

Larchmont Ledger



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IN THIS ISSUE: WW Magazine Summer 2026!

Mamaroneck to Improve Garbage Facilities

BY STEPHEN E. LIPKEN



Mamaroneck Town Supervisor Jaine Elkind Eney

Mamaroneck Town Supervisor Jaine Elkind Eney called the May 4 Town Council meeting to order, saying that she attended County Executive Ken Jenkins' first State of the County Address. "The County Executive outlined the accomplishments of the County as well as his vision for the future. He declared that Westchester County is grounded in hope, progress and the belief that Westchester remains a beacon of stability, civility and strength in an often-uncertain world," Eney noted.

On April 24, the Arbor Day Foundation honored Mamaroneck with "Tree City U.S.A." status. A tree was planted in Memorial Park. "I want to thank Conservation Planner Elizabeth Aitchison and Highway Department Foreman John Barreto," Eney said.

In other Town Business, a local law proposes reducing the side and rear yard setbacks for central air conditioning to five feet, referred to the Planning Board as required by Town Code Section 240-92B.

Next, a Public Hearing was held regarding the increase and improvement of Garbage District No.1, being the Town's share of improvements to a garbage incinerator, including incidental equipment and expenses at a maximum estimated cost of \$839,000. This also encompasses Garbage District #1 Incinerator Demolition.

The capital project has been determined to be an Unlisted Action pursuant to the regulations of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation pursuant to the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA), the implementation of which as proposed, it has been determined will not result in any adverse environmental effect.

Two Appointed to Larchmont Library Board

BY STEPHEN E. LIPKEN

Larchmont Village Trustee Ian Post announced the appointment of Celeste Sharpe to the Library Board of Trustees and Lauren Gottfried as Chair of the Library Board of Trustees at the May 18 village board meeting.

The meeting began with a Public Hearing to consider a local law to extend by two months the duration of the temporary moratorium established by Local Law #6-2025, which established a six-month moratorium prohibiting the review and approval of applications and issuance of permits for convenience stores in the Village.

Mayor Sarah Bauer stated that this extension was to allow a little more time because the Village Attorney is working on a Draft Law for the Board to review.

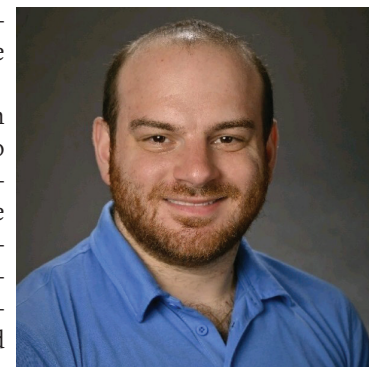
Kevin O'Brien noted that he is one of the property owners that this law affects, 2406 Boston Post Road, containing a shuttered gas station.

"We filed applications to completely raze and rebuild that service station, requesting protective security fencing [to alleviate cited violations for the abandoned site] and are working with the Village's Planning Consultant," O'Brien remarked.

The extension of the moratorium was moved and seconded.

Next, Village Administrator Aylone Katzin said that new Village Hall hours are 9:30 AM to 3 PM effective May 26. He acknowledged complaints regarding rat infestations at the Larchmont Metro-North Train Station. "We are actively working with local business owners to resolve this issue, including proper garbage disposal.

continued on page 6



Aylone Katzin

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Songcatchers Receives \$21,000 in Grants from New Rochelle's THRIVE Program

Songcatchers has been awarded two grants through the City of New Rochelle's THRIVE Program, supporting collaborative partnerships that expand arts access and educational opportunities for local youth.

The first award, a \$15,000 THRIVE grant, is a partnership between Songcatchers and the Boys & Girls Club of New Rochelle (BGCNR). Through this initiative, the Boys & Girls Club will transport participating students to Songcatchers for weekly music instruction throughout the year. The partnership includes a mid-year and final recital open to the public at the BGCNR facility showcasing the musical growth, creativity, and accomplishments of participating students and the broader Songcatchers community.

The second award, a \$6,000 THRIVE grant, is a partnership with The New Rochelle Campership Fund. This collaboration will enhance Songcatchers' Summer Day Program by giving New Rochelle participants the opportunity to attend a Broadway performance in New York City, including transportation and lunch. Throughout the summer program, students will study the music, themes, and performance elements connected to the show and will present a culminating performance inspired by what they learned and experienced.

"These partnerships reflect the power of collaboration in creating meaningful opportunities for young people," said Jennifer Lanser, Executive Director of Songcatchers. "We are incredibly grateful to the City of New Rochelle's THRIVE Pro-



gram, the Boys & Girls Club of New Rochelle, and The Campership Fund for investing in experiences that make music, performance, and the arts more accessible to our community."

The THRIVE Program supports initiatives that strengthen the cultural, educational, and social fabric of New Rochelle through community partnerships and innovative programming.

Founded in 1978, Songcatchers provides affordable, high-quality music education and performance opportunities to children and families throughout New Rochelle and lower Westchester County. Through lessons, ensembles, choirs, community performances, and outreach programs, Songcatchers serves hundreds of students annually.

To learn more about Songcatchers' Summer Programming, call (914) 654-1178. To enroll as a student, volunteer, or donate, call (914) 654-1178.

MHS Varsity Teams Named Scholar-Athletes

Mamaroneck High School earned NYSPHSAA School of Distinction status for the 2025-26 winter sports season after every varsity team qualified for Scholar-Athlete team recognition.

The honor, awarded by the New York State Public High School Athletic Association (NYSPHSAA), recognizes schools where 100 percent of varsity teams achieve Scholar-Athlete status. To qualify, the average GPA of the top 75 percent of a team's roster must be at least 90.00.

This winter, all 15 Mamaroneck varsity teams earned Scholar-Athlete recognition. In addition, an impressive 257 student-athletes achieved individual Scholar-Athlete status and will receive Scholar-Athlete pins for their varsity letters.

The achievement is a reflection of the extraordinary commitment and discipline demonstrated by Mamaroneck student-athletes throughout the season. And the fact that every varsity team qualified—alongside such a remarkable number of individual honorees—further highlights the culture of hard work and dedication within Mamaroneck athletics. These recognitions celebrate not only athletic participation, but the consistent effort students bring to the classroom each day.

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LMC MEDIA

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Work Experience **Portfolio**

The Future Filmmaker Project hires high school filmmakers to create a short film series. Teens will get real work experience as filmmakers, without a big time commitment and all under the guidance of LMC Media.

Program Support Provided by
The M&T Charitable Foundation
M&T Bank

To learn more or apply visit:
LMCMedia.org/Future-Filmmakers

LMCMEDIA BUILDING COMMUNITY THROUGH MEDIA

LMCMedia.org

Scam Warning

The Larchmont Police Department is advising residents to be aware of an ongoing scam targeting individuals throughout our region. Criminals are contacting victims by phone and falsely claiming to be representatives from their bank or members of law enforcement.

In these incidents, scammers instruct victims to withdraw large sums of cash from their bank accounts and hand the money over to someone who will meet them at their home or another location. These claims are false and are designed to steal your money.

Please remember:

- A legitimate bank representative will never ask you to withdraw cash and hand it over to someone.
- Law enforcement officers will never request that you provide money in this manner.
- No legitimate agency will demand immediate secrecy or pressure you to act quickly.

Protect Yourself:

- Hang up immediately if you receive this type of call.
- Do not provide personal or banking information.
- Contact your bank directly using the number on the back of your card or from an official statement.
- Report suspicious calls to your local police department immediately.
- Speak with elderly family members and neighbors, as scammers often target seniors.

If you believe you have been contacted or victimized by this scam, notify the Larchmont Police Department at (914) 834-1000.

Flint Park Renovations to Continue Through the Summer

The next phase of ongoing improvements to Larchmont's Flint Park, with renovation work on Flint Park Fields A & B ("Flint Front"), started last month. The project marks another important investment in the Village of Larchmont's recreational facilities and long-term park infrastructure.

Initial work will include staging, site preparation, and removal of the existing fields. Construction is expected to continue through the coming months, with the newly renovated fields anticipated to open in early Fall 2026.

As part of this exciting upgrade, the Village will install an innovative bio-degradable plant-based hybrid field system designed to provide enhanced durability and playability while offering a more environmentally sustainable alternative to traditional synthetic turf fields. The new technology is expected to extend field longevity while supporting the Village's ongoing commitment to environmental stewardship.

Residents and park visitors are encouraged to be mindful of construction activity, vehicles and equipment operating within Flint Park, and to exercise caution near all marked construction areas. During the project, portions of the front parking lot along Birch Lane will be temporarily inaccessible to accommodate construction operations.

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Joe Toombs Returns as Athletic Director of Mamaroneck Schools

Joe Toombs was named the next Athletic Director of the Mamaroneck Union Free School District, marking a meaningful return for an educator and leader whose professional journey is deeply connected to the district.

Toombs began his career in Mamaroneck, where he spent more than a decade as a physical education teacher and coach at Mamaroneck High School. During that time, he worked alongside colleagues to reimagine the student experience in physical education and health, helping to develop programming that was more responsive to student interests and needs. Many of those colleagues remain in the district today, and he returns with a strong sense of connection to both the people and the work they began together.

“This is a place that had a profound impact on me,” Toombs said. “The students in Mamaroneck are hard-working, diverse, and success-driven. It’s a very unique place. You see that play out in the hallways. There is a real connection and strong identity with the school and community.”

Since leaving Mamaroneck, Toombs has served as Athletic Director in other



Joe Toombs

districts, most recently in Pelham, where he oversaw a comprehensive athletic program serving hundreds of student-athletes and coaches. His work focused on building strong systems, strengthening communication, and ensuring that programs are aligned with a clear vision centered on student growth and experience.

At the core of his leadership is a collaborative, mission-driven approach. He describes his style as working “shoulder to shoulder” with his team, listening carefully to input from coaches, staff, and

students, and building plans together to move initiatives forward.

“At its core, this work is about students and what we are trying to achieve for them,” he said. “The best work happens when people feel heard and are part of the process. You bring people together, you listen, and you build something collectively.”

That philosophy was shaped in large part by his earlier experience in Mamaroneck, where he was part of a team that prioritized student voice and collaboration. He points to the district’s willingness to explore change, particularly in physical education and health, as formative in his development as an educator and leader.

“We built a portfolio of work together that was really grounded in student-driv-

en initiatives,” Toombs said. “That mindset has stayed with me throughout my career.”

Superintendent Dr. Charles Sampson said that Toombs brings both the experience and the mindset needed to succeed in Mamaroneck. “Joe understands this community and shares our commitment to putting students at the center of everything we do,” Dr. Sampson said. “He is a collaborative leader who knows how to bring people together, build on what is already strong, and move the work forward in a thoughtful and meaningful way. We are excited to welcome him back.”

Toombs will succeed longtime Athletic Director Bari Suman, who is retiring after years of dedicated service to the district.

Larchmont Village Board’s Statement on Locals

The Larchmont Village Board of Trustees issued the following statement on Locals, a restaurant at 2128 Boston Post Road.

When Locals first approached the Board to create a “private event space”, this use was not allowed under Village Code and the concern was that this use was not a “one size fits all” like a restaurant. The result was that the Village created the Special Permit process to allow for different and creative uses, but still be able to review the use when a Special Permit comes up for renewal to make sure it is working the way it was intended.

When Locals presented its application for a Special Permit in 2023, there was no reference to having routine rock concerts as an intended use of the space. Locals presented it as baby showers, violin concerts, birthday parties, etc. to both the Village and its neighbors. Once it became apparent how the space was being used and what impact it was having on its neighbors, the Board asked Locals to increase sound proofing. The Board stressed that the impact on neighbors, as well as any mitigation taken, would be considered during the Special Permit renewal process in 2025. When the end of the two-year permit was approaching, no effective action had been taken by Locals to mitigate the sound issues. The Village Board had the option to revoke the Special Permit in its entirety at that time, as there was clear documentation of its violation of both the Village’s Noise Code (Section 195 of the Village Code) as well as with

several conditions of its Special Permit (as identified at the November 2025 Village Board meeting). Instead, the Village Board sought to give Locals an opportunity to work through sound consultants to remedy the situation and correct the violations.

Since that time, the Board has been actively working with all parties to find a resolution. The Village Board’s intent in hiring its own sound consultant was to prevent putting the Board in the position of acting as a referee between the parties’ sound consultants. The Board wanted a sound consultant who would provide an unbiased report on what was reasonable under the circumstances to help guide the Board through this process.

Locals initially requested a change to allow ambient music to be played in the background and within a week of that request the Village’s sound consultant was scheduled to test the space. Based on the testing done by both the Village’s sound consultant and Locals’ own sound consultant, the Board determined that ambient music should be allowed, so Locals was able to move forward. The ball then remained in Locals’ court to work with its consultant to create a sound proofing plan. Locals informed the Board at the end of March that it was ready to have the sound consultants return for additional testing, which was completed on April 15.

At this point in the process, the Village is waiting to receive the report from its sound consultant based on the April 15 testing. Once the Board receives the report, it will evaluate next steps.

LMC Media Awarded \$10,000 Grant



LMC Media received a \$10,000 grant from The M&T Charitable Foundation to support the next generation of visual storytellers. The grant will support The Future Filmmaker Project: A professional, paid mentorship program where high schoolers gain real-world film experience and build career-ready portfolios and The LMC Creator Lab: A new program focused on digital strategy, graphic design, and short-form video, where students create impactful content through a local lens.

Both programs are paid opportunities designed to bridge the gap between creative passion and professional skill-building for high school students in the Mamaroneck, Rye Neck, and New Rochelle school districts.

Are you a Future Creator?

Applicants must be at least 16 years old and currently enrolled in a local high school. To learn more about each program, go to <https://lmcmedia.org/future-filmmakers/> or <https://lmcmedia.org/creator-lab/>.

Money Lessons for the Class of 2026

A financial advisor's note to new graduates — and their parents

BY JESSICA DEMLER, CFP® CBDA,
PRINCIPAL AT OXLER PRIVATE WEALTH®

Congratulations, graduates. Whether you're heading to college this fall or stepping straight into the workforce, you're about to make real financial decisions — many for the first time. Here are the ones that matter most.

Open a checking account and a high-yield savings account — and keep them separate. Your checking account is for daily spending. Your high-yield savings account is a buffer that actually earns money while it sits there — many currently offer rates significantly higher than traditional bank savings accounts. Aim to build one month of expenses in savings before anything else. It's not glamorous, but it's the difference between a flat tire being an inconvenience or a crisis.

Understand your credit score before you need it. Your credit score affects apartment applications, car loans, and eventually mortgage rates. The fastest way to build good credit: Get a starter credit card, use it for small purchases, and pay the full balance every month. Never miss a payment.

Live below your means from day one. The biggest mistake young adults make isn't spending too much on coffee—it's lifestyle inflation. When your first paycheck arrives, resist the urge to spend up to it. The gap between what you earn and

what you spend is where wealth is built.

If your employer offers a 401(k) match — take all of it. This is free money. If your company matches 3 percent of your salary and you contribute at least 3 percent, you've instantly doubled that investment. There is no better return available to you.

Student loans are real debt. Know exactly what you owe, the interest rate, and the monthly payment before you graduate. Surprises here are expensive.

The greatest financial advantage you have right now isn't income — it's time. A dollar invested at 22 is worth dramatically more than one invested at 42. Start small, stay consistent, and let compounding do the work.

Jessica Demler, CFP® CBDA is a Principal at Oxler Private Wealth®, an independent, family owned and operated wealth advisory firm in Rye Brook and Manhattan, offering financial care to women and families. For a complimentary, no pressure conversation, call (212) 785-2860 or visit www.oxler-pw.com. Oxler Private Wealth is a SEC-Registered Investment Adviser. Registration of an investment adviser does not imply any specific level of skill or training and does not constitute an endorsement of the firm by the Commission. Oxler Private Wealth does not provide tax or legal advice. The information presented is not a solicitation to buy or sell any securities or investment advisory services.

Mamaroneck Voters Approve 2026-2027 School Budget and Capital Reserve

The Mamaroneck Union Free School District's 2026-2027 budget was approved with 850 YES votes and 164 NO votes. The budget of \$176,560,406 includes a tax levy increase of 3.07 percent, which is within the allowable tax cap. The community also approved a proposition authorizing the use of up to \$9 million from the district's Capital Reserve Fund to support needed infrastructure improvements.

"This budget builds on important investments we have made in recent years and continues to move our strategic vision forward in meaningful ways," said Dr. Charles Sampson. "It strengthens the opportunities, supports, and learning experiences that help ensure every student can grow, succeed, and find a pathway that is right for them."

Voters elected two trustees, each of whom will serve on the Board of Education for a three-year term. They are Michele Metsch and David Carlos.

On behalf of the Mamaroneck Board of Education, President Ariana Cohen expressed her gratitude to the community for participating in the budget process and for taking the time to vote.

"This budget reflects thoughtful planning, responsible stewardship, and a continued commitment to meeting the needs of every student," said Cohen. "We are grateful for the community's support of a spending plan that builds on our progress and continues to invest in teaching, learning, and student success."



Ariana Cohen

Westchester Faith Leaders Observe National Day of Prayer



More than 60 clergy members of different faiths, including Christianity, Judaism, Buddhism, Islam and Hinduism gathered for the Westchester Clergy Faith Gathering to coincide with the annual National Day of Prayer on May 7. This program provided an opportunity for the clergy members to connect and build bridges with fellow faith leaders they may not have previously interacted with. The program included structured dialogue groups, each tasked with creating its own interfaith prayer. Below is one of the prayers shared during the gathering:

"In many ways, the population of Westchester County is America at its best—a mosaic of colors, traditions, faiths, ethnicities, and identities. May we always remember and start from a place of humanity, empathy, and compassion. To acknowledge what makes us beautiful, different individuals, as we strive towards the common ground we share and work to make our county, state, nation, and world a better and more welcoming place for absolutely everyone within it.

May we be connected to God, our faith, and our spirituality, as we form bonds and connections with each other to do God's work here in Westchester and on earth."

Larchmont-Mamaroneck Senior Center Art Exhibition Held in June



The Village of Larchmont & Town of Mamaroneck Senior Center invites the community to the 52nd Annual Art Exhibition of the Senior Advance Art Class which will take place on Monday, June 1 to Tuesday, June 30 at the Oresman Gallery in the Larchmont Public Library, 121 Larchmont Avenue. A reception will be held on Saturday, June 6 from 2:30 PM to 4 PM.

Artist Patricia Miner-Sutherland has been teaching the class since the center opened 52 years ago. Mrs. Sutherland is a professional artist who has had many exhibitions of her work in the United States and abroad. She was the president and founding member of the Reilly League of Artists in White Plains for 10 years.

This year there are 23 people enrolled in the advanced art class. Students paint and draw in all mediums, including graphite, pastel, watercolor, acrylic and oil paint. The students supply their own material. Classes are held at 1288 Boston Post Road (the old VFW building) in Mamaroneck every Wednesday from 1 PM to 3 PM. For more information, call 914-834-8840.

Larchmont Police Blotter

Monday, April 27, 2026, 8 AM: Vandals caused \$1,500 worth of damage to two 2026 vehicles at Acura of Westchester, 2155 Palmer Avenue, sometime during the weekend. Both vehicles had broken windows and damage to the driver's side doors and locks.

Tuesday, April 28, 2026, 10:55 AM: After police observed the driver of a 2010 Dodge Dakota pickup truck hold a cell phone while driving on Boston Post Road, they stopped the truck and issued several summons, including operating a motor vehicle while using a portable electronic device, driving an unregistered vehicle and third-degree aggravated unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle. The truck was towed and impounded.

Wednesday, April 29, 2026, 6:10 PM: The owner of a shoe repair shop on Chatsworth Avenue reported that a customer refused to pay the \$30 charge for the repair of his backpack strap. When the man tried to flee with his backpack, the owner grabbed his vest and ripped it. When police arrived at the store, a friend of the customer paid the \$30 charge and the shop owner agreed to repair the torn vest.

Thursday, April 30, 2026, 8:09 AM: A goose was reported walking in and out of rush-hour traffic on the Chatsworth Avenue bridge, causing a disruption. Police responded and reported it was a wild turkey that then flew away.

Thursday, April 30, 2026, 11:58 PM: A box truck was towed from Palmer Avenue after a resident reported it parked and idling in the spot for four hours. The driver was ticketed for driving an uninsured and uninspected vehicle and displaying a license plate that was registered to another motor vehicle.

Thursday, April 30, 2026, 5:24 PM: A Larchmont business owner received several calls from a man who told him several fraud attempts had been made on his bank account and he needed to open a new one. The business owner gave him \$18,000 to open a new account, and realized later it was a scam.

Friday, May 1, 2026, 2:07 PM: A Larchmont man told police that his American Airlines Frequent Flyer Account was fraudulently accessed and used to purchase \$2,142.90 in gift cards.

Friday, May 1, 2026, 4:21 PM: A \$600 Burberry jacket was reported stolen from St. Augustine Catholic Church, 18 Cherry Avenue. Security cameras later showed an elderly white woman carry the jacket out of the church.

Saturday, May 2, 2026, 12:57 AM: After observing a car with a burned-out headlight on Boston Post Road, police stopped the driver and gave him a verbal warning.

Saturday, May 2, 2026, 6:34 AM: Police gave a verbal warning to a driver observed making a U-turn on Palmer Avenue.

Sunday, May 3, 2026, 11:26 AM: Police issued two summons for operating a motor vehicle while holding a portable electronic device and third-degree aggravated unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle to the driver of a 2014 Audi on Boston Post Road.

Tuesday, May 5, 2026, 5:57 AM: A tractor-trailer struck low-hanging utility wires at the intersection of Palmer and Wendt Avenues, causing three utility poles to break. One smashed into a parked car. No injuries were reported.

Tuesday, May 5, 2026, 7 AM: A stroller with a tan bag containing diapers and children's clothing was left in front of the French American School, 111 Larchmont Avenue. When the items were unclaimed for a few days, they were turned over to police for safekeeping.

Tuesday, May 5, 4:20 PM: Belisario Velasquez was charged with driving an uninsured motor vehicle and third-degree aggravated unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle after police stopped his Chevrolet van on Chatsworth Avenue. Velasquez's driver's license was suspended after several alcohol/drug charges.

Tuesday, May 5, 2026, 6:12 PM: A New York City man was charged with driving an unregistered motor vehicle and third-degree aggravated unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle after police stopped his car on Boston Post Road.

Wednesday, May 6, 2026, 11:13 AM: Police gave a verbal warning to a motorist who drove through a red light at the corner of Boston Post Road and Beach Avenue.

Newly Restored Glen Island Bridge Opens Six Months Early

Westchester County Executive Ken Jenkins joined County officials, project engineers and members of the community to celebrate the opening of the newly rehabilitated Glen Island Bridge, six months ahead of schedule.

The milestone marks a major step forward in the County's ongoing rehabilitation of the historic Glen Island Bridge, originally constructed in 1930 and serving as the only access point for entering Glen Island Park. The transition restores traffic to the permanent structure, while final construction and restoration work continues through the remainder of the year.

Significant work has already been completed as part of the rehabilitation project, including the repair of steel girders, installation of the bridge floor beams, concrete bridge deck, movable span grid deck, pedestrian railings, the bridge's electrical and mechanical systems, bridge and approach sidewalks, and traffic and pedestrian railing ahead of the traffic shift. Additional work currently underway includes testing of the mechanical and electrical systems ahead of the scheduled



reopening of the navigation channel.

Jenkins said: "Today marks another important milestone in this project and in our continued investment in Westchester County's infrastructure. Glen Island Park is one of the County's most treasured public spaces, and restoring traffic to the permanent bridge ahead of the busy summer season reflects the tremendous work completed by our County teams, engineers and contractors. This project has

always been about balancing preservation, safety and access while ensuring this historic bridge continues serving residents and visitors for generations to come."

Deputy County Executive Joan McDonald said: "Rehabilitating a historic movable bridge while maintaining park access and marine operations required extensive planning and coordination across multiple County departments and project

continued on page 11

Two Appointed to Larchmont Library Board

continued from page 1

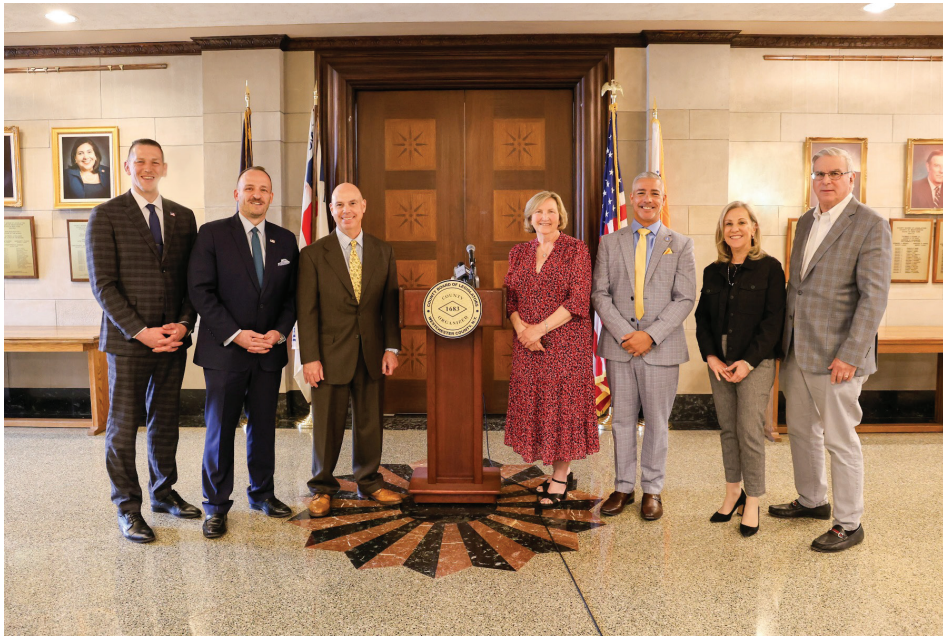
Please notify Code Enforcement by email, codeenforcement@larchmontny.gov," he said.

Police Chief Chris McNerney reported a fraud incident involving a larceny of \$20,000.

A local business owner on Boston Post Road was scammed into turning over \$20,000 to a person posing as a bank representative. "The victim was contacted by phone and told that there was a federal investigation. It was further instructed that the victim needed to go to their bank and withdraw all the funds and turn them over as part of the federal investigation," McNerney said.

Fire Chief Richard W. Valentine received a call regarding downed wires atop a vehicle with the motorist still inside. ConEdison shut down the power and removed the wires. Valentine then warned citizens not to cross caution tape lines.

Westchester County Forms Affordability Task Force



The Westchester County Board of Legislators announced the formation of the Affordability and Economic Development Task Force to address financial pressures facing residents and businesses and strengthen economic opportunity across the County, as federal priorities contribute to growing economic strain.

The task force will focus on key drivers of affordability challenges, including economic development, job creation, energy prices, housing, transportation, small business opportunities, and food costs. In the coming months, the group will convene County stakeholders and experts to develop practical, actionable policy recommendations to improve residents' quality of life.

Legislator Colin D. Smith will lead the task force and work with Board leadership to assemble relevant stakeholders and subject matter experts. He was joined by community, business, and nonprofit leaders, along with Legislators Nancy E. Barr (D-Harrison, Port Chester, Rye Brook), co-chair of the Families Task Force, and James Nolan (R-Yonkers, Eastchester, Bronxville), chair of the Small Business Committee, to show support for the effort.

Board Chairman Vedat Gashi (D-New Castle, Ossining, Somers, Yorktown) said, "I am proud to appoint Legislator Smith to chair this task force. He has been a tremendous advocate for affordability for Westchester residents and working families. I trust his guidance and leadership to move this work forward. At a time when federal actions are creating financial uncertainty, the Board is doing everything possible to make life more affordable for the people of Westchester."

Legislator Smith (D-Cortlandt, Peekskill, Yorktown), current Chair of the Board's Legislation Committee, said, "This task force moves us forward on one of the biggest challenges facing Westchester residents: affordability. Too many people are stretched thin. We will focus on issues that matter most, including housing, jobs, energy costs, and support for small businesses. Westchester has the talent and ideas to meet this moment. I look forward to bringing people together and delivering practical recommendations to the Board."

John Ravitz, Executive Vice President and COO of the Business Council of Westchester (BCW), said, "As Westchester County's largest business membership organization that focuses on economic development and advocacy the Business Council of Westchester welcomes the opportunity to be a member of the Board of Legislator's Affordability and Economic Development Task Force. If we are going to recruit and retain businesses to Westchester, we must develop solutions to deal with affordability challenges. I hope that the task force will utilize the expertise of BCW's membership to better understand the issues facing the county's business community every day."

Jan Fisher, Executive Director of Nonprofit Westchester, said, "Westchester's affordability crisis is not just an economic issue. It's about who gets to live, work, and thrive in our communities. As we work to build a county where

all people can enjoy its opportunities and natural beauty, we must ensure that the nonprofit workforce—those who give so much to support our neighbors and strengthen the social and economic fabric of our county—are not pushed to the margins. Addressing affordability is critical to an equitable, resilient Westchester where everyone, including our essential workforce and the people seeking our services, have the chance to belong and succeed."

Kenny Burgos, CEO of New York Apartment Association, said, "Quality affordable housing is a vital component of any healthy economy. We need more homes, for all people, and we need government policies to both preserve aging housing and incentivize the creation of new housing. We are honored to be part of the Affordability and Economic Development Task Force because we know that good housing policy lifts up communities and makes them stronger."

Michael N. Romita, President and CEO of the Westchester County Association (WCA), said, "County government has a critical responsibility to strengthen our economy while addressing affordability for our residents, workers, and businesses. This initiative will help ensure our legislators receive valuable input from business and industry leaders to inform policy decisions. Alongside the launch of the Westchester Economic Alliance and Blueprint '26 earlier this year, the WCA welcomes this discussion and looks forward to working with Legislator Smith and his assembled team."

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Shaping Our Communities: Fresh Perspectives on Local Land Use

BY RINA BEDER

As Westchester communities look toward the future, questions surrounding housing, redevelopment, downtown vitality, and community character are becoming increasingly important. The Larchmont-Mamaroneck Local Summit's May program brought together experienced leaders in planning, government, and development to explore what thoughtful growth could and should look like in the years ahead. Drawing on decades of professional experience, the panelists discussed practical strategies, emerging opportunities, and a broader vision for how communities such as Larchmont and Mamaroneck can evolve while preserving the qualities that residents value most.

Panelists included Chance Mullen, Mayor of the Village of Pelham and Executive Director of the Municipal Officials Association of New York; planner Bob Galvin, who has served as planner for numerous New York municipalities, including Mamaroneck, and is a board member of the Washingtonville Housing Alliance; and John Verni, a developer and attorney specializing in real estate and land use and former Chair of the Mamaroneck Planning Board. Together, they explored how Westchester communities can address changing housing needs, strengthen downtowns, encourage thoughtful redevelopment, and create opportunities for residents at every stage of life while maintaining the character and sense of place that define the region.

A central theme of the discussion was that many local municipalities are already

largely built out, leaving little undeveloped land for major expansion. As a result, future growth is likely to come through redevelopment, adaptive reuse, transit-oriented development, and smaller incremental projects rather than large-scale new construction.

"Everything that we're doing is redeveloping items that already had something," Mullen explained, describing Pelham as "99 percent built out." Many recent redevelopment projects, he noted, involved former gas station sites that no longer fit the needs of the community.

Mullen emphasized the value of creative public-private partnerships that combine housing, commercial uses, municipal facilities, parking, and open space within a single project. He highlighted Pelham's recently completed municipal center project, where the village sold publicly owned land to a developer in exchange for a new municipal complex housing the fire department, police department, village hall, and public parking within a residential development.

The arrangement, Mullen said, allowed the village to modernize aging public facilities without significant tax increases.

Panelists also stressed that communities must think strategically about the types of housing they lack. Mullen noted that housing needs have changed significantly over time. Rather than remaining in one home for life, many residents now move through multiple stages of housing as their needs evolve.

Communities, he argued, need a broader range of housing options — from apartments for young adults starting careers, to homes for growing families, to downsized

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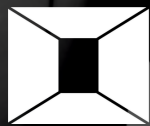
Left to right, Bob Galvin, Chance Mullen and John Verni

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County Approves Wage Protections for Construction Workers

The Westchester County Board of Legislators unanimously passed the Westchester County Lessor Prevailing Wage Act, guaranteeing construction workers on County-leased properties the same standard union wages they would earn on County-owned job sites.

The measure closes a longstanding gap in state labor law that left workers unprotected on County-leased properties. Under existing law, construction on privately owned land, even when leased by the County and directly supporting County operations, can fall outside the legal definition of “public work,” leaving workers without prevailing wage protections.

During a pre-vote press conference in the Board’s rotunda, labor leaders including Westchester Putnam Building Trades Council Vice President Ed Cooke and Louis Sanchez, Business Representative for Local 3, IBEW, joined Chairman Vedat Gashi, Vice Chair Terry Clements, Majority Leader Judah Holstein, Majority Whip Shanae Williams, Minority Leader Margaret A. Cunzio, Minority Whip James Nolan, Legislators Erika L. Pierce, Jenn Puja, Nancy E. Barr, Anant Nambiar, Jewel Williams Johnson, Emiljana Ulaj, David T. Imamura, Tyrae Woodson-Samuels, David J. Tubiolo, and José I. Alvarado.

Chairman Gashi (D–New Castle, Ossining, Somers, Yorktown) said, “When Westchester County invests in construction, every worker on that job deserves fair pay—regardless of whether the building is owned or leased by the County. This law closes a loophole and sends a clear message: Westchester puts workers first.”

The new measure applies to lease agreements of 10 years or more and construction projects exceeding \$250,000 undertaken on behalf of the County. Contractors and subcontractors on those projects will be required to pay prevailing wages and maintain certified payroll records to verify compliance. The law takes effect for new lease agreements entered into 120 days after adoption. It includes an exemption for emergency construction work required to protect public health and safety.

Legislator Puja (D–White Plains,



Scarsdale, West Harrison), Chair of the Board’s Labor Committee, said, “This is yet another way Westchester is putting workers first! As a union member and a County legislator, I know how critical prevailing wages are to protecting workers and ensuring safe, high-quality construction. This legislation closes a longstanding gap by requiring fair wages on significant County-leased projects. When economic development truly benefits workers, their families, and the communities they call home, what results is a stronger workforce and a stronger Westchester.”

Thomas Carey, President, Westchester/Putnam Central Labor Body AFL-CIO, said, “Once again, I am Honored to stand shoulder to shoulder with Our Westchester County legislators and County Executive on this prevailing wage bill. Prevailing wage provides A Competitive wage and benefit package for everyone who works on these projects in Westchester County, our legislators and County Executive see the importance of our workforce and con-

tinue to stand up for what is right and the importance of providing good wages for our labor force, These men and women never ask for a handout but a hand up to provide for their families.”

Jeff Loughlin, President, Westchester/Putnam Building and Construction Trades Council said, “On behalf of the Building and Construction Trades Council, I would like to extend our thanks to all that were involved in getting this legislation through. This, in conjunction with the apprenticeship bill, are two big items for organized labor. There are no downsides for us and it will even benefit the non-union workforce out there during these difficult economic times.”

Louis Sanchez said, “Protecting prevailing wage standards in Westchester County is a shared responsibility among policymakers, employers, and workers. By enforcing these laws, we promote competitive bidding, reduce wage theft, and help address the affordability crisis facing our communities.”



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Newly Restored Glen Island Bridge Opens Six Months Early

continued from page 6

teams. Seeing traffic move back onto the permanent bridge is a significant accomplishment and a testament to the collaboration that has driven this project forward.”

Westchester County Department of Public Works & Transportation Commissioner Hugh J. Greechan said: “This traffic shift represents the successful completion of a major phase of construction work on the permanent bridge. Our crews completed substantial structural, mechanical and electrical upgrades while maintaining safe access to Glen Island Park throughout construction. We remain focused on completing the remaining work safely and with minimal disruption to the public.”

Westchester County Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation Commissioner Kathy O’Connor said: “Glen Island Park welcomes residents and visitors from across the region throughout the year, especially during the summer months. Restoring traffic to the permanent bridge ahead of Memorial Day helps

ensure continued public access to one of Westchester’s most iconic waterfront destinations while preserving its historic character.”

Westchester County Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation First Deputy Commissioner Peter Tartaglia said: “This project protects access to a park that holds special meaning for generations of Westchester residents. Returning traffic to the permanent bridge is an exciting milestone and reflects the County’s ongoing commitment to preserving and improving the public spaces our communities value most.”

Principal from the engineering design firm, H&H, David DeLuca said: “From our initial assessment through final design and now construction, this project has focused on long term durability, safety, and sustainability. It has been extremely rewarding to extend the life of this historic 100-year-old structure which will continue to serve the public for many years

to come.”

Kiewit Infrastructure Company Project Manager Zane R. Pointon said: “Kiewit is proud to have successfully rehabilitated this historic bridge while preserving its character and improving long-term performance. This work required close coordination among the County, project partners and our crews through every phase of construction. The dedication and expertise demonstrated by our craft professionals throughout the project played a critical role in reaching this milestone safely and efficiently.”

Westchester County Legislator Terry Clements said: “As the County Legislator representing this community, I know how much Glen Island Park means to residents throughout New Rochelle and beyond. The reopening of the permanent

bridge ahead of schedule is tremendous news and reflects the hard work and coordination that went into this project. I’m proud to see this important investment in infrastructure and public access move forward.”

Following the traffic shift, demolition of the temporary bridge and removal of temporary piles will continue through late June. Restoration of roadway approaches and landscaping is expected to continue through December 2026.

The full rehabilitation project includes structural steel repairs, masonry restoration, upgraded sidewalks and railings, lighting improvements and extensive electrical and mechanical upgrades designed to preserve the bridge’s historic integrity, while modernizing its operations for decades to come.

Timothy Wieland Named New Principal of Mamaroneck High School

The Mamaroneck Union Free School District Board of Education appointed Timothy Wieland as the next Principal of Mamaroneck High School. Wieland, who currently serves as Principal of Pascack Hills High School in Montvale, New Jersey, was appointed by the Board of Education at its May 19 meeting. He will report directly to Superintendent Dr. Charles Sampson.

Wieland brings more than two decades of educational leadership experience to Mamaroneck, including service as a high school principal, assistant principal, mathematics teacher, and coach. Throughout his career, he has been recognized for his student-centered approach, his commitment to positive school culture, and his focus on helping ensure that all students have access to learning experiences and opportunities that reflect their individual strengths, interests, and goals.

Dr. Sampson said Wieland distinguished himself throughout a rigorous interview process that included several rounds of interviews, performance-based tasks, and meetings with students, faculty, staff, and district ad-

ministrators.

“Tim is an experienced and highly effective educational leader with a proven ability to lead high school environments with clarity, consistency, and purpose,” said Dr. Sampson. “He understands how to translate vision into action by building strong systems, supporting staff, and maintaining a clear focus on teaching and learning. Just as importantly, he believes deeply in creating a school environment where every student feels known, supported, and empowered to pursue their own path.”

As principal of Pascack Hills High School since 2020, a highly regarded high school in Bergen County, New Jersey, Wieland led initiatives focused on strengthening student supports, enhancing instructional practices, and fostering a strong and inclusive school community. He also played a key role in implementing one of New Jersey’s earliest virtual learning models in 2014, work that later helped support continuity during the pandemic.

Prior to becoming principal, Wieland served for eight years as As-

continued on page 14



Shaping Our Communities: Fresh Perspectives on Local Land Use

continued from page 8

housing for seniors hoping to remain in the community.

“If we’re going to be communities where people actually stick around for a while, then we have to have options for people,” Mullen said.

Verni focused on preserving vibrant downtowns and neighborhood character while accommodating growth. He discussed the role of “incremental housing” and adaptive reuse projects in meeting housing needs without dramatically changing the scale of local communities.

“There are incremental things we can do,” Verni said. “You don’t have to just wait for one big project to solve all of our housing problems.”

He pointed to projects converting former churches, office buildings, and underutilized properties into housing, including affordable housing. Verni also highlighted the growing movement toward transit-oriented development and walkable downtowns, themes promoted by the Congress for the New Urbanism.

Verni noted that villages such as Larchmont and Mamaroneck are fortunate to have strong downtowns, small businesses, walkability, and historic character — qualities residents strongly value. At the same time, he cautioned against creating places where every downtown begins to look the same.

Accessory dwelling units (ADUs), sometimes called “granny flats” or garage apartments, were discussed as another potential tool for gently increasing housing supply. Galvin explained that while ADUs alone are unlikely to dramatically expand housing availability, zoning changes can make it easier for homeowners to create second units on existing properties.

Adaptive reuse emerged as another major theme. Verni described projects in which former churches were converted into housing while preserving historic architecture and community character. Galvin similarly discussed efforts to repurpose older office buildings and industrial areas for residential and mixed-use development.

Throughout the discussion, panelists returned to the challenge of balancing growth with preservation. While surrounding cities such as New Rochelle, White Plains, and Yonkers are experiencing substantial redevelopment and increasing density, villages like Larchmont and Mamaroneck face the challenge of accommodating change with a paucity of open land while preserving the small-scale character and sense of community residents value.

Participants acknowledged there are no easy solutions. However, they expressed optimism that creative planning, adaptive reuse, zoning flexibility, and incremental development can help communities evolve while protecting the qualities that make them distinctive.

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. For more information, visit <https://www.localsummitlm.org/>. To view recorded programs on LMC Media, go to <https://lmcmedia.org/>.

Larchmont Calendar



Decorating Kindness Rocks

Friday, June 5, 3:45 PM to 4:30 PM
Larchmont Public Library, 121 Larchmont Avenue
Help spread a little love. Use paint pens to leave an inspirational message for someone who might need it. You'll be given one rock to paint and leave and one rock to take with you. For grades Kindergarten and older, with a caregiver. To learn more, email kids@larchmontlibrary.org.



Tea with the Animals

Saturday, June 6, 10 AM to 11:30 AM
Hilltop Hanover Farm, 1271 Hanover Street, Yorktown Heights
Enjoy a mid-morning cuppa while you meet and learn about the animals on the farm! Participants will harvest and make some scrumptious treats for both humans and animals to enjoy together for a tea party! Adults and children 6 and older. Pre-registration is required with a \$15 program fee. For more information, call (914) 862-5050.



ABBA Sing A Long

Thursday, June 11, 7 PM to 8 PM
Larchmont Public Library, 121 Larchmont Avenue
In celebration of the Library's 100th Anniversary, soprano Yara Hoppenstein's performance will be ABBA-themed with some popular songs from the 1940s to the 1970s! Join Yara as she sings your favorite songs, and sing along with her! For more information email Caroline Cunningham at ccunningham@larchmontlibrary.org.



Hudson River Music Festival

Sunday, June 21, 10 AM to 9 PM
Croton Point Park, 1A Croton Point Avenue, Croton-on-Hudson
Honoring the legacy of Pete and Toshi Seeger's folk picnics, the festival continues its tradition as an all-ages celebration of music, community, and environmental action along the Hudson

River. This year's festival features performances across multiple stages, family programming, interactive experiences, local food and vendors, arts and advocacy organizations, and a commitment to Zero Waste practices. For tickets, go to <https://hudsonriver.frontgatetickets.com/>

Old New Again

Through Tuesday, June 30
Warner Gallery, Mamaroneck Public Library, 136 Prospect Avenue
Old New Again is a collection of Quilt Art by Barbara Glab. For more information, call (914) 698-1250.

NY Citizen Preparedness Training Program

Wednesday, June 3, 6 PM
Mamaroneck Public Library, 136 Prospect Avenue
With severe weather events becoming more frequent and more extreme, it is more important than ever that New Yorkers are prepared for disasters. The New York Citizen Preparedness Training Program teaches residents to have the tools and resources to prepare for any type of disaster, respond accordingly and recover as quickly as possible. Participants will be advised on how to properly prepare for any disaster, including developing a family emergency plan and stocking up on emergency supplies. Each family that attends will receive one preparedness kit. Admission is free. Registration is required. To register, go to www.prepare.ny.gov

Larchmont Music Festival

Saturday, June 6, Noon to 10 PM
Constitution Park, 120 Larchmont Avenue
Thirty-three bands will perform music for all ages on six stages at the village's annual musical festival known as Larchella. Free admission. Learn more @[larchmontmusicfest](https://www.instagram.com/larchmontmusicfest) on Instagram.

Poets of Two Shores: A Poetic Bridge Across the Hudson River

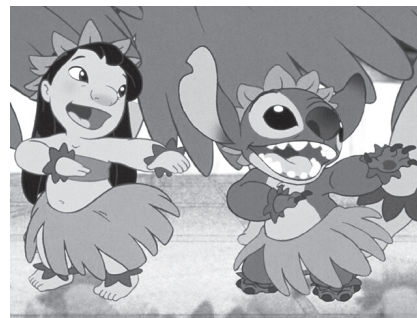
Saturday, June 6, 2 PM to 3:30 PM
Mamaroneck Public Library, 136 Prospect Avenue
A poetry reading and Q&A features Melissa Joplin Higley (Mamaroneck Poet Laureate) and Juan Pablo Mobili (Rockland County Poet Laureate) with Elizabeth O'Rourke, Phylisha Villanueva and Rebecca Watkins. This reading is part of a series featuring poets from both shores of the Hudson River. To register, go to mamaronecklibrary.org/events.

The Human History of Slavery in New York

Tuesday, June 9, 6 PM to 8 PM
Mamaroneck Public Library, 136 Prospect Avenue
The Larchmont Mamaroneck Human Rights Committee in partnership with The Westchester Human Rights Commission (WHRC) will host this special event commemorating Juneteenth. The Emmy award winning film, *The Hidden History of Slavery in New York*, examines the mostly untold story of the slave trade in New York. The documentary will be followed by a panel discussion moderated by Tejash V. Sanchala, WHRC Executive Director. For more information, email lmhumanrights@gmail.com.

ZOOM—American Stories

Presented by the National Gallery of Art
Wednesday, June 10, 11 AM to Noon
American art can tell complex stories about evolving national identities in the United States. This lecture looks closely at American art from the Colonial period to the early 20th century, exploring different perspectives with works from the National Gallery of Art. To register, go to mamaronecklibrary.org/events



Lilo & Stitch

Friday, June 12, 8 PM
Memorial Park, Myrtle Boulevard, Larchmont
Town of Mamaroneck's Movie Night at Memorial Park features the Disney film *Lilo & Stitch*. Movie begins at dusk. Bring a blanket, chair and flashlight to enjoy a night under the stars watching a movie on a giant screen. Rain date is Friday, June 26. Free admission and free parking in Commuter Lot A. For more information, go to www.townofmamaroneckny.gov/recreation

Light Up the Night

Saturday, June 13, 7 PM to 11 PM
Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum, 895 Shore Road, Bronx
A star-spangled celebration to celebrate America's 250th birthday and raise funds for the museum with cocktails, dinner and dancing under the stars in Bartow-Pell's formal gardens. For more information, email info@bpmm.org.

Comedy From Scratch

Saturday, June 27, 8 PM
The Idea Kitchen, 1940 Palmer Avenue, Larchmont
Comedian Ben Asher (New York Comedy Festival, StandUp NBC) performs an evening of stand-up comedy with Laura High (TikTok) and Dan Vetrano (NY Comedy Festival). Advance tickets are \$25. Learn more at ComedyFromScratch.com.

Common Special Needs Planning Mistakes Families Should Avoid



BY BERNARD A. KROOKS,
CERTIFIED ELDER LAW ATTORNEY
SPECIAL CONTRIBUTOR:
JOEL KROOKS, ESQ.

Planning for the care of a child with special needs is a complex process that depends on many factors. Federal and state laws and policies, funding availability, income levels, and your child's physical needs are all factors that go into creating the most effective and efficient caregiving plan for your child. However, special needs planning is not without common pitfalls that parents and other caregivers should seek to avoid. Here are some common mistakes people make when planning for their special needs children.

1. Leaving assets directly to your child with special needs

Parents commonly draft wills that leave their assets directly to their children, including any children with special needs. However, children with special needs often are heavily reliant on government programs such as Medicaid and SSI. Medicaid and SSI have strict resource limits for eligibility. As a result, receipt of significant property or a lump-sum inheritance can be catastrophic for Medicaid recipients. Instead, parents should funnel inheritances for children with special needs into a third-party supplemental needs trust to protect their eligibility for public benefits.

2. Failing to Obtain Guardianship – or Obtaining Guardianship When Unnecessary

Guardianship may be necessary when a child with special needs turns 18 and becomes a legal adult. If the child is unable to make financial or medical decisions for themselves, guardianship may be appropriate to allow a parent to continue to make important decisions on the child's behalf. However, in many cases, children with special needs can participate in the decision-making process or make decisions for themselves with the support of a parent or other caregiver. In that instance, guardianship may be unnecessary.

3. Failing to Obtain Advance Directives

If children with special needs have the legal capacity to do so, they can execute a health care proxy and a power of attorney. In these legal documents, the children can designate their

parents, caregivers, or other trusted adults to make decisions if they become incapacitated and unable to do so. Executing these important legal documents can help avoid the need for guardianship in the event of the child's future incapacity.

4. Waiting Too Long to Make Plans or Decisions

All too often, parents put off long-term planning, both for themselves and their children with special needs, as unnecessary. They may assume that another child will care for their sibling with special needs or be unwilling to confront their own mortality. Whatever the case may be, waiting too long can lead to rushed decision-making during crises, which is typically not the best way to make decisions. Poor planning can also lead to the need for more expensive and time-consuming actions, such as filing for legal guardianship, when parents could have achieved the same objective by getting guardianship promptly when a child turned 18 or avoiding it altogether by having the child execute advance directives.

5. Waiting Too Long to find Housing

Securing appropriate housing for an individual with special needs is often one of the most challenging aspects of long-term planning, yet many families delay exploring available options until a crisis occurs. Housing opportunities such as supportive living arrangements, group homes, supervised apartments, or community-based residential programs frequently have lengthy waiting lists and limited availability. As a result, postponing housing discussions can significantly reduce a family's options and may lead to placements that are not well suited to the individual's needs or preferences.

Families should begin evaluating housing alternatives well in advance, taking into consideration the individual's level of independence, social needs, medical requirements, and desired quality of life. Early planning also allows parents and caregivers to become familiar with available programs, funding sources, and eligibility requirements while gradually preparing the individual for a successful transition to a new living environment.

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.

1984. The Boss and *Glory Days*



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

*And I hope when I get old,
I don't sit around thinking about it, but I probably will...
they'll pass you by, Glory Days*

A sweltering spring day in Hamilton, New York. Traveling with friends to see my first Springsteen performance, our car suffers a radiator leak on a desolate stretch on Route 20. No cell phones.

Back then, the future seemed impossibly far away. Surely Springsteen was singing about somebody else!

But *Glory Days* is not just nostalgia. It's about how quickly life can change while we are busy making plans, building careers and raising

families.

With today's constant uncertainties, the message resonates even more strongly. Financial market volatility? AI? Jobs? War? One day we feel optimistic, the next day we want to stuff cash under our mattresses.

No one can predict markets or how long life will last, so focus on what you can control. Make a plan, whatever your situation or how old you are.

For younger families, that may mean protecting loved ones with life insurance and starting to save earlier than feels necessary. For others, it may mean anticipating we might live a lot longer by purchasing annuities to create reliable income.

In the face of disaster (at least a twenty something's version of it), I had no plan, and was running out of time. Fortunately, luck intervened. A gas station was just down the road. We called my future best man (no kidding), he delivered my car, and we made it on time. Glorious.

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.

Table Hopping with Morris Gut: Soft Shell Crab Season Has Arrived

The season for fresh soft-shell crab runs through September and there are legions who crave this delicacy simply sautéed or deep fried with some lemon and butter. Nothing like a crispy soft-shell crab sandwich with the proper condiments. I am a big fan. They first show up from Florida and the Gulf Coast followed by the popular catch from Chesapeake. As the season wears on more venues will be serving them. Here's where to seek them out locally...

Keo Oyster House, 128 E. Post Road, White Plains (914-437-8535), Owner Ekren & Elvi offer a daily raw bar. The blackboard lists the daily catch and include Soft Shell Crab. And they are pristine. www.keooysterhouse.com

Alex Bar & Grille, 577 N. Broadway, White Plains. (914-358-1444) Proprietor Alex Ahmetaj offers hefty cuts of aged steaks and chops along with generously served Northern Italian/Continental fare. Plump soft shell crab, too. www.alex577.com

Sea Shore, 591 City Island Ave., City Island, Bronx. (718-885-0300) Jeffrey Weiner and his veteran crew serve soft shells in a variety of styles. Check out all the dining areas. Daily happy hours. www.seashoreresaurant.com

Trattoria Vivolo, 301 Halstead Ave., Harrison. (914-835-6199) Chef/proprietor Dean Vivolo will be serving soft shell crabs out of his vintage diner any style in addition to his popular regional Italian dishes. www.trattoriavivolo.com

riavivolo.com

Eastchester Fish Gourmet, 837 White Plains Road, Scarsdale. (914-725-3450) A Westchester favorite for many years. Don't forget 'Go Fish', next door. www.eastchesterfish.com

Brothers Fish & Chips, 172 N. Highland Ave., Ossining. (914-488-5141) A hidden treasure in a nondescript strip mall. Chef Elmer Oliveros does wonders with his seafood menu. Soft shells are a specialty in season. www.brothersfishandchips.com

La Mer Seafood, 407 Main St., Armonk (914-273-1766) Under new ownership, this market has been serving the area for over 30 years. A sign on the window says soft shell crabs have arrived. www.lamerseafood.net

Bread & Brine, 119 Main Street, Hastings-On-Hudson (914-479-5243) The place bustles inside and out, and 'summers in Maine' is the theme. Soft shells are a seasonal treat. www.breadandbrinehoh.com

Dive Oyster House, 1201 Pleasantville Road, Briarcliff Manor (914-236-3911) Owner Kenny Neziraj will offer Soft Shell Crab as a daily specialty. Fine seafood. Happy Hours. www.diveoysterhouse.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)

Timothy Wieland Named New Principal of Mamaroneck High School

continued from page 11

sistant Principal at Pascack Hills High School and previously worked as a mathematics teacher and coach at Pascack Valley High School, where he was named Teacher of the Year during the 2007-2008 school year.

Before entering education, Wieland served as an active-duty officer in the United States Coast Guard, where he supervised a 25-member engineering department, conducted high-tempo interdiction operations, and helped lead training programs for Coast Guard personnel. His experience analyzing engineering and operational data sparked a particular interest in mathematics and statistics, subjects he later taught after transitioning into education. He has spoken about how his experiences in the Coast Guard shaped his leadership philosophy and ultimately led him toward a career in education, where he found the same sense of purpose through teaching, mentorship, and helping others grow.

“One of the things I love most about this work is watching teachers interact with students and seeing the impact those relationships can have during such important years in their lives,” said Wieland. “My philosophy has always been that school should work for everyone. Every student deserves to feel connected, supported, and empowered to find their own path and pursue opportunities that are meaningful to them.”

Wieland also emphasized the importance of school culture and empowering both students and educators.

“Schools are constantly evolving, and part of leadership is helping guide that evolution in a positive way while remaining focused on students and relationships,” he said. “Throughout the interview process, I was incredibly impressed by the level of dedication among the students, faculty, staff, and administrators in Mamaroneck and their shared commitment to supporting young people.”

Wieland earned a Master’s degree in Educational Leadership from St. Thomas Aquinas College, an MBA from Johns Hopkins University, and a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering from the United States Coast Guard Academy.

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