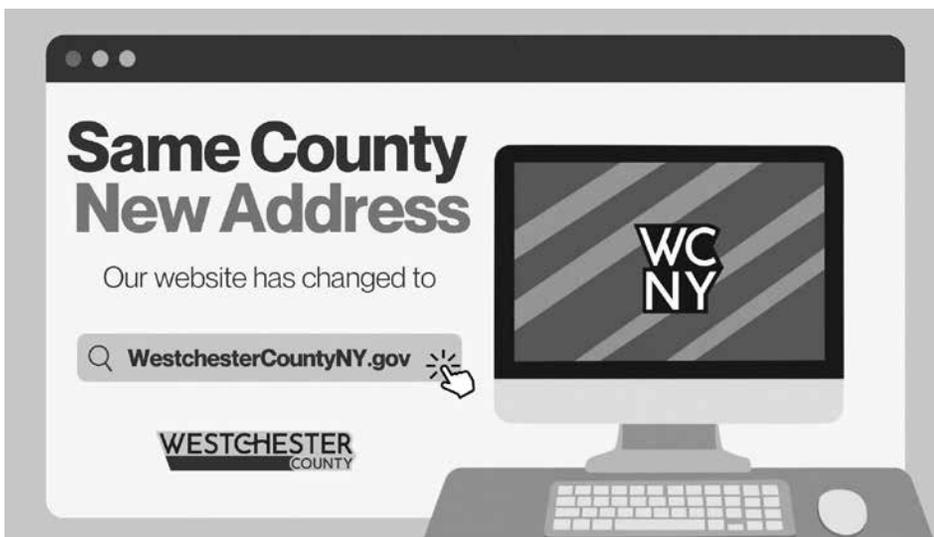
Westlake High School: Elizabeth Lilian Singh

Yorktown High School: Jashvi Desai*, Siddharth Nair, Willa Olson

*Finalists

Same County. New Address.

Westchester County Moves to a Mandated .gov Webpage



Westchester County Government officially transitioned its website domain from westchestergov.com to WestchesterCountyNY.gov effective March 2, reinforcing the County's commitment to transparency, security and public trust.

The previous web address will automatically redirect to the new .gov

site to ensure a seamless experience for residents, businesses and partners.

Westchester County Executive Ken Jenkins said: "This is about clarity, credibility and public confidence. When residents visit a .gov website, they know they are accessing official government information. Moving to WestchesterCountyNY.gov aligns us with federal

standards and strengthens trust in how we communicate with the public. Our goal is simple: make it easier for people to know they are in the right place."

What Changed

- The County's official website address will now be WestchesterCountyNY.gov
- The previous address, westchestergov.com, will redirect automatically

What is not Changing

- County services and programs
- Department pages and content
- Online forms and resources
- How residents access services

The online experience remains the same — only the web address is new.

The transition is part of a broader modernization effort to ensure the County's digital presence reflects best practices in government communications and cybersecurity.

Westchester County Communi-

cation Director Catherine Cioffi said: "When the .com domain was originally selected decades ago, it was viewed as modern and forward-thinking. Today, however, it can create confusion about what is official government information. Additionally, there is also now a federal requirement that government entities use a .gov domain, and that mandate was a key driver behind the County's recent rebranding efforts which removed the website address from our logo. Most importantly, while the address is changing, the content and services residents rely on every day remain exactly where they expect them to be."

Westchester County Chief Information Officer Marguerite Beirne said: "Cybersecurity has been a top strategic priority of the Department of Information Technology for years. Transitioning to a secure, verified .gov domain further strengthens our digital infrastructure and ensures residents can confidently access trusted County

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Westchester County Board of Legislators Announces 2026 Committee Leadership

The Westchester County Board of Legislators has announced committee assignments for the 2026 legislative term, including the creation of a new Intergovernmental Affairs Committee focused on navigating emerging challenges and policy impacts from federal government.

Board Chairman Vedat Gashi (D-New Castle, Ossining, Somers, Yorktown) said, “As we begin 2026, Westchester families are navigating complex challenges. Our legislators bring diverse expertise and deep understanding of local communities to develop practical solutions through our committee system. The newly created Intergovernmental Affairs Committee will provide a dedicated forum to examine how federal actions directly affect state, county, and local government and, ultimately, our residents. There is important work ahead, and the Board is, as always, committed to delivering for the people of Westchester.”

Much of the county legislature’s work is carried out through committees, where legislators focus on specific policy areas, conduct detailed reviews, hear from experts and the public, and evaluate legislation before it comes before the full Board for a vote. By working through committees, legislators are able to shape



policy thoughtfully and ensure proposals are thoroughly vetted.

All committee meetings are open to the public, offering residents an opportunity to follow legislative discussions and stay engaged with issues affecting their communities. Committee meetings for the 2026 term are expected to begin the week of February 2, 2026.

The list of Committee Chairs is as follows:

Budget and Appropriations: Legislator Tyrae Woodson-Samuels (D-Mount Vernon)

Legislation: Legislator Colin D. Smith (D-Cortlandt, Peekskill, Yorktown)

Appointments: Legislator Anant Nambiar (D-Larchmont, Mamaroneck, Rye Neck, Rye, Harrison)

Health: Legislator Jewel Williams Johnson (D-Elmsford, Greenburgh, Tarrytown, White Plains)

Infrastructure and Housing: Majority Whip Shanae Williams (D-Yonkers)

Intergovernmental Affairs: Legislator Emiljana Ulaj (D-Cortlandt, Ossining, Croton, Briarcliff, Buchanan)

Labor: Legislator Jenn Puja (D-White Plains, Scarsdale, West Harrison)

Litigation: Legislator David T. Imamura (D-Ardsley, Dobbs Ferry, Edgemont, Hartsdale, Hastings-on-Hudson, Irvington)

Parks and Environment: Legislator Erika L. Pierce (D-Bedford, Lewisboro, Mount Kisco, North Salem, Pound Ridge, Somers)

Public Safety and Veterans: Legislator David J. Tubiolo (D-Yonkers, Mount Vernon)

Seniors and Youth: Legislator José I. Alvarado (D-Yonkers)

Small Business: Minority Whip James Nolan (R-Yonkers, Eastchester, Bronxville)

Social Services, Disabilities, and Human Rights: Legislator Nancy E. Barr (D-Harrison, Port Chester, Rye Brook)

Same County. New Address.

continued from page 4

information in an increasingly complex online environment.”

As of March 2, residents should update bookmarks and saved links to reflect the new address: WestchesterCountyNY.gov.

The County will continue to share updates across its digital platforms to ensure a smooth transition. The .gov domain is restricted to verified government entities, providing an added layer of public assurance.

Westchester County, located in the heart of the historic Hudson Valley, covers 500 square miles and has a population of just over 1 million. Originally home to Native Americans of the Lenape tribe, it is now a rich mix of diverse cultures and landscapes. The County is a blend of bustling cities, quaint villages, and picturesque towns, as well as open spaces and a network of beautiful parks. Westchester is made up of six cities, 19 towns, and 20 villages.

The County is known for its top-notch public schools and high quality of life. It is also an intellectual capital, boasting a highly educated workforce, competitive colleges and universities, Fortune 500 companies, world-changing nonprofits, and cutting-edge research centers. Westchester is led by County Executive Kenneth W. Jenkins, who took office in January 2025 as the tenth County Executive. Focusing on innovation, Jenkins is leveraging technology and fostering business growth to position Westchester as a dynamic and inclusive destination where everyone can thrive. Learn more about Westchester County by visiting www.westchestergov.com.

Archbishop Stepinac’s “SOUPer Bowl” Food Drive Tops 8,000 Pounds for Westchester Neighbors

Archbishop Stepinac High School scored big for Westchester families last month, delivering more than 8,000 pounds of food to Feeding Westchester as part of its annual “SOUPer Bowl” food drive. This was the eighth year that Stepinac organized the event.

Stepinac students navigated the ice to load a Feeding Westchester truck with cases of soup, ramen, and other donated shelf-stable items. Three other

Westchester schools -- Todd Elementary School of Briarcliff Manor (488 pounds), Alice E. Grady Elementary School of Elmsford (1,420 pounds) and Church Street Elementary in White Plains (300 pounds) -- also contributed to the total.

“This year’s SOUPer Bowl drive shows what’s possible when students put their energy and creativity toward helping their neighbors,” said Danielle



Vasquez, Manager of Retail Recovery and Food Drive Coordinator at Feeding Westchester. They distributed donations directly to local food pantries, schools, and community partners that serve families who struggle to put food on their table.

The SOUPer Bowl food drive has become a Westchester “good news” tradition, blending school spirit, competition, and service around the excitement of the

big game.

“This event is rooted in so much love”, said Elden Agee, a senior at Archbishop Stepinac who spoke on behalf of his fellow students. “Love for our community and appreciation for our community—that’s why we were able to come out and donate this amount of food.”

“For our students, this is about seeing how their actions make a real difference,” said Roxanne Covello, Stepinac Teacher and Coordinator of the

SOUPer Bowl Drive. “They take pride knowing that the food they collected will help families right here in Westchester. Watching them work as a team and support Feeding Westchester is one of the highlights of our school year.”

Feeding Westchester distributed the donated food locally through its network of 175 partner agencies, including food pantries, community centers, and schools across the county.

LM Lions Present the Jack Coughlin Awards



Coughlin Awardees & Presenters: (left to right) LM Lion Nancy Borzain, Friend of the Family Ann DuMoulin, LM Lion and Girl Scout Leader Pat Allen, and LM Lion President Lina Pasquale

The Larchmont Mamaroneck Lions (LM Lions) kicked off their celebration of the Larchmont Lions 100th anniversary year by recognizing and honoring more than 50 community service groups at their January 11 Points of Light Celebration of Service at the Orienta Beach Club in Mamaroneck.

Past International Lions President Douglas Alexander was the keynote speaker. The centerpiece was the presentation of the Lions Jack Coughlin Community Service Awards to Girl Scout Leader Pat Allen and Larchmont Friends of the Family. This award, named in memory of long time Lion and founder of Coughlin Insurance, Jack Coughlin, recognizes a group and an individual for outstanding and dedicated service to the Larchmont Mamaroneck community.

The Points of Light celebration of community service is the primary fundraiser for the LM Lions Foundation—the 501c3 financial resource at the center of LM Lions support of many service groups. All donations are 100 percent tax deductible.

The LM Lions would like to thank Roaring Sponsors Pat Allen & Nancy Joselson, Visionary Sponsors The Coughlin Group and Orange Bank and other sponsors and donors for their support.

Spotlight on Your Emergency Services Personnel: Meet Larchmont Detective Michael Genkerell

Detective Genkerell has worked in the Larchmont Police Department since 2021. He began his career in law enforcement in 2016 with the New York Police Department where he worked in the Bronx in both the traffic and patrol divisions.

Detective Genkerell grew up in northern Westchester and before his career in law enforcement he worked in civil service for a town's Department of Public Works.

His current responsibilities in the police department are as a certified Motorcycle Officer, an assistant grant writer and a detective assigned to patrol. In his personal life, Detective Genkerell enjoys hiking and exploring National Parks.



Larchmont Emergency Responders Praised for Work During Blizzard

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Middle School Gym from 11 AM to 2 PM. Gifts and prizes will be awarded to participants. He also noted the retirement of Police Lieutenant Ronald Knudsen after 37 years of service.

Katzin addressed Resolutions, the first being participation in the Long Island Sound Watershed Intermunicipal Council (LISWIC) and approval of an Intermunicipal Agreement. "LISWIC is made up of municipalities throughout the Long Island Sound Watershed Coastline including Scarsdale, Harrison, White Plains and Town of Mamaroneck," he said. "LISWIC has served as an organiza-

tion that disseminates best practices for shoreline protection, flood mitigation, stormwater management, education and coordination."

Another Resolution schedules a Public Hearing regarding a Real Property Tax Levy in excess of the New York State Tax Cap and Regulation of Conduct in Village Parks.

Resolutions Approved at prior Work Sessions: authorization to execute quote from Proacademic Partners for \$10,000 for Village Treasurer recruitment; motion to appoint Brittanie O'Neill as Registrar of Vital Statistics and Licensing Agent.

Senator Shelley Mayer Hosts Successful Toiletry Drive with LifeWay Network

continued from page 2

part of a community that consistently helps our neighbors in need. I extend my heartfelt thanks to the Yonkers Grinton I. Will Public Library, Pound Ridge Town House, and Mamaroneck Public Library for allowing us to use your spaces as donation locations. Thank you to all who contributed, and a special thanks to Ali Boak, Pound Ridge Council Member and Executive Director of LifeWay Network, for your partnership, efforts, and lifelong advocacy—as well as the entire LifeWay Network team for their outstanding work in supporting victims of trafficking. I also would like to extend a special thanks to St. Thomas Mar Thoma Church Youth Fellowship, for putting extra care into creating bags of supplies for survivors."

Alison Boak, Executive Director, LifeWay Network, said, "LifeWay Network is deeply grateful to New York State Senator Shelley Mayer for her leadership and generosity in leading a toiletry drive in honor

of Human Trafficking Awareness Month. Her commitment helps ensure that survivors have access to the dignity, care, and essentials they need as they rebuild their lives. We also thank Senator Mayer for her ongoing dedication to justice, equity, and the protection of women's rights—values that are vital to creating safer, more just communities for all. It's so heartening to see the community's overwhelming response! The toiletries we received will supply the women we serve through the end of 2026, allowing LifeWay to provide more than 4,000 safe nights of housing."

LifeWay Network's Safe Housing Program is one of only two programs in New York's metropolitan area that provides safe housing for women survivors of human trafficking and is the only program that offers safe housing for both domestic and foreign-born survivors of labor and sex trafficking.



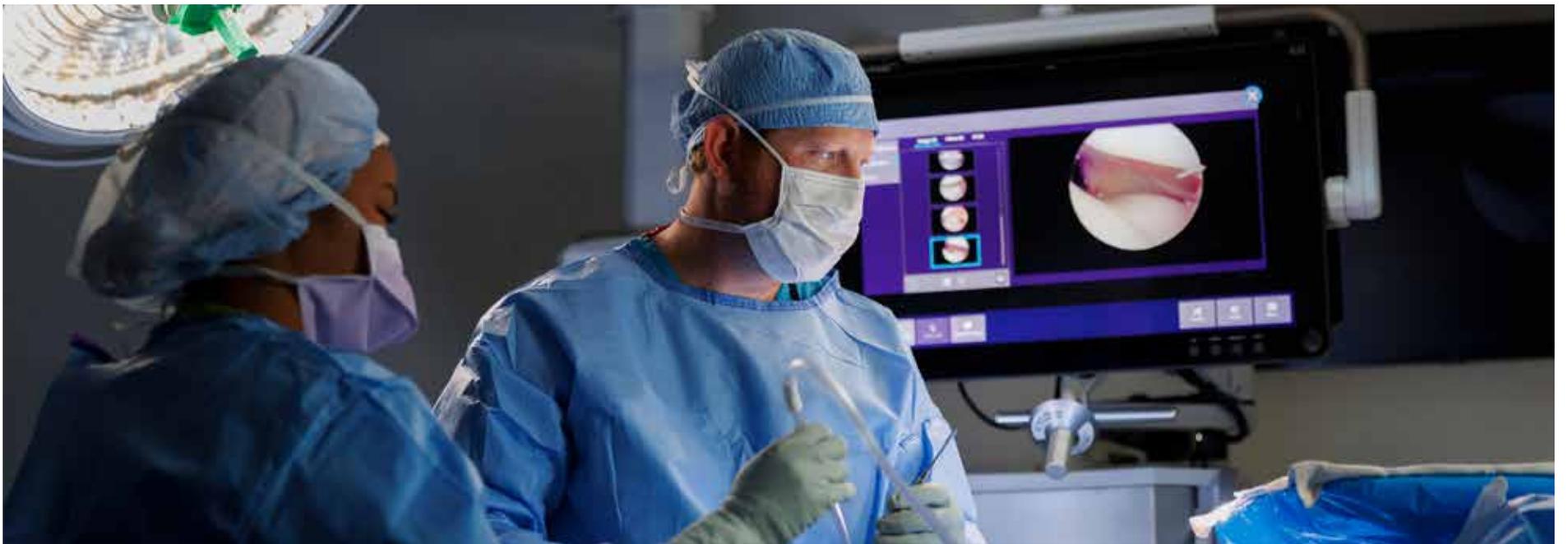
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LMC Media Appoints Veteran HBO Executive and Mamaroneck Resident Leslie Cohen to Board of Directors

LMC Media, provider of community-focused media for the Larchmont and Mamaroneck communities, appointed Leslie Cohen, a senior film and content executive with more than 30 years of experience, to its Board of Directors.

“Leslie is a titan in the media industry, but more importantly, she is a dedicated member of our community,” said Matt Sullivan, Executive Director of LMC Media. “Her ability to identify groundbreaking content and her deep experience in deal-making for global brands like HBO will be transformative for LMC. We are honored to have her guidance as we continue to evolve our digital platforms and community programming.”

Since leaving HBO, Cohen has continued to shape film and television projects defined by cultural impact and creative excellence. Her work includes serving as Head of Global Acquisitions for The Mediapro Studio, executive producing independent films, and currently overseeing content development tied to the iconic Wynwood Walls at Goldman Global Arts. Career highlights include negotiating major studio library deals, securing the Academy Award-winning Drive My Car, and executive producing the SXSW Audience Award-winning film Brownsville Bred.

“As a resident of Mamaroneck, I have seen firsthand the vital role LMC Media



Leslie Cohen

plays in keeping our community connected and informed,” said Cohen. “I am thrilled to join the Board and look forward to using my experience in content curation and acquisition to help LMC share the unique voices and stories of our neighbors with even greater impact.”

Cohen has a bachelor’s degree from Dartmouth College and an MBA from New York University Stern School of Business. She also serves on the Advisory Board for the Gasparilla International Film Festival and is a member of the International Academy of Television Arts and Sciences as well as the British Academy of Film and Television Arts. She resides in Mamaroneck with her husband, Dan Cohen and has two grown children.

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Mamaroneck High School Magazine Receives National Recognition

Mamaroneck High School’s Art & Literary Magazine, *Calliope*, has been recognized as an Excellent magazine by the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE).

Student editors and seniors Chantal Lanausse and Theresa Maver (pictured) credit the amazing teamwork of their fellow MHS students. “Without the dedication and passion students have for literature and artwork, *Calliope* would not be as successful as it is,” said Lanausse. “There is no *Calliope* without the students,” she emphasized.

Lanausse and Maver agree that bringing *Calliope* to completion was a challenging but rewarding experience. They also credit their dedicated faculty advisors, James Short and Juliana Zalon. “Without their continued support and encouragement, *Calliope* would be nowhere near as successful,” added Maver.

This year, schools in 44 states, Washington, D.C., and six countries nominated 456 student magazines. Middle school, high school, and higher education publications were all eligible for the 2025 contest.

The REALM program publicly recognizes excellent literary magazines produced by students with the support of their teachers. REALM is designed to encourage schools to develop literary magazines that celebrate the art and craft of writing.



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Artificial Intelligence: Promise, Peril, and the Path Forward

BY RANDAL IKEDA

Artificial intelligence is rapidly transforming how we live and work. From drafting emails and generating images to assisting with retirement planning, AI tools are becoming part of everyday life. But as their capabilities expand, so do concerns about ethics, risk, and societal impact. At the Larchmont/Mamaroneck Local Summit on February 10, Lee Huang, an AI coach, and Dave Ingram, retired risk management consultant and Managing Editor of the Society of Actuaries' AI Bulletin, explored both the promise and the pitfalls of this powerful technology.

Their shared message: AI is a remarkable tool—but it requires thoughtful use.

AI as an Everyday Resource: Lee Huang began by making AI approachable. While often associated with big tech, today's AI tools require no coding skills. "You just need to know how to ask good questions," he explained.

AI can help plan travel, summarize complex topics, identify plants and animals from photos, compare products, and assist with financial planning. It can generate presentations, refine communications by adjusting tone, and even help users write creative works—such as a sequel to a favorite novel. Used well, AI can save time, reduce costs, and open new possibilities.

However, Lee cautioned that AI is not



a substitute for professional advice. "All AI makes mistakes." It can inform decisions, but it should not replace lawyers, doctors, or financial advisors in high-stakes matters.

Understanding the Risks: Dave Ingram highlighted a critical distinction: AI sounds human, but it does not think or understand truth. Large language models are trained to generate sentences based on patterns in data—not to determine what is true or false. "AI does not know when it is making mistakes," he noted.

Because of this, users must double-check conclusions, particularly when numbers or complex analysis are involved. Overreliance can lead to diminished critical thinking and what some fear may become "mental laziness." Human judgment remains essential.

The Rise of AI-Enabled Scams: A major concern discussed at the Local Summit was the growing sophistication of AI-driven fraud. Scammers now use AI to craft convincing emails and messages by skimming personal

information online. Even more troubling, AI can replicate a person's voice with increasing accuracy.

Traditional cues—how something "looks and feels"—are no longer reliable indicators of authenticity. Scammers often create urgency and request hard-to-trace payments such as cryptocurrency.

Both speakers emphasized slowing down. Verify email origins. Avoid responding to unknown callers. Confirm financial requests directly with institutions. Some families have adopted "safe words" to confirm identity during emergencies. There is no single solution, but caution and patience are powerful defenses.

Misinformation and a Changing Society: Audience members raised concerns about fake news and deepfakes entering AI systems. While efforts are underway to improve data quality, misinformation remains a challenge. AI-generated images, videos, and even online "influencers" can be entirely fabricated—and are increasingly difficult to detect.

There are also broader societal questions. Younger generations are growing up with AI-integrated tools and even digital companionship. As technology evolves, so does the way we relate to information—and

to one another.

Jobs, Skills, and the Human Role: Despite the risks, both panelists expressed cautious optimism. AI will reshape the workforce, but it will also create opportunities—particularly for those who can guide AI effectively and critically evaluate its outputs. Skills such as interpersonal communication, sales, personal care, and critical thinking remain distinctly human strengths.

AI may enhance decision-making, but it should remain a tool—not a co-pilot that replaces human responsibility.

Artificial intelligence is neither inherently good nor bad. It amplifies human capability—and human vulnerability. As our community adapts to this new landscape, the challenge is clear: embrace innovation while preserving discernment.

The future of AI will depend not just on the technology itself, but on how wisely we choose to use it.

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. The next meeting, on March 10 at 8 AM at the Nautilus Diner in Mamaroneck, will discuss "Complete Street and Traffic Safety." For more information, go to <https://www.localsummitlm.org/>. To view recorded programs on LMC Media, go to <https://lmcmedia.org/>.

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Westchester County Executive Ken Jenkins Hosts Annual Lunar New Year Reception

Westchester County Executive Ken Jenkins hosted a Lunar New Year celebration at the Michaelian Office Building, marking the Year of the Horse and recognizing outstanding contributions from members of the Asian American community.

The celebration also featured recognition led by community partners behind the Asian Hall of Fame Westchester. Organizations including the Westchester Association of Chinese Americans, the India Center of Westchester, the Indian American Cultural Association of Westchester, OCA Westchester and Hudson Valley Chapter, the Westchester County Asian American Advisory Board and the Westchester County Board of Legislators honored the inaugural group of inductees. The recognition honored individuals whose leadership, service and achievements have strengthened Westchester's civic life and cultural landscape.

Jenkins said: "Lunar New Year is a time to honor tradition and recognize the communities that help make Westchester the place it is today. The Asian American community has contributed enormously to our County's cultural life, economy and civic leadership. Celebrations like this are important because they bring people together and remind us that our diversity is one of our greatest strengths."

Asian American Advisory Board Co-Chair Koji Sato said: "This celebration



reflects the pride and resilience of the Asian American community in Westchester. Lunar New Year is about family, hope and moving forward together, and it means a great deal to see our traditions recognized and embraced. We appreciate the County's continued partnership and commitment to ensuring our voices and cultures are respected."

Asian American Advisory Board Co-Chair Nandini Anandu said: "Lunar New Year is about shared values such as resilience and hope. Bringing people together around those values strengthens

our community and deepens mutual respect. I am so appreciative of the County's efforts to make every community feel represented."

Director of Minority and Women-Owned Business Development Martha Lopez said: "Recognizing Lunar New Year is about acknowledging the history and contributions of the Asian American community in Westchester. It also reflects the progress we continue to make as a County that values inclusion and cultural awareness across our communities."

2026 Asian Hall of Fame Inductees:

- Ang Lee — Internationally acclaimed film director whose work bridges cultures and explores universal human experiences.

- Shih-Ying Brenda Sun — Community leader and co-founder of the Westchester Association of Chinese Americans (WACA) and the Evergreen Senior Club, recognized for decades of service supporting immigrant families and seniors.

- Tejash V. Sanchala — Executive Director at Westchester County's Human Rights Commission. Honored as an Exemplary Civic Leader for his commitment to public service, cross-community collaboration, and inclusive leadership.

Lunar New Year is observed by many cultures across Asia and around the world and marks the beginning of the lunar calendar. The holiday is traditionally celebrated through family gatherings, symbolic foods and cultural customs that emphasize good fortune and hope for the year ahead.

The Lunar New Year celebration served as a reminder of Westchester County's dedication to honoring cultural traditions while providing a moment for residents to learn more about its roots. Through events like this, the County continues to support opportunities for residents to learn from one another and celebrate the diverse cultures that enrich life throughout Westchester year-round.

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

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

Partners Ro Flanagan, Shane Clifford and Chef Brendan Donohue, proprietors of popular Jack's Bar & Kitchen, a popular Irish American tavern in Eastchester, premiered Jill's Bar & Restaurant in Mamaroneck, across from Harbor Island Park. Jill's, a colorful ode to modern Ireland, serves a winning combination of gastropub favorites and modern-American and European specialties along with a good

dose of hospitality. A special menu will be served including such traditional favorites as Corned Beef & Cabbage, Fresh Cod & Chips, and Shephard's Pie. There's also Truffle Parm Fries, Chili Roasted Cauliflower, Lobster Cobb Salad, Braised Beef Short Ribs, Ahi Tuna Bowl, and Surf & Turf Tacos. Jill's, 100 W. Boston Post Road, Mamaroneck, off the corner of Mamaroneck Ave. Happy Hours. Weekend brunch. 914-341-1776 www.jillsbarandrestaurant.com

Jack's Bar & Restaurant, 219 Main St., Eastchester. Owner Shane Clifford and his friendly crew have all the good cheer, TVs and finger foods you want. Generous specialties coming out of Chef Brendan Donohue's kitchen include traditional Corned Beef & Cabbage; Double-Stacked Smash Burger; Shepherd's Pie; decadent Short Rib Mac N' Cheese; Jack's Meatballs; Seared Scallops; Chicken Curry; Shroom Pizza out of their woodfired oven; Berkshire Pork Chop; and Grilled Lamb Sliders.

914-652-7650 www.jackseastchester.com

I recently got back to the Beechmont Tavern, across from IONA University in New Rochelle. It has been around since 1928, they say, and proprietor Rob Hayes keeps the place warm and buzzing. We ordered their popular traditional chicken wings, a Gael burger and fries, and a summery goat cheese and pear salad. We shared. All were great. Beechmont Tavern, 750 North Ave., New Rochelle. Open 7 days. 914-636-9533 www.beechmonttavern.com

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

Rory Dolan's, 890 McLean Ave., Yonkers. To many in the greater Westchester Irish community this is the motherload. There will be traditional feasting galore all day and evening. Try to get there off peak, if possible. There is a parking lot. Visit Rory's newest spot in White Plains: Archie Grand. 914-776-2946 www.rorydolans.com

Wolf & Warrior Brewing Co., 195A E. Post Road, White Plains. Brewmeister Michael Chiltern brought White Plains a bustling microbrewery and it's a good one. The daily brews are listed on a big colorful blackboard. A comforting kitchen menu, too. Chiltern promises an authentic Irish home brew to mark the occasion. 914-368-8617 www.wolfandwarrior.com

(Morris Gut 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)

What Is a Trust? A Plain-English Guide to an Often Overlooked Estate Planning Tool



BY BERNARD A. KROOKS, CERTIFIED ELDER LAW ATTORNEY
SPECIAL GUEST CONTRIBUTOR:
AMY C. O'HARA, CERTIFIED ELDER LAW ATTORNEY

When people think about estate planning, they often think first of a will. While a will is an important document, it is only one of many tools available to help people plan for the future. Another tool that is frequently misunderstood or overlooked is a trust. Trusts are not reserved for the wealthy, nor are they inherently complicated. In fact, for many families, a trust can be one of the most effective and flexible ways to manage and protect assets during life and after death.

At its most basic level, a trust is a legal arrangement that allows property to be held and managed for the benefit of someone else. When a trust is created, assets are transferred into the

trust and are no longer owned outright by an individual. Instead, the trust becomes the owner of those assets, and they are managed according to the written instructions set forth in the trust agreement. Those instructions determine how the assets are invested, used, and eventually distributed.

The person who creates the trust is commonly referred to as the grantor, settlor, creator, or trustor. This is the individual who decides which assets will be placed into the trust, who will benefit from the trust, who will manage the trust, and under what circumstances distributions may be made. A trust may be created during a person's lifetime or upon death, and it can be customized to reflect the grantor's specific family situation, financial goals, and long-term concerns.

Every trust has at least one beneficiary. The beneficiary is the person or organization for whose benefit the trust exists. Beneficiaries may include children, grandchildren, spouses, individuals with disabilities, or charitable organizations. Depending on the terms of the trust, a beneficiary may be entitled to receive income, principal, or both. In some trusts, distributions are required at certain times or ages, while in others, distributions are left to the discretion of the trustee to ensure that funds are used appropriately.

The trustee is the individual or institution responsible for managing the trust. The trustee's role is fiduciary in nature, meaning the trustee is legally obligated to act in the best interests of the beneficiaries and in accordance with the terms of the trust document. Trustees are responsible for managing investments, paying expenses, maintaining records, filing required tax returns, and making distributions. A trustee may be a family member, a trusted friend, a professional advisor, or a corporate trustee such as a bank or trust company. With some trusts, a person creating a trust serves as the initial trustee and names successor trustees to step in if they can no longer serve.

Trusts also have tax and reporting considerations that vary depending on the type of trust created. Some trusts use the grantor's Social Security Number and do not require separate income tax filings during the grantor's lifetime, while others require their own tax identification number and annual tax returns. Depending on the structure of the trust, income may be taxed to the trust, the grantor, or the beneficiaries. While these rules can seem complex, proper planning ensures that reporting requirements are met and that tax consequences are understood and managed.

There are many different types of trusts, each designed to serve a particular purpose. Some trusts are revocable and allow the grantor to retain control and make changes during their lifetime. Others are irrevocable and are commonly used for tax planning, asset protection, Medicaid planning, or planning for a loved one with special needs. Trusts may be designed to support a surviving spouse, preserve assets for children, or provide long-term oversight for beneficiaries who may not be ready or able to manage assets outright.

Trusts are governed largely by state law, and the rules can vary significantly from one state to another. State law determines how a trust must be created, what language is required for certain types of trusts, how trustees may act, and how trusts are taxed and administered. A trust that is not properly drafted may not function as intended or may even be invalid. For that reason, trusts should always be prepared and reviewed with careful attention to applicable state law to ensure they are properly established, enforceable, and aligned with the grantor's goals.

Despite their usefulness, trusts are often overlooked because they are perceived as unnecessary, expensive, or overly complex. In reality, trusts can address issues that a will alone cannot, such as avoiding probate, maintaining privacy, planning for incapacity, protecting beneficiaries from creditors, or ensuring that assets are used over time rather than distributed all at once.

In the end, a trust is not about making an estate plan complicated. It is about creating a plan that reflects your wishes, protects your loved ones, and provides clarity and stability for the future. For many individuals and families, a trust is not just a helpful addition to an estate plan but rather it is an essential one.

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 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.

What Tom Hagen (Robert Duvall) and Michael Corleone (Al Pacino) Can Teach Us



BY JOHN CATTAU,
MANAGING PARTNER OF KIRK CREEK
INSURANCE SERVICES, LLC

With Robert Duvall's recent passing, I had to flick on Mario Puzo's *The Godfather* (for the 1,597th time). You'll recall, after the Don was shot, Hagen attempts to calm Sonny down (James Cahn): "Even the shooting of your father was business, not person-

al, Sonny!"

And that, Mario Puzo screenplay fanboys, may be the healthiest way to think about your insurance policy.

Loyalty. You might be fooled into thinking that sticking with the same carrier for years is a virtue, even when premiums climb. It feels like you are being disloyal if you ask for a quote. But smart consumers comparison-shop mortgages, cell phone plans, even garbage collection. Reviewing your insurance should feel just as normal.

And remember that insurance companies don't price based on loyalty. They price based on risk models, claims data, and market cycles. The carrier that was most competitive for you three years ago may not be today.

Here's the good news: You can shop your insurance at any time—even mid-policy. Most companies will

refund unused premium if you switch. There's no penalty for reviewing your options.

Shopping doesn't mean chasing the cheapest number. It means reviewing the contract carefully: deductibles, replacement cost assumptions, liability limits, exclusions.

So this year, pretend that your insurance carrier is named Sonny, and repeat Michael's famous follow up line to yourself (echoing Tom's line earlier in the scene): "It's not personal, Sonny. It's strictly business." Because when it comes to protecting your home, car, and assets, it's not personal.

John Cattau, Managing Partner of Kirk Creek Insurance Services, LLC is a New York State licensed insurance broker BR-1917908. He can be reached at 929-456-2265. Visit www.kirkcreekinsurance.com for more information.

Notes From A Therapist



BY HILLARY VOLPER, LCSW

A myriad of things come at us each day, and we must learn to see them simply as that—things happening. Life brings a constant stream of events, some pleasant, some neutral and others uncomfortable. Our task is not to identify personally with every unpleasant moment, but to observe them from a wider bird's-eye view rather than a narrow, microscopic one.

When we analyze and dwell excessively on what happens to us, we begin to identify with our thoughts, and before we know it, the mind fills with unease. This can create a snowball effect, leaving us overwhelmed. Instead, we should resist the urge to cling or fight against events. See them exactly as they are—temporary occurrences passing through our lives.

I once worked with someone who feared his boss intensely. Each time he was called into the office, he assumed the worst—that he was about to be fired. One day, instead of criticism, he received praise. By realizing this was simply his boss's unpredictable communication style, he learned not to spiral into anxiety. Our job is to pause, observe where our reactions come from, and how we can turn ordinary events into imagined catastrophes.

Hillary Volper, LCSW, conducts individual psychotherapy both in-person and via telehealth. She has offices in New York City and in Larchmont and can be reached at 914-980-7980. Visit www.HillaryVolper.com for more information.

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Larchmont Calendar



Ballet
Through Sunday, March 29
Gallery hours are Monday to Saturday, 10 AM to 6 PM
Sunday, Noon to 5 PM
Leica Gallery New York, 406 West 13th St., New York City
Ballet, a three-person exhibit, features works by Henry Leutwyler, Diana Markosian, and Kylie Shea that explore the discipline, vulnerability, and transcendence of dance. For more information, call (332) 222-1690.

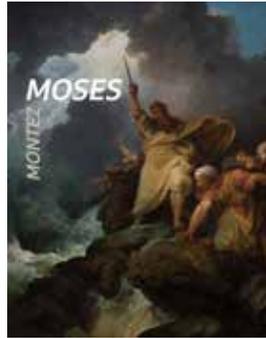


Ying Quartet
Sunday, March 15, 4 PM
Congregation Emanu-El of Westchester, 2125 Westchester Avenue, Rye
The Ying Quartet—Robin Scott and Janet Ying (violins), Phillip Ying (viola) and David Ying (cello)—will perform a program of music by Haydn, Beethoven and Billy Childs. A wine and cheese reception will follow the performance. Advance tickets are \$45. For tickets, go to <https://www.westchesterchambermusicsociety.com/tickets-donations.html>



Casablanca (1942): The 100th Anniversary Movie of the Month
Friday, March 20, 1 PM to 3 PM
Larchmont Public Library, 121 Larchmont Avenue
Academy Award winners Humphrey

Bogart and Ingrid Bergman light up the screen in one of the most enduring romances in movie history. 2026 is the Larchmont Public Library's 100th anniversary, and each month celebrates a different decade of the past century. March events take a look back at the 1940s. For more information, email Paul Doherty at pdoherty@larchmontlibrary.org.



Moses
Saturday, March 21, 2 PM
Sunday, March 22, 3 PM
St. Columbanus Church, 122 Oregon Road, Cortlandt Manor
The Taconic Opera will perform the world premiere of *Moses*, written and conducted by Dan Montez. This sacred and devotional opera tackles the larger than life character of the man who freed Israel from Egypt, who parted the Red Sea, and brought the world the Ten Commandments. Tickets are \$40, \$33 for seniors and \$15 for students. For tickets, go to <https://taconicopera.org/Tickets/>

Open Call to Artists
Through Sunday, March 22
Mamaroneck Artists' Guild, 1987 Palmer Avenue, Larchmont
Open call to artists to submit works for the 21st Annual Open Juried Small Works Show held from Wednesday, April 22 to Saturday, May 16. The exhibition will include original work in any media, 2-D or 3-D (including crafts) completed after January 2023. Only original artwork will be accepted. Juror is Ellen Hawley. For more information, go to <https://mamaroneckartistsguild.org/2026-small-works-open-juried-show-submission/>

Noriko's Seed Library
Through Saturday, March 28
Larchmont Public Library, 121 Larchmont Avenue
The seed library, in memory of Noriko Matsumoto Goroff, promotes environmental sustainability in the community by helping gardeners create at-home gardens. Seeds were purchased from the Hudson Valley Seed Company, with a focus on organic, easy-to-grow, native seeds. Each family may select up to five packets of seeds. For more information, email Kim Larsen at klarsen@larchmontlibrary.org.

Think Big: Large Works by MAG
Monday, March 2 to Saturday, March 28
Rye Arts Center, 51 Milton Road
Members of the Mamaroneck Artists' Guild will display large works of art. Reception will be held on Friday, March 6, from 6 PM to 8 PM. For more information, call (914) 834-1117.

Tablao Flamenco
Friday, March 6, 8 PM
Emelin Theatre, 153 Library Lane, Mamaroneck
Experience the intensity, passion, and artistry of Tablao Flamenco, performed by Flamenco Vivo Carlota Santana, one of the nation's most acclaimed flamenco companies. Featuring an international cast of dancers and musicians, Tablao Flamenco celebrates the improvisational spirit and emotional power that define this centuries-old Spanish art form. Learn more at <https://emelin.org/event/flamenco-vivo-carlota-santana-tablao/>

Madcap Mysteries
Saturday, March 7, 1 PM
Mamaroneck Public Library, 136 Prospect Avenue
Step into the shady glamour of a speakeasy at Madcap Mysteries, an immersive experience where every guest is deputized to crack the case. Led by Detective Frankie Horsham (aka improv comedian Walt Fraiser), hunt for clues, interrogate costumed suspects, and help solve a completely original mystery. Speakeasy attire is encouraged, and you can bring non-alcoholic beverages and snacks to share during the open-

ing social hour. To register, go to https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeITvE3Ua-JxoN3ZazFGQz1qoCXPp5GDEeJFCzSqhk8_v4Ds9g/viewform.

International Women's Day: A Chamber Music Celebration
Sunday, March 8, 4 PM to 5:30 PM
St. Barnabas Church, 2 Revolutionary Road, Ardsley
The Solace Trio—April Johnson (violin), Peter Seidenberg (cello), and Tomoko Uchino (piano)—will perform works by female composers written between 1846 and 2023. Composers include Fanny Mendelssohn, Amy Beach, Mel Bonis, and living composers Jennifer Higdon, Reena Esmail, and Andrea Cassarubios. Tickets are \$40. Learn more at <https://riverarts.org/event/womens-day-chamber-music/>

St. Patrick's Day & All Things Irish
Cello Concert with Alexander Prizgintas
Saturday, March 14, 3 PM
Mamaroneck Public Library, 136 Prospect Avenue
An exciting way to celebrate Irish spirits and all things green! Enjoy beautiful cello music from traditional to modern Irish tunes from historian and musician Alex Prizgintas. To register, go to mamaronecklibrary.org/events.

Joe Carvin to Lead the 2026 Sound Shore St. Patrick's Day Parade

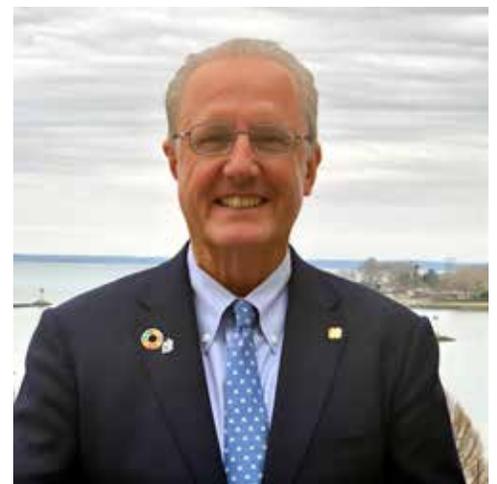
The Sound Shore St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee named Joe Carvin of Port Chester the 2026 Parade Grand Marshal. Carvin will lead the Parade as its 14th official Grand Marshal on Sunday, March 22.

He will be formally honored with the official Grand Marshal Sash at the annual Hearts & Shamrocks Party on Thursday, March 5 at Hampshire Country Club, 1025 Cove Road, Mamaroneck.

A respected community leader with a distinguished global career, Carvin embodies the spirit of service, leadership, and cultural pride that the Parade celebrates each year. Carvin has lived and worked on five continents, speaks five languages, and built a three-decade career in emerging-markets finance before transitioning into public service and global education.

The Sound Shore St. Patrick's Day Parade celebrates Irish-American heritage and the American immigrant experience, uniting the Sound Shore community from Port Chester to The Pelhams. In addition to honoring cultural tradition, the Parade supports local education through its Scholarship Fund, which has awarded more than \$60,000 in scholarships to deserving Sound Shore students.

For more information on how to march, volunteer, or sponsor the parade, visit www.SoundShoreParade.com.



Joe Carvin

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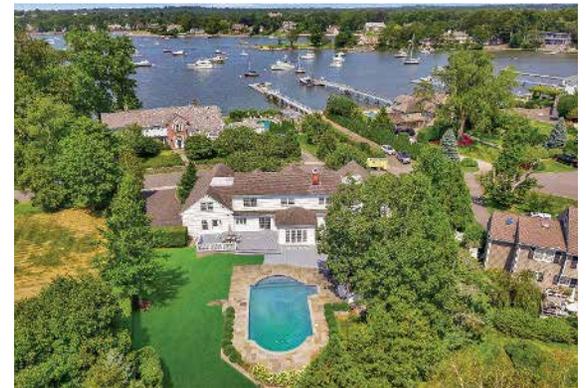


32 PRYER LANE, LARCHMONT

Prime Waterfront. This private and exclusive property in Larchmont Manor has 0.73 acres on Premium River.

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Pollena Forsman



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Edith Roth/William Roth



31 EMERSON ROAD, LARCHMONT

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Catherine DeVore



4 LAFAYETTE ROAD, LARCHMONT

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Cini Palmer



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