

Larchmont Ledger



july 2026 - vol. 22 - issue 7

larchmontledger.com



Extraordinary REALM Monument Unveiled on Juneteenth

BY STEPHEN E. LIPKEN

Mamaroneck Town Supervisor Jaine Elkind Eney called the June 2 Board Meeting to order, reporting that she attended the Ninth Annual Hudson Valley Affordable Housing Summit at Pace Law School, creating a more inclusive affordable housing agenda.



Mamaroneck Town Supervisor Jaine Elkind Eney

“On Juneteenth, with local clergy and Town officials participating, an extraordinary monument will be unveiled in front of Town Center on Boston Post Road side, ‘Recognizing Enslaved Africans of Larchmont-Mamaroneck (REALM),’” said Eney.

“From May 21 to May 25 there were a plethora of Memorial Day events, all intended to honor our veterans who paid the ultimate sacrifice for our country. There were ceremonies at VFW Post 1156, American Legion Posts 90 and 347. Each

ceremony was very meaningful, providing important ways to pay our respects,” Eney observed. The Larchmont-Mamaroneck Memorial Day Parade was held on May 21.

The Board then convened as Fire Commissioners. For the month of May there were a total of 80 alarms, 68 fires, zero out-of-town mutual aid, 3 EMS calls; total number of personnel responding, 949; total time working, 44 hours and 18 minutes. The Fire Claims, certified by Fire Chief Alex Rapp’s Controller’s Payments

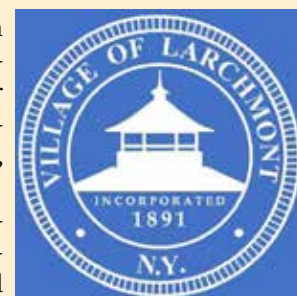
is \$3,293.51, approved by Roll Call Vote.

In Affairs of the Town, H2M consultants will appear at the June 16 meeting to discuss progress made on their stormwater project so far. Michelle Ballantyne was appointed as Senior Recreation Leader. Michelle has served the Recreation Board since 2012 and Hommocks Ice Rink since 2019.

continued on page 3

Brennan Named Larchmont’s New Mayor

Larchmont has a new mayor! Brigid Brennan was appointed by the Village Board of Trustees after she won the Democratic Primary on June 23 over challenger Jonathan Silvers. In a surprise move, former Village Mayor Sarah Bauer resigned on June 24, the day after the primary.



Brennan has been on the Village Board of Trustees since 2021, and with no Republican or Independent mayoral candidate running against her, would have been elected in November. Brennan has long been active in Larchmont politics, serving as chair of the village’s Democratic Party from 2012 to 2018. She is Board Director, General Counsel and Director of Advocacy for Friedreich’s Ataxia Research Alliance, a nonprofit organization dedicated to the research and cure of this rare disease.

Before serving as mayor for the past four years, Bauer was a Village Trustee for five years. An attorney, Bauer and her sister are partners in a law firm founded by their father, Zampino Law LLP. She was the director and a founding member of Preserve Larchmont, a community organization dedicated to preserving the village’s historic character and green spaces.

“It has been a privilege to work alongside so many dedicated people and to serve a Village that I care deeply about. Due to family and professional commitments away from Village Hall, the time has come for me to pass the torch to Brigid Brennan, who I know will serve our community well,” Bauer said. “I am filled with gratitude and a sense of accomplishment as I prepare to say goodbye after eight and a half years of serving the truly special community we all share here in Larchmont.”

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New Multi-Sport Field Opens in Mamaroneck

The Mamaroneck Union Free School District (MUFSD), Fields for Kids (FFK), elected officials, district leaders, student athletes, and community partners recently gathered for a ribbon-cutting ceremony celebrating the completion of the new multi-sport field behind the Mamaroneck Town Center.

The project represents the culmination of a shared effort among MUFSD, FFK, New York State Senator Shelley Mayer, Assemblyman Steve Otis, and community supporters to expand access to high-quality athletic facilities for students and families throughout Larchmont and Mamaroneck. The field officially opens for play in the coming weeks and will serve Mamaroneck Schools' physical education and athletic programs, youth sports organizations, and community users for years to come. Designed for soccer, lacrosse, field hockey, and football, the upgraded facility addresses a longstanding need for additional athletic space while creating new opportunities for participation, recreation, and community connection.

"This field represents an investment in opportunities for students," said Superintendent Dr. Chuck Sampson. "Athletics help young people develop confidence, teamwork, discipline, and a sense of be-



longing. More importantly, they provide young people with opportunities to challenge themselves, build relationships, and develop skills that extend far beyond the playing field." MUFSD Board of Education president Ariana Cohen added, "We are grateful to Fields for Kids, Senator Mayer, Assemblyman Otis, and all of the partners who helped make this project possible. The completion of this field will expand opportunities for students to participate, compete, and grow for many years to come."

State Senator Shelley B. Mayer said, "I am delighted to join the Mamaroneck Union Free School District, Assemblyman Steve Otis, Fields for Kids and so many others in celebrating the ribbon-cutting of Mamaroneck High School's new multi-

sport field. I am pleased that MUFSD students will have this wonderful new space to enjoy the outdoors, stay active, and build community this summer and for years to come. I was proud to help secure State Senate funding for this project, under the leadership of Majority Leader

Andrea Stewart-Cousins. Thank you to Assemblyman Steve Otis, Superintendent Dr. Chuck Sampson, Fields for Kids, and everyone who worked to make this project a reality for the students and families of the Mamaroneck Union Free School District."

Assemblyman Steve Otis said, "Sports programs are a vital part of the education, growth, and enjoyment of students of all ages. With programs growing, the demand for field space is always larger than what schools and municipalities have available. This project helps address that need with a field that will provide better playing conditions and an improved experience for all players. Improving youth sports facilities has been

continued on page 4

Extraordinary REALM Monument Unveiled on Juneteenth

continued from page 1

A law was passed, authorizing side and rear yard setbacks for central air conditioning to be 5 feet.

Finally, Town Board accepted a generous donation of \$900 from the Woman's Club of Larchmont Philanthropy Committee to be used for Town Senior Center programming.

Supervisor Eney closed the meeting with a tribute to Burt Corwin, Vietnam veteran and former Commander of VFW Post 1156, who passed away on April 29. Burt's leadership helped preserve the former VFW building for community use and played a significant role in establishing what is now the Town's Senior Center.



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Safety Changes Made at Boston Post Road and Beach Avenue Intersection

The New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) has officially approved and installed an exclusive pedestrian signal phase at the intersection of Boston Post Road (Route 1) and Beach Avenue, after receiving a request from the Village of Larchmont.

The upgrade follows a comprehensive safety review of pedestrian counts, traffic activity, and available crash data at the location. The Village also evaluated potential impacts on vehicular travel delays, as well as the possible redirection of students from other existing school crossings and determined that the vital safety benefits of the upgrade far outweigh those factors. The Village acknowledges the effort over several years by community members to make this change happen.

While the change was eventually initiated in response to a recent pedestrian crash at the intersection, the Village is thankful to NYSDOT for implementing this much-needed improvement.

The newly approved exclusive signal phase will temporarily stop all vehicular traffic in every direction simultaneously. This modification allows pedestrians to cross the state-regulated roadway safely without the risk of turning vehicles.

The Village recognizes the efforts of the Village of Larchmont Board of Trustees, the Larchmont Traffic Commission, the Larchmont Police Department, and residents and community members who have brought this matter to the Village's attention over the years.

New Multi-Sport Field Opens in Mamaroneck

continued from page 3

a major priority of mine throughout the Sound Shore communities I serve. Congratulations to the Mamaroneck School District Team and Fields for Kids for this exciting project. I have worked with Fields for Kids for over a decade going back to the Lorenzen Park Baseball Field Project in Larchmont. Volunteer partnerships with school districts and local governments are of tremendous benefit to young athletes."

Fields for Kids has worked closely with the district for several years to address field shortages and expand opportunities for young people to participate in athletics at all levels. Through fundraising, advocacy, and partnership with local and state leaders, the organization has played a key role in bringing the project to completion.

Fields For Kids Board President Heather Mahland said, "Thanks to our partners in state government, the Ma-

maroneck school district and the generous support of donors in our community, Fields For Kids has successfully fundraised our third major project in three years. This multisport turf field will dramatically improve the playing time across youth sports. On behalf of the FFK board, I want to thank everyone who helped make this project happen and highlight that great things that can happen when we come together as One Community."

Joining Senator Mayer, Assemblyman Otis, and Dr. Sampson at the ceremony were representatives from Fields for Kids, Board of Education President Ariana Cohen, Assistant Superintendent for Business Sylvia Fassler, Director of Health, Physical Education and Athletics Bari Suman, Director of Facilities Steve Brugge, additional district leaders, community representatives, and student athletes who will be among the first to benefit from the new facility.

Sound Shore St. Patrick's Day Parade Awards 2026 Scholarships

The Sound Shore St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee is pleased to announce that the 2026 Scholarship winners are:

Ariana Brito: Ariana, a senior at Mamaroneck High School, has been named the inaugural recipient of the Legacy of Service Nursing Scholarship and will attend Barry University this fall to pursue a degree in Nursing. As the child of a first responder, she has embraced the values of service, sacrifice, and resilience, demonstrating them through her academic excellence, four years on the varsity softball team, coaching youth athletes, and helping care for her younger siblings. Ariana has also been actively involved in community service and volunteer initiatives and looks forward to a nursing career where she can make a meaningful impact on the lives of others.

Emma Cunningham: Emma, a senior at Rye Neck High School, has earned High Honor Roll recognition throughout all four years of high school and is a member of the National Honor Society. In addition to her academic achievements, she has been actively involved in student government, field hockey, theater, Sharing Shelf, Special Olympics, and numerous other school and community activities. Proud of her Irish heritage, Emma danced competitively for nearly 10 years and plans to continue that passion by joining the Irish dance team at Providence College. Emma is the recipient of our Irish Heritage/In Memory of Tim O'Neill Scholarship.

Ashley Hernandez: Ashley is complet-



ing her senior year at Rye Neck High School, where she has distinguished herself through outstanding academic achievement, athletic success, and extensive community service. Raised in an immigrant household, Ashley has been a passionate advocate for immigrant communities, founding her school's Hispanic Coalition, researching immigration policy, and working with local leaders to address issues affecting newcomers. This fall, she will attend Vanderbilt University, where she plans to continue her commitment to service, leadership, and advocacy. Ashley is the recipient of our American Immigrant Experience Scholarship.

Wilder 'Carlos' Miranda: Carlos, a senior at Rye Neck High School, moved to the United States from Guatemala in 2021 and quickly adapted to a new language, culture, and school environment. Through determination and hard work, he achieved

strong academic success while balancing athletics and employment throughout his high school career. As he prepares for graduation, Carlos plans to pursue a future in law enforcement, with the goal of serving and protecting his community. Carlos is also the recipient of our American Immigrant Experience Scholarship.

The parade committee and past Parade Grand Marshals Kate Bialo and 2026 Grand Marshal officially presented these deserving students with their scholarships at Barn Stone Grill in Mamaroneck. In return, the Barnstone Grill staff presented the Parade Committee with a generous donation check to the Parade Scholarship Fund as part of their "Dine to Donate", a decade-old community enrichment partnership with local non-profits. Rye Neck High School Principal Melinda Folchetti was on hand to congratulate the students, three of whom are Rye

Neck High School Seniors.

More than \$70,000 in scholarships has been awarded in a tradition that began with the first Sound Shore St. Patrick's Day Parade. "The Parade serves the Sound Shore Community in two ways," said Past Grand Marshal Kate Bialo. "First, it is a wonderful community event that brings folks together to celebrate a fun traditional cultural holiday. And equally important is our Scholarship Program—with four annual scholarships awarded to Sound Shore high school seniors who exemplify community spirit, volunteer service and connections to their cultural heritages. It's a Parade with a bonus. Who doesn't love that?"

The Sound Shore St. Patrick's Day Parade is a celebration of Irish American heritage and the American immigrant experience, representing the entire Sound Shore community from Port Chester to the Pelhams, marching down Mamaroneck Avenue through the village of Mamaroneck to Harbor Island. "Our aim has always been to organize a great parade event for the Sound Shore community and provide for scholarships for deserving students," said Parade President Joe Mauro. "We're grateful for the opportunity to make a small difference in these admirable young people's lives."

For more information on how you and your organization can march in the parade, donate to the Parade Scholarship Fund, or attend the annual fall golf outing on September 28, visit www.soundshoreparade.com.

MHS Celebrates Five National Merit Finalists and Two Scholarship Winners

Self-driven, curious, and deeply committed to excellence: these are the qualities that define the five Mamaroneck High School (MHS) students named as National Merit Scholarship Program Finalists this year. Together, they embody what it means to pursue learning with genuine passion and purpose.

MHS is proud to recognize our National Merit Scholarship Program Finalists: Carl Albano, Leo Federspiel, Sahil Gupta, Jonah Hecht, and Mustafa Khan.

Finalists represent less than one percent of the nation's high school seniors, and scholarship recipients are selected based on the highest academic standards. To that end, MHS extends a special congratulations to Leo Federspiel and Mustafa Khan, who have been named National Merit \$2,500 Scholarship Winners. This remarkable achievement is awarded to just 2,500 out of about 15,000 finalists nationwide.

When asked what helped them get to this point, all five students agreed that work ethic was central to their success.

Mustafa considers himself driven, pursuing the things he enjoys, like robotics and Original Science Research, with full effort. His counselor, Greg Cuddy, put it well: "Mustafa leads, not by commanding the spotlight, but by example. He engages deeply in everything he does and is excited by learning. His enthusiasm and positive energy are contagious."

Carl attributed his achievements to

his family and friends. Coming from a family of educators has been key, and he spoke about his friends being both competitors and supporters who have pushed him to his potential. Cuddy added, "There is a sweetness to Carl's personality that makes every group he's part of better. He combines intellect, curiosity, and drive with genuine kindness and optimism."

Sahil and Leo pointed to their time on the debate team as instrumental in developing critical thinking and comprehension skills, as well as the ability to process information quickly. Leo's counselor, Helaine Lichtenstein, described him as "a highly engaged and curious student who always looks to delve deeper. He has consistently contributed to MHS in and outside of the classroom. I have no doubt Leo will continue to do so and more in all of his future endeavors."

Of Sahil, his counselor, Laura Kearon said, "Sahil is an exceptional young man who has consistently demonstrated intelligence, leadership, and a deep sense of empathy throughout his high school career. Since his freshman year, he has immersed himself in the most rigorous academic curriculum offered."

Jonah's commitment to that same work ethic was echoed by his counselor, Robert Adams: "Jonah is self-driven and has taken full advantage of the opportunities and resources available at MHS." Adams also described him as a role model to his peers.

Larchmont Police Blotter

Monday, May 25, 2026, 2:52 AM: A Hall Avenue resident reported that her daughter saw a light in their driveway, looked out her window and saw a man in a dark hoodie with a flashlight looking through their car. Then he softly closed the car door and walked away. Nothing was taken.

Monday, May 25, 2026, 8:16 AM: A Shore Drive homeowner told police that someone rummaged through his two unlocked vehicles overnight. The glove compartments were left open, but nothing was missing.

Monday, May 25, 2026, 9:45 AM: The contents of the glove compartment and center console were found strewn across the front seats of a white 2024 Cadillac Escalade parked in the driveway of a home on Grove Avenue. Nothing was reported missing.

Monday, May 25, 2026, 9:45 AM: Police notified the owner of a 2023 Audi parked on Bishop Place that the passenger side door was slightly ajar and the glove compartment and center console were open. Nothing had been taken.

Tuesday, May 26, 2026, 11:07 AM: Someone rummaged through a vehicle on Flint Avenue over the weekend and left the glove compartment open. Nothing was stolen.

Wednesday, May 27, 2026, 5:56 PM: A driver on Vanderburgh Avenue was charged with failing to stop at a stop sign and operating a motor vehicle with a suspended registration after police saw his car fail to come to a complete stop at a stop sign.

Thursday, May 28, 2026, 6:28 PM: A \$300 Ninebot-Segway scooter was stolen from a bike rack near the Chatsworth Avenue bridge.

Friday, May 29, 2026, 11:49 AM: Police helped a woman locate her gray 2015 Toyota Prius when she reported that she couldn't remember where she parked.

Saturday, May 30, 2026, 4:06 PM: A Montague mountain bike and helmet stolen in December 2025 was found in a bike rack in front of the Larchmont Public Library, 121 Larchmont Avenue.

Monday, June 1, 2026, 5:28 AM: A Starbucks employee was punched in the face after she told a man who was cursing and shouting to leave the store. Police took the man to White Plains Hospital for a mental evaluation and the woman to Montefiore

Hospital for treatment of her injuries.

Tuesday, June 2, 2026, 4:58 PM: Three men dressed in black hoodies and pants fled CVS, 21 Chatsworth Avenue, Larchmont, with 21 packs of Ensure shakes and two packs of Boost shakes, worth about \$333 total. They drove away in a gray 2008 Nissan Altima, which was reported to be involved in a hit-and-run accident. The suspects were later seen in Walgreens Pharmacy, 1333 Boston Post Road, Mamaroneck, where they were placed under arrest.

Wednesday, June 3, 2026, 1:10 PM: A set of keys for a GMC vehicle was found along Addison Street and Post Alley. Police turned the keys in to police headquarters.

Wednesday, June 3, 2026, 5:54 PM: An electric scooter worth \$450 was reported stolen from a bike rack at the Larchmont Metro-North train station. The scooter was locked with a \$50 bike lock, which was also stolen.

Wednesday, June 3, 2026, 7:45 PM: A black 2024 Ninebot Max G2 electric scooter worth \$900 was reported stolen from a bike rack at the Larchmont Metro-North train station. Thieves cut the metal chain lock on the scooter.

Thursday, June 4, 2026, 8:05 AM: Dewalt and Milwaukee power tools worth \$7,000 were reported stolen from a home under construction at 1 Beach Avenue.

Friday, June 5, 2026, 12:19 AM: Police responded to a verbal dispute between three youths and a Pryor Lane resident, who said that the youths kicked the front passenger side door of his car while he was driving on the Pryor Manor Bridge. One of the teens told police the man's car intentionally struck him in the knee while he was walking near the bridge, then he drove away.

Friday, June 5, 2026, 2:35 PM: Police gave a verbal warning to driver who drove the wrong way on Franklin Avenue.

Saturday, June 6, 2026, 7:41 PM: Police attempted to stop a teen driving a dirt bike without a rear license plate on Boston Post Road. When he would not pull over, police followed him to his residence on Oak Lane, where he was handcuffed and brought to police headquarters. The teen had a small bag of marijuana, which police confiscated and destroyed. The dirt bike was impounded, and the teen was released to his father.

continued on page 6

Spotlight on Your Emergency Services Personnel: Meet Officer Jacob Mizrahi

Officer Jacob Mizrahi has worked in the Larchmont Police Department since 2021. He began his career in Law Enforcement in 2018 with the New York Police Department where he worked in the Patrol Division.

Officer Mizrahi grew up in upper Westchester and before his career in Law Enforcement worked in the sports and athletic industry.

His current responsibilities in the police department are as Traffic Commission Liaison and as a Patrol Officer assigned to the Day Tour. In his personal life, Officer Mizrahi enjoys visiting historical locations and spending time with family.



Westchester County Now Requires Visual Gun Safety Warnings

The Westchester County Board of Legislators unanimously passed the Visual Gun Warning Law, requiring firearm retailers display images showing dangers associated with gun ownership, making Westchester second in the nation to adopt such a measure.

Under the new bill, wherever firearms are sold in Westchester County, striking public safety images must be posted alongside written notices already mandated under a 2022 County law. The enhanced warnings must also be given to anyone applying for a gun license in the County.

The Westchester County Department of Health will develop or approve the visual additions to existing signage that highlights the increased risks of suicide, domestic violence, homicide, and accidental shootings associated with keeping a gun in the home. Warnings also include contact information for the County's Crisis Prevention and Response Team and the National Suicide and Crisis Lifeline.

Penalties for non-compliant retailers will remain unchanged under existing law: a \$250 fine for first violations and, for subsequent offenses, a \$500 fine and potential misdemeanor charges.

Research on tobacco safety campaigns suggests that visual messaging can be more ef-



fective than text alone in raising awareness and influencing behavior. Advocates say such imagery can more clearly and immediately communicate the dangers associated with gun ownership and unsafe storage practices.

Board Chairman Vedat Gashi (D-New Castle, Ossining, Somers, Yorktown) said, "Prevention starts with awareness, and these visual warnings are meant to make serious hazards clear, immediate, and unforgettable. I want to thank all of my colleagues, advocates, and community partners who worked so hard to pass this legislation. Preventing even one accidental shooting, suicide, or deadly act of violence would make this effort worthwhile."

Legislator David T. Imamura (D-Ardsley, Dobbs Ferry, Edgemont, Hartsdale, Hastings-on-Hudson, Irvington), said, "They say a picture is worth a thousand words. In this case, a picture can save lives. I am proud to sponsor a bill that will make Westchester County second in the nation to enact a visual gun safety law. We need to show the dangers associated with firearms and ensure gun owners understand the importance of safe practices. This law will help keep Westchester residents safe."

Majority Whip Shanae Williams (D-Yonkers), a member of the Westchester County Gun Violence Prevention Task Force, said, "Graphic warning labels save lives because they force us to confront the devastating reality of gun violence before tragedy strikes. Just as warning labels on cigarettes helped educate the public about the dangers of smoking, this bill ensures that residents of Westchester County are fully informed about the risks firearms pose to individuals, families, and communities. I am

proud to be a co-sponsor and I am thankful for the Westchester Gun Violence Prevention Task Force members who advocated and supported this law."

Lindsay Nichols, Policy Director, Giffords Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence, said, "They say an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. Ensuring that gun buyers really understand the dangers of having a gun could help prevent many tragedies before they happen. That's why we applaud this proposal to educate gun store customers about the true potential of their choice to bring a firearm into their home."

Barry S. Graubart, NYS Advocacy Lead, Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America, part of the Everytown for Gun Safety network said, "For years, gunmakers have sold the idea that bringing a gun into the home makes a family safer. The data tells a very different story. A written notice is important but an enhanced warning for buyers here in Westchester will have a more significant impact."

Prior to the vote, gun violence prevention advocates from Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America, and several members of the Westchester County Gun Violence Prevention Task Force joined legislators at a press conference in the Legislative Rotunda to express support for the legislation. Participants included Chairman Vedat Gashi, Vice Chair Terry Clements, Majority Leader Judah Holstein, Majority Whip Shanae Williams, Legislators Erika L. Pierce, Jenn Pujja, Anant Nambiar, Jewel Williams Johnson, Emiljana Ulaj, David T. Imamura, David J. Tubiolo, and José I. Alvarado.

Larchmont Considers Changing Regulations for Gasoline Service Station Stores

BY STEPHEN E. LIPKEN

Larchmont Mayor Sarah Bauer convened the June 22 Board of Trustees meeting, beginning with a letter from Kevin J. O'Brien, Esq., O'Brien Law P.C. to attorney Kevin E. Staudt, McCullough, Goldberger and Staudt, LLP, regarding Gasoline Service Station Convenience Stores.

"We have reviewed the proposed ordinance and agree with most of the design and ordinance considerations; however, I would like to highlight certain specifics that you may wish to consider changing. The following represent our considerations and recommendations:

1. Proposed ordinance limits service stations to RB Zoning District only. We suggest adding RC as our service station closest to Village Hall is located in the RC District.

2. The current proposal limits vehicular access to the State road only. We recommend permitting one curb cut on the side street, which would allow for easier on-site and off-site traffic circulation. The curb cut could limit or prohibit turns in this instance—left-hand turns into the residential neighborhood.

3. Limitation to 1,000 square feet net floor area. We suggest at least 2,000 square feet and would need to more clearly define net floor area. Usually, that excludes storage, utilities, restroom, office area and cashier area and includes only public accessible retail space. Most

of the tenants' convenience store locations range between 2,000 and 3,500 square feet gross floor area. Our current service station buildings in the Village have an area of 2,000 and 2,257 square feet respectively.

4. Exterior lighting. We agree with the limitation of lighting as it may abut neighboring residential properties, however adequate lighting should be provided at the curb cuts along the State roadway.

5. Prohibition against on-site food consumption. Operator should be permitted to have prepared foods for off-site."

• Public Hearing for all interested persons to be heard in favor of or in opposition to the proposed renewal of the Verizon New York Inc. franchise for a period of 5 years.

• Resolution Authorizing the Village to Renew a Cable Franchise Agreement with Verizon New York, Inc. to operate a Cable System in the Village of Larchmont.

Police Chief Chris T. McNerney reported an illegal transfer of \$1,500 at the CVS parking lot on May 19. Mabel Mejia was appointed as Probationary Police Officer.

McNerney also reported numerous thefts of scooters from the Train Station parking lot.

Trustee Peter Fanelli called for at least three volunteers to serve on the Coastal Zone Management Commission. To learn more about this opportunity, call 914-403-2387.

Larchmont Police Blotter

continued from page 5

Saturday, June 6, 2026, 8:12 PM: Several tree branches fell on a police parking enforcement vehicle while the officer was directing traffic. The vehicle's front windshield, roof, hood, fender, passenger door and window were smashed.

Monday, June 8, 2026, 8:26 AM: A motorist was ticketed after police saw him drive through a red light without stopping on Chatsworth Avenue.

Monday, June 8, 2026, 8:32 AM: Locks were reported broken on two storage containers at an Ocean Avenue home and tools worth at least \$5,000 were stolen.

Tuesday, June 9, 2026, 6:33 AM: The Larchmont Fire Department and neighboring fire companies extinguished a fire that broke out in a Palmer Avenue alley between Cozy Nail & Spa and Turquoise Restaurant. The fire started in an air conditioning unit of the Cellar Bar, 8 Railroad Way. No injuries were reported.

Tuesday, June 9, 2026, 9:10 AM: A Larchmont man reported that his bicycle was stolen from a bike rack at the Larchmont Metro-North train station.

Tuesday, June 9, 2026, 4:50 PM: A firefighter was injured responding to a fire in a group home at 1 Mayhew Avenue. All residents and staff members were safely evacuated.

Wednesday, June 10, 2026, 10:48 AM: A Larchmont woman told police she lost her gold paperclip chain necklace with a square pale blue stone pendant outside the Larchmont Temple, 75 Larchmont Avenue, and wants it returned if found.

Wednesday, June 10, 2026, 2:36 PM: The owner of a 2023 Chevrolet Tahoe reported that the driver side door and front panel of her vehicle was smashed in a hit-and-run while she was parked in a lot at 125 Chatsworth Avenue.

Westchester Parks Foundation Celebrates Happy Art for Westchester Parks

The Westchester Parks Foundation (WPF), in collaboration with Marla Beth Designs, hosted the second annual Happy Art for Westchester Parks showcase last month at North Street Tavern at Maple Moor in White Plains. The evening was emceed by Richard Giacovas, FOX 5 NY

anchor, and sponsored by 914 Collective Media and Hudson River Music Festival. The event featured local artists whose work was selected through a community-wide campaign this past spring celebrating the beauty and importance of Westchester County Parks and the importance of preserving and supporting these shared public spaces.

Five winning artists were recognized during the reception, with each piece inspired by one of the County's 50-plus parks and accompanied by personal stories reflecting meaningful connections to the region's treasured green spaces. Featured winners included:

- Sandra Schustack of West Harrison — Muscotoot Farm
- Jessica Maricevic of Rye — Playland
- Steve Rossi of Yonkers — Rye Marshlands
- Karen Martinez of Yonkers — Cranberry Lake
- Soma Vajpayee of Scarsdale — Bronx River Parkway

"Happy Art for Westchester Parks continues to showcase the deep personal



Photo credit: Jessica Maricevic Photographed by Dante Pierre

connection so many residents have with our parks," said Joe Stout, Executive Director of Westchester Parks Foundation. "The artwork was stunning. This contest highlights how parks inspire creativity, bring communities together, and create lasting memories for people of all ages." Winning artworks will be featured at

Westchester Parks Foundation's Parks Are Essential Gala on September 16. In celebration of the artists' work, exclusive notecard sets featuring select pieces will also be created for gala attendees.

For more information on Westchester Parks Foundation, visit thewpf.org

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Flint Park's Cafe is Back



Photo courtesy of LMC Media

A new community hotspot has arrived in Flint Park. The Village of Larchmont celebrated the grand opening last month of the Flint Park Café at the Tennis Pavilion, inviting residents to enjoy delicious food, refreshing drinks, and a welcoming new space to gather. The café adds a fresh new energy to one of Larchmont's favorite parks, creating the perfect place to relax, recharge, and connect with neighbors.

Visit https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n44N_sRfyyo to enjoy the entire proceedings, and <https://lmcmedia.org/>

Songcatchers Awarded \$25,000 NYSCA Grant

Songcatchers announced that it has been awarded a \$25,000 grant from the New York State Council on the Arts (NYSCA) in support of its ongoing mission to provide accessible, high-quality music education and enrichment opportunities for children and families throughout the community. The funding will help strengthen arts programming and expand opportunities for young musicians in New Rochelle and beyond.

"New York's arts and culture sector is a cornerstone of the state's identity, and we're making bold investments to ensure it remains strong," Governor Hochul said. "These grants will lift up artists and organizations in every

region, fueling local economies and expanding access to the arts. Congratulations to all the grantees – your talent and dedication help power New York's future."

"Songcatchers continues to enrich the cultural fabric of New Rochelle through its commitment to music education and community engagement. This NYSCA grant is a well-deserved recognition of the organization's impact and will help ensure that children ages 3 - 17 have access to inspiring musical experiences, community service and creative opportunities throughout our community," said Jennifer Lanser, Executive Director of Songcatchers.



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Larchmont Rotary Honors Hommocks Essay Contest Winners

Six Hommocks Middle School students were honored by the Rotary Club of Larchmont as winners of the 2026 Essay Contest during its May meeting at the Larchmont Yacht Club. Club member Marian White has led the effort for the last 24 years, coordinating in September with the Hommocks English Department to determine a relevant topic and then selecting Rotarian essay judges to determine the winners. Each May, families, teachers, Rotarians and special guests have gathered to celebrate the most talented of the young writers.



For this year's topic, students in the 6th, 7th and 8th grades were asked to write about tolerance: accepting people even if they are different from you in ideas, looks, beliefs and habits. More than 100 students entered and four Rotary Club members (Michael Gedigk, Mitch Weisburgh, Ben Williams and Rafina Ibragamova) judged the entries on various criteria such as creativity, expression and grammar. Marian White thanked the teachers of the English Department for the effort each one has put in over the years encouraging their students to enter the contest.

Sixth grade winners were: Reagan Smith and Maya Tripathi

Seventh grade winners were: Manu Priogo and Elisabeth Schulz

Eighth grade winners were: Tala Siman and Pax Yotebieng

Each student read his/her entry to the audience. Marian White awarded each student with a gift certificate from J Anderson Books in Larchmont. After the luncheon, Club Treasurer Marion Anderson gave each student four award certificates from the offices of New York State Assemblyman Steve Otis, New York State Senator Shelley Mayer, County Legislator Catherine Parker and the Larchmont Rotary.

Guests are welcome at the Larchmont Rotary Club's bi-monthly meetings. Interested individuals can contact the club at <https://larchmontrotary.org>. To view more pictures from the Awards Luncheon, go to: larchmontrotary.org/PhotoAlbums/student-essay-awards-2026/.

Larchmont Admiral Hands Off Command of Carrier Strike Group Two



Larchmont native Rear Admiral Dusty Rhodes handed off command of Carrier Strike Group Two (CSG-2) to Rear Admiral P. Scott Miller at a change of command ceremony aboard the flagship USS Dwight D. Eisenhower on June 15. He will report to the Chief of Naval Operations Staff (OPNAV) in the Pentagon and serve as N98, Director of Air Warfare.

Rhodes took command of the strike group in May 2025 to drive the completion of IKE's FY-25 Planned Incremental Availability and continue the strike group's preparation for deployment in 2027.

"Serving as Commander, Carrier Strike Group Two has been an extraordinary privilege," said Rhodes. "Throughout my time with this exceptional team, I witnessed firsthand the resilience and unwavering commitment of our Sailors, civilians, and our

continued on page 11

Congratulations Class of 2026

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Class of 2026 College Acceptances

Auburn University (4)	Fairfield University	Mercy University	Santa Clara University (5)	University of Massachusetts Amherst
Babson College	Florida International University	Miami University (5)	Siena University (2)	University of Massachusetts Boston
Bates College	Fordham University (5)	Michigan State University	Skidmore College (4)	University of Miami (3)
Baylor University (2)	Franklin & Marshall College (6)	Middlebury College	Southern Methodist University (7)	University of Mount Saint Vincent
Binghamton University (5)	The George Washington University	Monmouth University	Spelman College	University of New Hampshire
Boston College (5)	Georgetown University (5)	Moravian University	St. Lawrence University	University of New Haven
Brock University	Georgia Institute of Technology	Mount Holyoke College	Stanford University	University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Brown University	Gettysburg College (3)	Muhlenberg College	Stonehill College (3)	University of Notre Dame (2)
Bucknell University (12)	Hamilton College	North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University (2)	Stony Brook University (4)	University of Oklahoma
Case Western Reserve University	High Point University (2)	Northeastern University (4)	Syracuse University (3)	University of Pittsburgh
The Catholic University of America	Hobart and William Smith Colleges (2)	Northwestern University	Temple University (5)	University of Rhode Island
Clark University	Hofstra University	The Ohio State University (4)	Texas Christian University (9)	University of Richmond (3)
Clemson University (7)	Howard University (2)	Pace University	Towson University	University of San Diego
Colby College (4)	Indiana University Indianapolis	Pennsylvania State University, Altoona	Trinity College	University of Scranton
Colgate University (3)	Indiana University Bloomington (13)	Pennsylvania State University, Harrisburg	Tufts University	University of South Carolina
College of Charleston (9)	Iona University (2)	Pennsylvania State University, University Park (7)	Union College (2)	University of Southern California (2)
College of the Holy Cross (7)	Jacksonville University	Princeton University	The University of Alabama (2)	University of St Andrews (2)
Connecticut College	James Madison University (2)	Providence College (11)	University at Albany, SUNY	University of Tampa
The Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art	Johns Hopkins University	Quinnipiac University (3)	University of California, Santa Barbara	University of Tennessee (5)
Dartmouth College	Lafayette College (6)	Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute	University of Colorado Boulder (2)	University of Vermont (2)
Denison University (2)	Lehigh University	Rider University	University of Connecticut (11)	University of Virginia (4)
Dickinson College (2)	Louisiana State University	Rollins College	University of Connecticut, Stamford (2)	University of Wisconsin (5)
Drew University	Loyola Marymount University	Rutgers University	University of Delaware (2)	Villanova University (4)
Elmira College	Loyola University Maryland (4)	Sacred Heart University	University of Denver (2)	Virginia Tech (2)
Elon University (11)	Marist University (3)	Saint Joseph's University (2)	University of Florida	Wake Forest University (3)
Emerson College	Marquette University		University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign	
	Massachusetts Institute of Technology		University of Maryland (2)	

Seventh-Grade Students Discover Local Ties to American Independence

As the nation celebrates the 250th anniversary of American independence, Hommocks seventh graders discovered that history isn't just found in textbooks. It's right here in their own community. This milestone provides an opportunity for students to explore our nation's history, reflect on the importance of civic participation, and connect the past to the present in meaningful ways.

During May, students explored local connections to the Revolutionary era through a walking tour that included the Kemper Memorial, Richbell Cemetery, Harbor Island, the 1816 Schoolhouse, and historic sites along Heathcote Hill and the Boston Post Road. Along the way, they deepened their understanding of the people, events, and stories that helped shape both the nation and the community they call home.

Hommocks Social Studies Department Chair and seventh-grade teacher Andy Scopp organized the trip as a way to help students experience history where it happened.

"Local history matters and kids need to learn more about historical sites they're walking or biking past, besides just knowing they're on their way to school," Scopp said.

Scopp traced the inspiration for the trip to a walking tour about enslavement in the community created by former Mamaroneck High School Original Civic Research & Action (OCRA) students Zoe Stahl and Caitlin Solis. During one of the four days, Zoe, home from college, joined the tour and was excited to see younger students engaging with their work.

"I can't convey how happy Caitlin and I are to see these young people engaging



thoughtfully with our work and carrying on the legacy of our time in OCRA," she said.

The tour, graciously escorted by the Town and Village of Mamaroneck police departments, continued at Harbor Island and the 1816 Schoolhouse, where students were welcomed by Village of Mamaroneck Historian John Pritts and storyteller Jonathan Kruk, who brought Revolutionary-era Westchester history to life through engaging and immersive storytelling.

Inside the 1816 Schoolhouse, Pritts shared the rich local history of the area. Stepping inside the one-room schoolhouse immediately captured students' imaginations. For many, it was their first visit. Caleb Boamah reflected, "We got to learn what they learned, what they had to sit in, and what their actual school looked like. I thought that was actually pretty cool." Sebastian Torres was equally enthusiastic. "I got to ring the bell!"

The historic schoolhouse offered students a tangible connection to the past. "It's a really amazing historical building," said Soha O'Keefe. Sebastian pointed out a piece of the original wall still visible inside, a detail that made the building's history feel especially real.

Outside, Jonathan Kruk transported students back to October 1776, asking them to imagine the sounds of battle - gunshots, screams, and clashing soldiers - all occurring just steps from where they were standing. Through vivid storytelling, he described how British-aligned forces under the command of Robert Rogers raided local farms and villages for supplies, prompting local militia members - ordinary farmers, blacksmiths, and tradespeople - to organize a surprise predawn attack. In the confusion and darkness, combatants struggled to distinguish friend from foe, and some of those

captured were neighbors who had chosen different sides in the conflict. Kruk used these stories to help students understand the difficult realities faced by local families, who lived with the constant threat of violence, divided loyalties, and the loss of homes, livestock, and livelihoods during the Revolutionary War. He also shared the surprising story of Yankee Doodle, explaining how a song once used to mock Americans was eventually reclaimed as a source of pride.

To prepare for the experience, seventh grade social studies teachers used a variety of resources, including local historical websites, Kemper Memorial archives, and primary source accounts from Revolutionary War veterans whose writings referenced familiar local places, including Mamaroneck.

Several students reflected on how different the experience felt from learning history in a classroom. Leslie Kravetz noted that reading about battles in books or seeing them in videos is very different from standing in the places where events

continued on page 11

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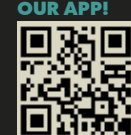
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2026 Geist Summer Fellows Working for Westchester County

The Westchester County Board of Legislators has welcomed its second class of students to the Herman S. Geist Fellowship Program, a paid summer internship that gives high school and college students firsthand experience in county government and public service.

Representing communities across Westchester, this year's fellows will spend the summer working in legislators' offices, assisting with constituent and policy-related projects, learning about the legislative process, and gaining insight into how county government serves residents. In addition to their office assignments, fellows will participate in group activities, special projects, a mock legislative session, as well as public safety and health training. These experiences are designed to broaden understanding of public service while reflecting the Board's commitment to civic engagement and developing the next generation of community leaders.

The fellowship officially began with an orientation program on June 1 at the Board of Legislators. Fellows received an introduction

to the Board's role in county government and met the professionals who support its work, including legislative, fiscal, communications, and administrative staff.

Board Chairman Vedat Gashi (D-New Castle, Ossining, Somers, Yorktown) said, "We're proud to welcome this year's fellows and give them an opportunity to see county government up close. Through their work with legislators and staff, they'll gain valuable experience while helping to carry forward Herman Geist's legacy of leadership and service to Westchester."

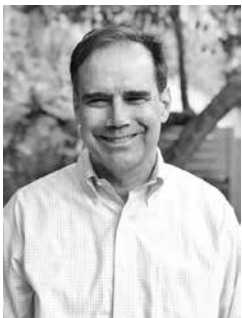
The program is named in honor of Herman S. Geist, the first chairman of the Westchester County Board of Legislators and a lifelong public servant whose contributions helped shape county government and civic institutions throughout Westchester. The fellowship was established by the Board in



2025 to honor Geist on the occasion of his 100th birthday, creating a lasting opportunity for young people to learn about public

service while recognizing his extraordinary legacy and decades of service to Westchester County.

CHING ... cash ... register ... rip ... CLINK ... coin ... coin



BY JOHN CATTAU, MANAGING PARTNER
OF KIRK CREEK
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It's 7/4 time.

It hits you differently from the usual 4-4 beat. 1-2-3-4, 1-2-3. You know it: The cash register ringing, ripping and clanging launches *Money*, a Pink Floyd masterpiece from *Dark Side of the Moon*. It was written before the band became popular—a satirical statement about greed and materialism.

It stands out largely because it follows a different rhythm (save for the amazing guitar solo in 4/4 time).

A lesson for us business owners in how we might think differently than the herd. As in: Turn down the volume on "My premium is too high!" and crank it up on "What can I do to reduce risk?"

Here are 7 prompts to get you think-

ing about unconventional risk management approaches:

1. **Conduct an Annual Insurance "Tune-Up".** *What has changed in the last year?*
2. **View Cyber Insurance as Business Continuity Insurance.** *How long could you operate if things went south?*
3. **Insure Your People.** *Who keeps the business running?*
4. **Use Certificates of Insurance Strategically.** *Trust but verify insurance you may be relying on.*
5. **Don't Grab the Lowest Deductible.** *Some risks might be worth retaining.*
6. **Review Replacement Costs—Not Market Values.** *Could you rebuild after a major loss?*
7. **Prevention.** *What could we do today to prevent a claim from occurring?*

Ironically, Pink Floyd became very wealthy partly due to its mockery of greed, in lyrics we all know:

Money

It's a crime

Share it fairly but don't take a slice of my pie...

BTW, Happy 250th USA. It's 7/4 time.

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

Seventh-Grade Students Discover Local Ties to American Independence

continued from page 10

occurred. Soha agreed.

"When I learned about the battles, I just didn't fully take it in," she said. "But when I was there and the people were presenting, I got a better understanding."

For many students, the Kemper Memorial left the strongest impression. Seeing the names of local residents who served their country helped make history feel personal and relevant.

"It was nice to see all the people who fought for something," said Soha. "And especially since it was in Mamaroneck, it felt more relatable."

As communities across the country commemorate America's 250th anniversary, Hommocks students are learning that history is not only something that happened long ago. It is also a story reflected in the landmarks, people, and places that surround them every day.

Larchmont Admiral Hands Off Command of Carrier Strike Group Two

continued from page 9

families as we navigated the challenges of a lengthy shipyard period and successfully returned to operational readiness. As the strike group enters a demanding workup cycle in preparation for deployment in early 2027, I am confident in their ability to meet every challenge and continue the legacy of excellence. It has been a true honor to serve alongside this remarkable team."

Rhodes moved with his family to Larchmont in 1986 and he graduated from Mamaroneck High School in 1991. He graduated from the United States Naval Academy in 1995 with a degree in Ocean Engineering. Rhodes has an MBA from the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California.

His history of Command at Sea includes Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 81 and Carrier Air Wing (CVW) 3. Rhodes has flown more than 3,500 F/A-18 flight hours, 820 arrested landings, and 100 combat missions. He graduated from TOPGUN and served as the air-to-air subject matter expert at Strike Fighter Weapons School

Pacific.

Rhodes is married to the former Ryan Rodriguez, who was born and raised in Larchmont and Mamaroneck. She graduated from Mamaroneck High School in 1997. Ryan attended Gettysburg College and played soccer for the Lady Bullets.

Ryan's parents are both born and raised in the Sound Shore—Dad, Carlos Sword Rodriguez from Larchmont and Mom, Donna Lee Carmer from Mamaroneck.

Ryan and Dusty Rhodes met in 2000. The Rhodes family now resides in Pottomac, Maryland. They have three children, Dusty (19), Sophie (18), and Finn (16). Dusty will attend Gettysburg College this fall and play men's Lacrosse.

"I grew up in a family where my grandfather, aunt, and father were pilots. While not military pilots, my step-father was a marine pilot in Vietnam. I always wanted to fly for the Navy," said Rhodes, who recalled happy memories of Larchmont, where he spent summers at the Shore Club and met his wife.

Senator Shelley Mayer Honors 2026 Outstanding Educators

State Senator Shelley Mayer, Chair of the Senate Education Committee, honored 18 exceptional educators from across the 37th Senate District with her 2026 Outstanding Educator Award at a ceremony held at Scarsdale High School. The award recognizes educators who have demonstrated an extraordinary commitment to their students, schools, and communities through their leadership, innovation, and dedication to education. Each honoree was nominated by their school principal or superintendent.



During the ceremony, Senator Mayer led a roundtable discussion, providing an opportunity to learn more about their work, the innovative approaches that distinguish them, and the meaningful impact they are making in their schools and communities. Educators shared their experiences and ways they are helping strengthen the communities they serve. Senator Mayer then awarded each educator with a proclamation recognizing their impact. Senator Mayer honored:

Lisa Azria, Special Education Life Skills Teacher at Bronxville High School, Bronxville Union Free School District; Melanie Bradish, 5th Grade Teacher at Church Street Elementary School, White Plains Public Schools; Karen Caine, 6th Grade English Language Arts Teacher at Hommocks Middle School, Mamaroneck Union Free School District; Andrew Colasuonno, Assistant Principal of Student Services and Director of Athletics at Tuckahoe Middle School, Tuckahoe Union Free School District; Julie Cupertino, Grades 3 and 4 Special Education Teacher at School 5, Yonkers Public Schools; Amanda D'Addona, Grade 9 and 10 Social Studies Teacher at Rye Neck High School, Rye Neck School District; Amy Estersohn, High School English Teacher at White Plains High School, White Plains Public Schools; Kimberly Fleming, Grades 3 -5 Music Teacher at F.E. Bellows Elementary School at Rye Neck School, Rye Neck School District; Noreen Garvey, Special Education Teacher at Westchester Hills School 29, Yonkers Public Schools; Jennifer Gherardi, 5th Grade Math Teacher at William E. Cottle School, Tuckahoe Union Free School District; Toby Gillen, High School French Teacher at Bronxville High School, Bronxville Union Free School District; Richard Harman, High School Math Teacher at Yonkers Montessori Academy, Yonkers Public Schools; Jessica Haag, High School English Teacher at Eastchester High School, Eastchester Union Free School District; Dina Hofstetter, High School Art Teacher at Scarsdale High School, Scarsdale Union Free School District; Oren Iosepovici, High School Guidance Counselor at Scarsdale High School, Scarsdale Union Free School District; Joseph Liberti, Social Studies Civic Education Teacher at Mamaroneck High School, Mamaroneck Union Free School District; Carrie Valle, Grades 2 -5 Special Education Teacher at Anne Hutchinson School, Eastchester Union Free School District.

Senator Shelley Mayer said, "I am proud to present the 2026 Outstanding Educator Awards to 18 exceptional educators from across the 37th Senate District. These teachers, counselors, and school professionals represent the very best of public education in New York. As Chair of the Senate Education Committee, I am continually inspired by the extraordinary work happening in our schools. It was a privilege to hear directly from these educators about their experiences, their classroom innovations, and the impact they have every day on their students' lives.

"Thank you to Superintendent Dr. Drew Patrick, Principal Kenneth Bonamo, and the entire Scarsdale High School community for graciously hosting this celebration and helping us honor these outstanding educators."

Among the recipients are:

Lisa Azria, from Bronxville Union Free School District, has dedicated her career to teaching young adults with developmental disabilities and behavioral disorders. Ms. Azria ensures that her students have coordinated instruction across all areas in order to thrive as high as possible – language, reading, fine and gross motor skills, vocational, and so much more. When asked what inspires her work, Ms. Azria said, "My philosophy from the start of my teaching career has been that every child has something special to contribute to their community. It is my job to figure out that 'something special', so they can become active contributors to their communities and as independent as possible."

Amanda D'Addona, from Rye Neck Union Free School District, has an innovative approach to teaching history, making the subject meaningful and relevant by helping students connect historical events and lessons to their own lives and contemporary issues. Beyond the classroom, she serves as advisor to the Student Senate, revitalizing the organization within the Rye Neck Public Schools and empowering students to tack-

le important issues and engage in causes that matter most to them. In addition, Ms. D'Addona coaches two sports teams and advises the Human Rights Club, demonstrating her unwavering commitment to student leadership, civic engagement, and personal growth.

Oren Iosepovici, from Scarsdale Union Free School District, is known for his incredible and far-reaching stewardship of the counseling program and has developed

a comprehensive approach within his department to supporting students at Scarsdale High School. Mr. Iosepovici has skillfully been guiding students as a Dean for the past 18 years and leading the Counseling Department as Director for the last 10. As Director of Counseling, he led a sophisticated sequence of consequential events, activities, conversations, and decisions that have a direct impact on our students' futures, helping earn them admission to a diverse array of prestigious colleges and universities.

Cancer Support Team Raises More Than \$300,000 at Mamaroneck Fundraiser

BY BILL DOESCHER

Cancer Support Team (CST) of Purchase raised more than \$300,000 at its recent fundraising event at Hampshire Country Club while honoring two individuals whose lives and service have made a lasting impact on the organization and the cancer community.

CST Executive Director Tania Weiss confirmed the fundraising total from the evening, which drew more than 200 supporters from across Westchester County and beyond.

Honored during the event were Rupert Walters, a dedicated CST board member for more than 40 years and former Board Chair, and Dr. T. Peter Kingham of Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, an internationally recognized cancer surgeon and researcher. Walters received the Barbara Melmed Memorial Award, while Dr. Kingham received the Wald-Lee Vision Award.

The evening carried special meaning for both honorees. Walters' late son, Adrian Walters, and Dr. Kingham were childhood friends who grew up together in the Larchmont/Mamaroneck area. Adrian passed away from cancer in 2010 at the age of 37, making the recognition especially poignant for both families.

Walters' connection to Cancer Support Team dates back to the organization's early years. In 1986, CST co-founder Gayle Lee approached him with a simple request: "CST needs a businessman on the Board." Walters joined as Treasurer and remained deeply involved with the organization for decades, serving most recently as Board Chair from 2023 to 2025. His guiding philosophy throughout his life and service has been: "Make things better."

Dr. Kingham earned his undergraduate degree from Yale University and his medical degree from SUNY Stony Brook. He completed his general surgery residency at New York University and has served since 2015 as Director of the Global Cancer Research and Training Program at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center. Promoted to Professor in 2022, Dr. Kingham's work focuses on improving cancer care in low- and middle-income countries. He serves as co-principal investigator on multiple prospective studies in Nigeria and has authored more than 420 peer-reviewed publications and 18 book chapters.

The evening also highlighted the broad community support behind Cancer Support Team's mission. Westchester County Legislators Nancy Barr and Anant Nambiar were on hand to offer proclamations to both honorees. Guests throughout the evening spoke passionately about CST's work supporting individuals and families facing cancer. Cancer Support Team provides free professional support services to anyone affected by cancer in Westchester County.



Before You Ask AI for Estate Planning Advice: Understand the Risks

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

Artificial intelligence (AI) has quickly become a popular tool for answering questions about everything from travel planning to home repairs. It is not surprising that many people are now turning to AI platforms for guidance on wills, trusts, powers of attorney, and other estate planning matters. While AI can be a useful starting point for learning basic concepts, relying on it for estate planning advice can create significant and costly mistakes.

Estate planning is not simply about filling out forms. It involves understanding complex legal rules, family dynamics, tax considerations, and state-specific laws. An AI program cannot fully evaluate a person's unique circumstances, and even when it provides information that sounds authoritative, that information may be incomplete, outdated, or simply wrong.

One common problem is that AI often provides generalized answers that do not account for state law. Estate planning laws vary considerably from one state to another. For example, the requirements for

executing a valid will differ across jurisdictions. Some states require witnesses, some recognize handwritten wills under certain circumstances, and others do not. An individual who follows AI-generated instructions based on another state's laws may end up with documents that are invalid or vulnerable to challenge.

Consider the case of a widow who asks an AI program whether she can simply add her daughter as a joint owner on all of her accounts to avoid probate. The AI may explain that joint ownership can transfer assets automatically upon death. While technically true, the answer may overlook important consequences. Adding a child as a joint owner can expose assets to that child's creditors, divorce proceedings, or cause unintended tax consequence. It may also create family disputes if other children were intended to share equally in the estate. A qualified estate planning attorney would identify these risks and explore alternatives.

Another danger is the false sense of certainty that AI can create. Many AI responses are written in a confident tone, even when the information is inaccurate. Estate planning often involves exceptions, special rules, and fact-specific analysis. For example, a parent of a child with dis-

abilities may ask AI whether leaving assets directly to the child is appropriate. An AI system may suggest a simple bequest in a will. However, such a gift could jeopardize the child's eligibility for important government benefits such as Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or Medicaid. In many situations, a properly drafted supplemental needs trust may be necessary to preserve those benefits. A seemingly small mistake could have devastating financial consequences.

Tax issues present another area of concern. While federal estate tax exemptions currently protect most families from federal estate tax liability, many people assume that means taxes are irrelevant. AI-generated advice may fail to address state estate taxes, inheritance taxes, income tax consequences, capital gains issues, or generation-skipping transfer tax concerns. A poorly planned transfer could result in unnecessary taxes that significantly reduce what beneficiaries ultimately receive.

AI also struggles to evaluate family dynamics and personal goals. Estate planning is not merely a legal exercise; it is a process of understanding what matters most to an individual and their family. For example, a blended family may require careful planning to balance the interests of a surviving

spouse and children from a prior marriage. An AI tool may suggest a simple will that leaves everything to the spouse, without recognizing the risk that the children could ultimately be disinherited. Human judgment and thoughtful counseling are often essential to achieving a client's objectives.

Errors in beneficiary designations provide another example. Many assets, including retirement accounts and life insurance policies, pass according to beneficiary designations rather than a will. Someone relying on AI may spend considerable time drafting documents while overlooking outdated beneficiary forms. As a result, assets could pass to an ex-spouse, deceased beneficiary, or unintended recipient. An experienced estate planning attorney typically reviews the entire estate plan to identify these issues.

Privacy is another consideration. Many people share sensitive personal and financial information when seeking estate planning guidance. Depending on the platform being used, that information may not be protected by attorney-client privilege. Conversations with AI systems do not receive the same legal confidentiality protections that apply when communicating with an attorney.

None of this means AI has no place in estate planning. It can be a useful educational tool for learning terminology, understanding general concepts, and preparing questions to discuss with an attorney. However, it should not be viewed as a substitute for individualized legal advice.

Estate planning decisions can affect a family for generations. A document that appears correct on its face may contain flaws that are not discovered until after a person's death or incapacity, when it is too late to make corrections. The cost of fixing those mistakes often far exceeds the cost of obtaining professional guidance in the first place.

When it comes to protecting your loved ones, preserving your assets, and ensuring your wishes are carried out, AI can help you become informed. It should not be the final authority. Estate planning remains an area where personalized legal advice, professional judgment, and careful attention to individual circumstances are indispensable.

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). Krooks may be reached at (914-684-2100) or by visiting the firm's website at www.littmankrooks.com.

Table Hopping with Morris Gut: Winging It!

Like finger foods? Here is a short list of spots where good plump chicken wings fly out of the kitchen in a variety of flavors...

BEECHMONT TAVERN, NEW ROCHELLE

I like vintage pubs and taverns. They have so many stories to tell. They are a living history of the communities they serve often filled with nostalgia and memorabilia. Also enjoy a good pour from the bar, hearty finger foods, wings, big juicy burgers and fries. Recently got back to the Beechmont, across from IONA University. It has been around since 1928, they say, and proprietor Rob Hayes, a former IONA student, has had it since 2018. He has been upgrading the premises and has added more TVs for your sporting enjoyment. And the wings coming out of this kitchen are legendary. www.beechmont-tavern.com

JACK'S BAR & RESTAURANT, EASTCHESTER

Always finding more ways to enjoy Jack's. I sometimes like to sit at the wood-fired pizza station along the bar and watch Hermosinda, their intrepid and talented 'pizzaioli' do her work. The pizzas coming out of that oven are wonderful and rival

anyone in Westchester. I also discovered Jack's wood-fired chicken wings, roasted in that oven right in front of you. They are meaty, moist and super flavorful. Of course, their regular menu of elevated tavern specialties is also available. www.jackseastchester.com

TUCK'D AWAY, TUCKAHOE

Michael Cuozzo operates a friendly tavern on Yonkers Ave. that offers delightful comfort foods and reasonably priced Happy Hours. Tuck'd Away Wings fly out of the kitchen here in a variety of styles: Buffalo-style, BBQ, spicy peanut, Thai chili, Tequila lime, teriyaki, honey chipotle, sweet jerk, garlic parmesan, or plain fried. There are salads, burgers and assorted main courses. Special promo days throughout the week. www.tuckedaway90.com

THE CANDELITE INN, SCARSDALE

The ongoing debate about who serves the 'best chicken wings' rages in all corners of the Hudson Valley to say the least, but when it comes to taste and popularity, the long-running Candlelight Inn operating since 1955 out of a vintage free-standing red wood tavern on Central Park Ave.



in Scarsdale, always shows up among the finalists. I can see where their legendary status comes from. The wings are served attached, the flats and drumsticks spread out with all the fixings on the side. Easy to pull apart, dip in the sauce, and chomp away. Plump, meaty and crisp. www.candlelightwings.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@op-tonline.net)

New Principals Named at Two Mamaroneck Schools

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Andrea Hamilton

Chatsworth Avenue
Elementary School

Tina Ponce

Murray Avenue
Elementary School



MAMARONECK SCHOOLS

Dr. Andrea Hamilton will serve as Principal of Chatsworth Avenue School and Tina Ponce will serve as Principal of Murray Avenue School, effective July 1. Both leaders bring extensive experience, a passion for education, and a commitment to supporting students, staff, and families.

Dr. Hamilton is the former principal of Alice E. Grady Elementary School in Elmsford. Ponce was Assistant Principal at Murray Avenue School for several years before being promoted to Principal for the 2026-2027 school year.

Hoopla is Back!!

The Larchmont Public Library's digital streaming platform Hoopla is back. It never really went away... but now you can download two additional titles per month without having to wait until midnight to do it! At least two downloads will be available at all times of day, thanks to the Friends of the Larchmont Public Library for a generous donation which funded the change. To use Hoopla, go to <https://www.hoopladigital.com/>

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www.scarsdalesentinel.com

Westchester Women Magazine
www.westchester-women.com

Larchmont Calendar



100-Mile Bike Challenge

Sunday, June 7 through Wednesday, September 16
Blue Mountain Reservation, 435 Welcher Avenue, Peekskill
Blue Mountain Reservation is celebrating its 100th Anniversary! Help mark this celebration with the 100-miles in 100 days challenge by riding 100 miles throughout Blue Mountain Reservation. All miles must be ridden within Blue Mountain Reservation property. To register, go to <https://parks.westchestercountyny.gov/blue-mountain-reservations-100-mile-bike-challenge>.



250th Independence Day Celebration

Saturday, July 4, 4 PM
Harbor Island Park, Mamaroneck
This family-friendly event will begin at 4 PM with the Village of Mamaroneck Volunteer Fire Department Carnival, followed by live music starting at 6 PM. Performances will include Wild Life, The Good Life, and Bette Smith. The evening will conclude with a spectacular fireworks display over Long Island

Sound at 9:15 PM. Free admission. Carnival wristbands are \$35, parking in Harbor Island Park is \$20. For more information, call (914) 630-7158.



2026 World Cup Watch Experience

Sunday, July 19, Noon
Kensico Dam Plaza, 1 Bronx River Parkway, Valhalla
Be a part of the excitement at this accessible, family-friendly World Cup community viewing event. Watch a live match broadcast on giant screens, test your skills with interactive soccer and fan experiences, snap a unique photo, and enjoy free giveaways and entertainment plus delicious local food and beverages. Free admission. Activities begin at noon, match

kickoff is 3 PM. Learn more at <https://www.visitwestchesterny.com/events/fifa/>.



Butterfly Walk

Saturday, July 11, 2 PM to 3:30 PM
Merestead, 455 Byram Lake Road, Mount Kisco
Enjoy an afternoon stroll through the meadows of Merestead to watch butterflies as they flutter above the flowers. Participants will learn about common butterfly species in Westchester, search for caterpillars and adult butterflies, and observe the host plants of some of the most charismatic pollinators. For more information, call (914) 666-4258.

World Cup Watch Party

Monday, July 6, 8 PM
Harbor Island Park, 60 Harbor Island Park, Mamaroneck
Watch the FIFA World Cup Quarterfinals on a giant screen in the park's Lanza Field. This family-friendly community event will have food trucks. Free admission. For more information, call (914) 777-7784.

Celebrate USA's 250th! Movie Series

Wednesdays, July 8, 15, 22, 29 at Noon
Mamaroneck Public Library, 136 Prospect Avenue
Enjoy a movie screening with free admission.
July 8, Hamilton
July 15, The American President
July 22, Apollo 13
July 29, Hidden Figures
Registration is not necessary. For more information, call (914) 698-1250.

ZOOM - Seashells Into Art: Georgia O'Keeffe Workshop

Thursday, July 9, 2 PM
Larchmont Public Library, 121 Larchmont Avenue
Inspired by shells found on the ocean shore, learn to paint larger than life seashell paintings inspired by American artist Georgia O'Keeffe. Following a virtual art show of O'Keeffe's popular shell paintings, artist Joyce Raimondo will demonstrate how to turn your ocean finds into masterpieces. Have paint or drawing supplies and a shell or photograph of a shell on hand. To register, go to <https://larchmont.librarycalendar.com/event/art-and-nature-joyce-raimondo-zoom-31503>.

Learn Relief Printmaking

Thursday, July 9, 5 PM to 7 PM
Mamaroneck Artists Guild Gallery, 1987 Palmer Avenue, Larchmont
A versatile relief printing technique rooted in fine art and craft traditions, this workshop will introduce the fundamentals of linocut carving. You will leave the workshop with a carved block and a series of frottage prints. Cost is \$40 for MAG Gallery members, \$50 for non-members. Participants will need to purchase a \$15 basic kit or \$25 advanced kit from the instructor. For more information, call (914) 834-1117.

9th Annual Tiki Party

Friday, July 10, 6 PM to 10 PM
Harbor Island Park, Mamaroneck
This fun-filled family event features live music from yacht rock band New Yacht City, a spectacular fire dancer performance, a kid-friendly foam party, and family-friendly mini golf. Enjoy Disney's live-action Lilo & Stitch on the giant outdoor movie screen and enjoy delicious offerings from several food trucks. Rain date is Saturday,

July 11. For more information, go to <https://www.villageofmamaroneckny.gov/612/Tiki-Party-at-Harbor-Island-Park>.

Firefly Festival

Friday, July 10, 6 PM to 9:30 PM
Ward Pound Ridge Reservation, 6 Reservation Road, Cross River
The Annual Firefly Festival will feature crafts, facepainting, firefly games and catching. Food vendors, popcorn and live music. Professor Moiseff Firefly will share his expertise. Cost is \$15. Learn more at <https://parksevents.westchestercountyny.gov/event/firefly-festival/>.

Bastille Day Concert

Tuesday, July 14, 6:30 PM to 7:30 PM
Mamaroneck Public Library, 136 Prospect Avenue
The Library Jazz Band's "Little Big Band" will celebrate Bastille Day with soul jazz classics from Cannonball Adderly, Lee Morgan, Hank Mobley, Freddie Hubbard and classic French jazz. Learn more at <https://www.mamaronecklibrary.org/events/mpl-concert-series-bastille-day-concert/>.

Comedy From Scratch

Saturday, July 25, 8 PM to 9:30 PM
The Idea Kitchen, 1940 Palmer Avenue, Larchmont
Comedian Ben Asher (New York Comedy Festival, StandUp NBC) performs long sets of stand-up comedy with Sonya Via (TBS, PBS, Caroline's on Broadway) and Ben Frank (SiriusXM). Advance tickets are \$25. Learn more at ComedyFromScratch.com.

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