

Larchmont Ledger



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Larchmont Public Library Appoints New Director

The Trustees of the Larchmont Public Library (LPL) announced that Jessica Veissy has been selected as its new Director.

Lauren Gottfried, President of the Trustees, announced: "We are very excited that Jessica Veissy has accepted our offer to become Director of LPL. Jessica brings more than 20 years of experience, including most recently two years as Director of the Somers Public Library. Jessica has prior experience as head of Children's Services in Somers, head of Youth Services in the Bronxville Public Library, and as a Children's Librarian in the Rye Free Reading Room. She brings firsthand familiarity with our community, having grown up in Mamaroneck, with family still in the area. According to Jessica, she was a frequent visitor to the Larchmont, Mamaroneck and Harrison libraries as a youth. In addition to her ample experience, Jessica brings great enthusiasm, energy and creativity that was evident in her prior positions."

"I am passionate about creating welcoming and inclusive Library spaces that foster engagement across all age groups while supporting literacy, creativity, and community connection," Veissy said.

She received a Bachelor of Arts in History from Caldwell College and a Master of Library and Information Science from Long Island University. She is also working toward her Public Library Administration certificate from the American Library Association.

Veissy will begin at LPL on August 10. The Board of Trustees looks forward to working with Veissy and the LPL staff to assure that the Library remains a vibrant and welcoming space for the Village of Larchmont and Town of Mamaroneck residents.

The Trustees wish to thank Paul Doherty, who served as Interim Director, for managing LPL during this interim period, and appreciate that the LPL staff stepped up to ensure operations remained smooth during the search process.



Mayor Brigid Brennan Sworn In

BY STEPHEN E. LIPKEN

It was the Changing of the Guard at the July 27th Larchmont Board meeting, as Mayor Brigid Brennan was sworn in by Deputy Mayor/Trustee Peter Fanelli, replacing Mayor Sarah Bauer, who resigned on Wednesday, June 24th.

Lieutenant Joseph Paprota was appointed Chief of Police, sworn in by Brennan, replacing Chief Chris McNerney. "Joseph has been an integral part of this administration since his promotion in June 2022," McNerney noted. "Over the past four years, he has taken

a leadership role in every initiative undertaken and has done so with a steady, quiet competence that earns the respect of people around him, officers and residents alike.

"On numerous occasions he has responded from home on his own time to make sure significant incidents were handled properly," McNerney said, mentioning that Paprota coached a victim to deal with a scanner, which resulted in an outstanding arrest. There was also an underground fire at Chatsworth and

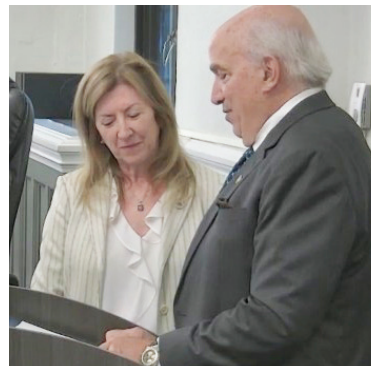
West Avenue, where Joe was injured during a blast. McNerney also remarked that Paprota has monitored the Police Department safety camera system.

Next, Mayor Brennan opened a Public Hearing amending the Village Code with respect to gasoline station convenience stores, dedicated to the limited sale of pre-packaged foods. According to the Code, no gasoline station shall include a fast-food establishment. As the Code states, a gasoline service station convenience store shall be permitted as an accessory use to a gasoline service station subject several requirements.

In other Village business, Julia Davis was appointed Deputy Registrar of Vital Statistics.

There was authorization to execute a license agreement with Everett J. Prescott, Inc. for Leak Detection Technology.

There were funds for court record scanning and shredding services, plus authorization to enter into a contract with Nichola Armacost to provide consultation on the Climate Smart Community Program.



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New Electric Vehicle Charging Station Installed at Constitution Park

Larchmont's electric vehicle charger initiative is now complete. Following installations at the Addison Lot and Wendt Avenue Lot 10, the final dual-port charging station is now active on Larchmont Avenue in front of Constitution Park.

This initiative to bring electric vehicle charging stations to the community has been several years in the making, introduced by the Larchmont Environmental Committee and supported by the Larchmont Village Board of Trustees.

The Village received a grant through the Zero-Emission Vehicle Infrastructure Grant program from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation to purchase and install these chargers. Village resident Michael Gottfried and the Larchmont Environmental Committee were instrumental in securing this funding.

How to Use: For convenience, electric vehicle parkers using the charging stations pay for the charge and parking entirely through the EV machine, so there's no need to walk over to the parking meter to pay! Only electric vehicles can park during the day, and vehicles must be actively plugged into the charger while parked.



Mamaroneck Urged to Apply for Forest-Saving Grants

BY STEPHEN E. LIPKEN

Mamaroneck Town Supervisor Jaime Elkind Eney convened the July Town Council meeting, beginning with Resident Comment by Sustainability Collaborative member Andrea Hirsch.

"I am here tonight to ask you to apply for a Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Urban and Community Forest Round 17 Grant," Hirsch began. "The grants are between \$50,000 and \$2.5 million. This is an unprecedented opportunity for grants to inventory, study and analyze our work.

"The reason I come here is because our woods are dying. We have an overabundance of deer, who have eaten all the seedlings and saplings of the trees," she said. "There are no seedlings or saplings to regenerate, which experts estimate takes approximately 40 to 65 years. Invasive plants will come in, there will be no woods anymore.

"Either the ground is barren, with just leaf litter on it, or we have places where we have English Ivy covering it. The deer do not eat the ivy but prefer the native plants. We have no wildflower plants in the woods because of this problem. If you cross the bridge over the Sheldrake River you will see masses of knotweed, a very hard invasive to eradicate. We have no small animals, insects or ground nesting birds," Hirsch said. "As far as I can determine, nothing has been done since the 1964 inventory by the National Audubon Society."

Hirsch concluded that, utilizing the DEC grant, the deer would be contained and native plants restored, as well as covering exposed tree roots, preventing the trees from falling.

Nancy Pierson, Acting Chair, Human Rights Commission spoke regarding the Town's [Native American] logo survey. Summarizing the Commission's review of the current Town seal and logo, Pierson discussed outreach conducted with representatives of the Lenape Center, expressing support for replacing the current logo with one that more accurately reflect's the Town's values and history.

Amy Nathan, a Town resident expressed support for updating the Town's logo and discussed research concerning Native American imagery and encouraged the Town to continue its public outreach efforts.

In Affairs of the Town, concerning 2026 Capital Budget Amendments, \$38,260 was transferred from the Highway Fund to increase roads, sidewalks and curb improvements. The base bid TA-26-10, "2026 Road Resurfacing" was awarded to Laura Li Industries in amount not to exceed \$745,380, encompassing Eton Road, Ellsworth Road, Little Farms Road, Barnum Road, Stoneyside Drive, East Garden Road, East Brookside Drive, Rocky Road, North Brook Road, Hickory Grove Drive East, Lakeside Drive, Plymouth Road, Winthrop Avenue, Poplar Road, Springdale Road, and Rockingstone Avenue.



Mamaroneck Town Supervisor Jaime Elkind Eney

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Mamaroneck Drainage Improvement Project Completed

The Village of Mamaroneck reported that major work on the Jefferson Avenue and Wood Street Drainage Improvement Project was completed in June, with only minor punch-list items remaining.

This important capital project was undertaken to address repetitive flooding experienced by residents of Wood Street and portions of Jefferson Avenue, impacting approximately 25 homes. The existing drainage infrastructure in this neighborhood had become undersized, damaged, and deteriorated, reducing the functionality of the storm sewer system and contributing to flooding during larger storm events, including the remnants of Hurricane Ida in 2021.

The \$2.2 million project included the removal of existing stormwater infrastructure, re-lining of storm sewer pipe, installation of new storm sewer pipe, culverts, and other drainage structures, curb and driveway apron replacement, roadway paving, and curb restoration.

The Village anticipates that FEMA will reimburse 90 percent of eligible project costs, with the remaining balance funded through the Village Capital Budget. While this project will not eliminate flood risk, these improvements are expected to significantly reduce flood impacts in the neighborhood and improve the overall function of the local stormwater system.

The Village staff, Mayor, and Board of Trustees thank residents for their patience and cooperation throughout this project. Although the work took longer than originally anticipated due to winter weather and field conditions, including additional rock excavation, the project represents an important investment in the Village's ongoing efforts to improve drainage, reduce flood risk, and strengthen local infrastructure.

Mamaroneck Gets \$900,000 Grant to Renovate Harbor Island Park Playground

The Village of Mamaroneck has been awarded \$900,000 through the New York State Municipal Parks and Recreation Grant Program for the renovation of the Harbor Island Park Playground.

The funds will be used to replace deteriorating playground equipment with a safer, more inclusive, and more accessible space for children of all abilities. Planned improvements include accessible ramps and sensory play features designed to create an engaging and welcoming play environment for families throughout Mamaroneck and the surrounding region.

Harbor Island Park is one of the Village's most beloved and heavily used public spaces, receiving approximately 300,000 visits annually. The playground renovation will help restore and improve a cherished community hub within the park.

"We are incredibly grateful to Governor Kathy Hochul, New York State Parks, and the Environmental Bond Act for awarding the Village \$900,000 through the Municipal Parks and Recreation Grant Program," said Mayor Sharon Torres. "This funding will help us replace aging playground equipment at Harbor Island Park with a safer, more inclusive and more accessible space for children of all abilities. Harbor Island Park is one of our most beloved community spaces, and this project reflects our continued commitment to improving public spaces and expanding recreational opportunities for generations to come."

State Senator Shelley Mayer said, "I am pleased that the Village of Mamaroneck will receive funding through the Clean Water, Clean Air and Green Jobs Environmental Bond Act to renovate the Harbor Island Playground. I am especially grateful that these improvements will make the playground more accessible and inclusive, ensuring that all children can play and enjoy this wonderful space. Thank you to Governor Kathy Hochul for allocating this funding for the Village of Mamaroneck. I am also deeply grateful to every New Yorker who voted in favor of the Environmental Bond Act in 2022, helping create more accessible, welcoming, and enjoyable public spaces for families throughout our community."

Assemblymember Steve Otis said, "Local parks and recreation programs are vitally important to the life of every community. State grants help local governments fund these resources and lower costs to property taxpayers. Congratulations to the village of Mamaroneck for the upgrades at the very popular Harbor Island playground and to all the recipients of this round of funding. Governor Hochul has been a consistent supporter of parks and recreation grant funding. Our partners at the Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation continue to work with Westchester communities on important projects."



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Nearly 1,000 Swimmers Make Waves to Fight Cancer

When Ryan Harrell, 42, of Mamaroneck entered the water in Glen Cove last July, he was one of 14 swimmers attempting the 10K crossing of Long Island Sound as part of the 34th annual Swim Across America - Long Island Sound open water swim. As he swam toward the finish at the Larchmont Shore Club, Harrell carried with him the memory of a young mother who passed away too soon from cancer, whose final wish he helped fulfill.

This year, Harrell is dedicating every stroke of that crossing to Mariah Aldridge, a 32-year-old mother with colon cancer, whose final wish was to return home to Albertville, Alabama, and spend her remaining time with family and friends. She had been receiving hospice care in Santa Ana, California, but complications from her illness prevented her from traveling commercially. Harrell learned of her situation through social media, and with the help of his employer Soar Jets, a private jet charter company, he was able to arrange a flight for Aldridge. With support from her friends Joslyn Marie, Justin Nunley and Chris Young, the flight became possible. Aldridge was able to leave California, return to Alabama and fulfill her wish of spending her final days with those she loved most.

"I am incredibly grateful for the opportunity to help Mariah in her final wish of being surrounded by family and friends," Harrell noted. "That experience changed me. In my 25th year swimming with Swim Across America, I am dedicating every stroke I take in her honor. While we lost Mariah to cancer, we didn't lose the chance to know someone as extraordinary as her in this world. Her love endures, her memory lives on, and her spirit lives on in every life she touched, including mine."

For Harrell, his connection to Swim Across America is 25 years in the making. He originally started swimming with Swim Across America in 2001, when he was a student at Iona Prep and swam with the Badger Swim Club. He joined the event in honor of Bill Weaver, a close family friend from New Rochelle who had pancreatic cancer. Harrell's father, then principal of Davis Elementary School in New Rochelle, helped his teenage son learn how to fundraise by encouraging the school's teachers and staff to contribute.

"I was incredibly fortunate to have my father help me raise money when it was entirely new to me," Harrell said. "Mr. Weaver will forever be the reason I started this journey, but sadly, the list of people who need our support has continued to grow."

Today, Harrell trains year-round with Team Masters under coach Dave Samuelsohn. His mother is a cancer survivor, and



he lost his best friend's father and sister, whom he considered family, to the disease. He also swims for friends who are still undergoing treatment.

"I swim for those who are fighting this disease," Harrell added. "My motivation is to swim to raise as much money as possible to help anyone currently facing this battle."

When Robert Thorpe of Mamaroneck dove into Long Island Sound for his fifth Swim Across America - Long Island Swim open water swim, he swam with more purpose than ever before.

Thorpe's six-year-old daughter, Camille, was diagnosed with leukemia this spring and has been undergoing chemotherapy. Thorpe completed the 5K course as a member of Team Next Level Private, swimming to support the cancer research that is now deeply personal to his family.

"Life throws you curveballs," Thorpe said. "Camille has a long road ahead, but she's handling it with a courage that humbles everyone around her. I've participated in this swim four times in the past, but never with this much purpose. Swim Across America has spent nearly four decades funding the clinical trials and research that give children like Camille their best chance. This year, that's not abstract to me. It's everything."

Thorpe was among nearly 1,000 swimmers and hundreds of volunteers participating in the 34th annual Swim Across America - Long Island Sound open water swim in Larchmont — one of the largest Swim Across America events in the nation.

Since its first Westchester County swim in 1992, Swim Across America - Long Island Sound has raised more than \$32 million for cancer research, care and patient support services in the New York City area for its local beneficiaries: Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, Columbia Uni-

versity Medical Center, Weill Cornell Medicine and Cancer Support Team.

Following record-breaking fundraising last year, the 2026 goal is to raise \$2.5 million.

"Every year, our Swim Across America - Long Island Sound community reminds us that this event is about hope, action and the power of coming together," said Jean Fufidio, event director of Swim Across America - Long Island Sound. "Whether someone swims 10K, 5K or 2K in Long Island Sound, joins a pool swim, participates virtually through SAA My Way, or comes out to volunteer on the land or water, every stroke and every dollar helps support the doctors, researchers and caregivers who are making breakthroughs in cancer care."

To learn more, visit, swimacrossamerica.org/longislandsound.



The Larchmont Planning Board Seeks a New Member

The Village of Larchmont is seeking a community member to serve on the Planning Board. The Planning Board is responsible for reviewing all site plans and subdivision applications in the Village, both residential and commercial, to ensure that they are consistent with the Village's land use and development needs. Its review includes matters such as lighting, parking, drainage, traffic flow, and plantings. Its goal is to apply sound and consistent community planning principles to ensure harmonious development.

The Planning Board is a five-member board, comprised of Village residents appointed by the Board of Trustees who serve at a volunteer capacity for three-year terms. Meetings are typically held on the third Tuesday of the month.

The members of the Planning Board are also members of the Freshwater Wetlands Commission, which is responsible for reviewing any development which would affect freshwater wetlands located in the Village.

For an application, go to <https://larchmontny.rja.revize.com/forms/13938>.

Bike Theft Alert



Multiple bicycle larcenies have recently occurred at the Larchmont Train Station. The members of the Larchmont Police Department urge bicyclists to take precautions when leaving their bikes unattended. Always secure your bicycle with a high-quality U-lock or heavy-duty chain lock attached to a fixed, immovable rack. If you witness any suspicious activity near the bike parking areas, report it immediately by dialing 911 or calling the Police Department at 914-834-1000.

Thanks to the collaboration of the Detective and Patrol divisions, multiple arrests have been made and bicycles have been recovered.

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Jules A. Del Vecchio to be Honored at LMC Media Gala

LMC Media will hold its 2026 Annual Gala on the evening of Thursday, October 1 at the historic Mamaroneck Cinemas, with a reception to follow. This year's event will honor long-time stalwart and philanthropist Jules A. Del Vecchio for his profound commitment to community storytelling.

"At a time when local media is facing unprecedented economic challenges, the need for trusted, community centered journalism and storytelling has never been greater. LMC Media serves as a vital lifeline for residents, civic organizations, educators, students, non-profits, and local businesses by providing factual, balanced information and a platform for free expression. In many ways, organizations like ours are among the last truly accessible public forums dedicated to informing, connecting, and empowering communities. The support of our donors is not simply appreciated, it is essential to ensuring that local voices continue to be heard and that community media remains strong for future generations." said LMC Media Executive Director Matt Sullivan.

Jules A. Del Vecchio's connection to the Sound Shore area spans nearly eight decades, beginning in 1948. A 1961 graduate of Mamaroneck High School, Del Vecchio went on to earn degrees in Psychology and Sociology from Parsons College, followed by Master's coursework at Hunter and Lehman Colleges to secure his teaching credentials.

Del Vecchio began his professional life as a dedicated educator in the New York City public school system, teaching in Harlem and the Bronx. He later transitioned to the corporate broadcast and financial sectors, launching a legendary 40-year career with New York Life Insurance Company in 1970. Notably, from 1988 to 1995, Del Vecchio anchored the company's live, national satellite television network from Studio 51, New York Life's in-house broadcast studio, becoming the prominent nationwide face of the company's corporate communications.

As a generous donor and advocate, Del Vecchio views LMC Media as an invaluable civic anchor. His continued support of the organization helps to ensure that the communities of the Sound Shore have a vibrant, professional platform to share their voices and preserve the rich history of the community he has called home for the majority of his life.

For more information on tickets, go to lmcmedia.org/gala2026.



Larchmont Mamaroneck Lions Club Presents Community Service Awards to High School Seniors

Harrison Delaney, Rye Neck High School; Emilia Boccini, Blind Brook High School; Sofia Rangel, Leonardo Jimenez, and Aitana Gomez, Carver Center; and Ella Ray, Mamaroneck High School were recipients of the Larchmont Mamaroneck (LM) Lions 2026 High School Community Service Awards.

Sofia Rangel, Leonardo Jimenez, and Aitana Gomez received their awards at the May Award event at the Carver Center in Port Chester. All were selected for this honor by the Carver Center Board. Harrison Delaney and Emilia Boccini received recognition at their High School Award Ceremonies in June. Ella Ray was honored at the LM Lions June lunch meeting on at Orienta Beach Club in Mamaroneck. Awardees were chosen by the LM Lions Selection Committee – Lina Pasquale, Chair, Michael Nicoletta, and Nancy Joselson, based on their submitted essays describing their charitable work, its impact on the local community, and how community service has made an impact on them. All essays were rated based on the applicant's breadth and depth of service and how that service embodied the Lions' motto "We Serve."

In reflecting on the winners, Pasquale said, "Reading this year's essays was both inspiring and hopeful. These students have demonstrated that service is not simply about volunteering but also about recognizing others' needs, building meaningful relationships, and taking action to create positive change. Their humility and commitment to their communities embody the spirit of 'We Serve,' and give us great confidence in the next generation of civic leaders."



Westchester Soccer Club Recognizes Westchester County Youth Bureau Youth Service Award Recipients

Last month, at a special halftime ceremony during the match between the Westchester Soccer Club and the New York Cosmos, the Westchester Soccer Club recognized nine youth leaders who had previously received the Westchester County Youth Bureau (WCYB) and Youth Board Annual Youth Service Award. The students gathered on Mount Vernon’s Memorial Field, along with Westchester Deputy County Executive Joan McDonald, representatives from the soccer club and the new team mascot, Hutch, for their moment in the spotlight.

The Youth Service Award recognizes 11th and 12th grade students living in Westchester County who have demonstrated exemplary commitment to others through volunteerism and leadership, and is given by the WCYB and Youth Board to outstanding students each year.

Westchester Deputy County Executive Joan McDonald said: “Westchester County, through funding administered by the WCYB, is deeply invested in youth sports. We support programs to the tune of \$1.17 million that provide a variety of sports/physical fitness opportunities for a broad range of youth up to 18 years of



age, in under-resourced communities. We have 49 programs in communities like Mount Vernon, New Rochelle, Peekskill, White Plains, Port Chester and others. We thank the Westchester Soccer Club for being a terrific community partner and bringing it all together –the excitement generated by the World Cup, the chance to recognize exemplary youth leaders and the opportunity to cheer on Westchester’s home soccer team to victory.”

Westchester County Youth Bureau Executive Director Ernest McFadden

said: “The Westchester Soccer Club exemplifies the power of sports to unite communities, inspire young people and build character, which was on full display during the recent 2026 FIFA tournament. We are deeply grateful to the Club for recognizing the Westchester County Youth Bureau and Youth Board class of 2024 and

2025 Youth Service honorees, who have demonstrated exemplary commitment to others through volunteerism and leadership. Today, we celebrate not only their remarkable achievements, but also our shared commitment to creating opportunities that empower every young person to thrive—both on and off the field.”

Westchester Soccer Club Senior Account Executive Bill Levy said: “The Westchester Soccer Club is a proud member of the USL Championship League 1 Division. In only its second year, the team had already proved to be a winner both on the field, and in the community. With local ownership, the team values the importance of being a great community partner.”

Youth Service Award recipient Aiden Mendez said: “Recognizing everyday students for extending a helping hand to their community is always great! Reminding youth of where they come from is always the most important part of development.”

Hope Food Pantry Benefits from Community Food Drive



(Left to right) Carolyn Gallaher, Philanthropy Committee Chair; Sr. Mary Alice of Hope Food Pantry; Pantry volunteer; Zsuzsanna Baan-Jonas, Philanthropy Committee member

The Woman’s Club of Larchmont, Inc. philanthropy committee members Zsuzsanna Baan-Jonas, Gerry Gerace and Carolyn Gallaher waited at the corner of Larchmont and Forest Avenues hoping that on this busy Saturday in May that people would support the Community Food Collection for Hope Food Pantry in New Rochelle.

Their worries were for naught as they were kept busy collecting more than 130 food items (rice, cereals, tuna, salmon, soups, even a ham), plus 246 diapers, size 1 to 6, which are so prized by clients of Hope. One hundred dollars (\$100) was donated by Woman’s Club members which helps Hope purchase needed items at cost. Donations equaled that of previous food drives and an additional 65 food items and 124 diapers were collected at the Club’s April membership meeting.

As always the Woman’s Club of Larchmont, Inc., is most appreciative of the community’s continuous support and concern for our neighbors.

The Woman’s Club of Larchmont, Inc. supports civic and philanthropic organizations that contribute to the betterment of the community. The Club is open to both men and women. For more information regarding The Club and membership, contact Theresa Fanelli at theresa7772mindspring.com.



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LMC Media Wins 2026 National Hometown Media Awards

LMC Media and the Community Resource Center (CRC) received national recognition at the 2026 Hometown Media Awards from the Alliance for Community Media. The awards program was established to honor and promote community media, community radio, and local cable programs that are distributed on Public, Educational and Governmental (PEG) access cable television channels.

LMC Kids Show's episode about Transportation was recognized as the "Best of Transportation Access Center" and Community Connections (CRC Podcast) was recognized as the "Best of Racial Justice and Civil Rights Programming by an Independent Producer."

"We are incredibly honored that the LMC Kids Show's transportation episode has received a national award. It is especially meaningful to see a program created right here in Westchester recognized on a national stage. While the episode highlights places and experiences in our own communities, the lessons about transportation, safety, and exploring the world around us are universal. You don't have to live in Larchmont or Mamaroneck to connect with these characters or the values they share. That's the beauty of the LMC Kids Show. We hope children and families throughout Westchester and beyond see themselves in these stories and discover that learning about community can be both educational and fun," said Dena Schumacher, Assistant Director at LMC Media and Creator and Showrunner of the LMC Kids Show.

LMC Media is especially proud of its partnership on Community Connections. This Spanish and English language podcast plays a vital role in our area, helping to bridge the language divide and ensure vital information is accessible to everyone in our community. The podcast is proudly fa-



National Award Winners, from Left to Right: Matt Sullivan, Executive Director, LMC Media; Dena Schumacher, Assistant Director, LMC Media and Creator and Showrunner of the LMC Kids Show; Aimara Martinez, Development & Communications Manager at CRC and producer of the CRC podcast; Janet Rolan Fry, Deputy Executive Director, CRC.

cilitated by LMC Media and is recorded and edited at LMC's Studio on the Avenue.

"Winning this award reminds us that some of the most meaningful stories are told on our own streets, in our schools, our businesses, and at our community events. Every day, LMC Media has the opportunity to shine a light on the people who make our community extraordinary, and that's a privilege we never take for granted," said Matt Sullivan, Executive Director of LMC Media.

"We are incredibly honored to receive our first national recognition and proud of our producer Aimara Martinez, CRC's Development & Communication Manager. This award is a testament to the power of community storytelling and to the importance of creating spaces where the voices and experiences of our immigrant neighbors can be heard. We are deep-

ly grateful to our partners at LMC Media for helping us amplify these stories and bring critical conversations to our community. We hope this recognition inspires even more dialogue, understanding, and action," said Jirandy Martinez, Executive Director of Community Resource Center.

Aimara Martinez, the Development & Communications Manager at CRC and the producer of the award-winning podcast, said: "I am deeply grateful and honored to receive this recognition. This award reflects the stories, resilience, and voices of the immigrant communities we serve. Producing the CRC Podcast has been an opportunity to highlight important conversations that educate, inspire, and foster understanding. I want to thank the leadership of Community Resource Center for supporting this vision, our incredible partners at LMC Media for helping bring these stories to life, and every guest

who has shared their experiences with openness and courage."

The award winning episode of LMC Kids can be found on the show's website:

<https://lmcmedia.org/lmckids/> and all episodes of the CRC's podcasts can be found on the News section of its website: <https://www.crcny.org/crc-news/>

Each year, nearly 1,000 entries are submitted to the awards committee. A panel of more than 100 judges from the industry evaluates the entries. Awards are presented to the most creative programs that address community needs, develop diverse community involvement, challenge conventional commercial television formats, and move viewers to experience television in a different way.

"The Hometown Media Awards celebrate both the excellence of work and the diversity of media that appears on community channels being produced around the country. The ACM Foundation is proud of their achievement and of how they represent their communities in their work," said Mike Wassenaar, President & CEO, Alliance for Community Media.



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Do You Need to File a New York Estate Tax Return? Understanding the 2026 Rules, the Tax Cliff, and Common Filing Confusion

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Does an Estate Need to File a New York Estate Tax Return?

When a person dies, one of the first tax questions an Executor or Administrator must consider is whether the estate must file an estate tax return. In New York, the answer depends on the size of the estate, the decedent's residency, certain lifetime gifts, and whether the estate owns New York property.

Importantly, the requirement to file a New York estate tax return is separate from whether estate tax is actually owed.

The 2026 New York Estate Tax Exclusion – For individuals dying in 2026, New York's basic estate tax exclusion amount is \$7,350,000. Generally, a New York resident's estate must file a New York State estate tax return if the decedent's federal gross estate, plus certain includible taxable gifts, exceeds that amount. The exclusion is adjusted over time based on the decedent's date of death. For comparison, the exclusion was \$7,160,000 for deaths in 2025.

The federal gross estate generally includes all property in which the decedent had an interest at death, including real estate, bank and brokerage accounts, retirement accounts, business interests, tangible personal property, certain trust interests, and life insurance owned by the decedent or payable to the estate.

This is a gross value test. The estate must first consider the total value of assets before deductions are applied to determine whether tax is ultimately owed.

Lifetime Gifts and the Filing Threshold – New York also requires estates to consider certain taxable gifts made during the decedent's lifetime. These gifts may need to be added back when determining whether the estate exceeds the New York filing threshold.

As a result, making large gifts shortly before death does not necessarily eliminate a New York estate tax filing requirement or potential estate tax liability.

Nonresidents Who Own New York Property – A nonresident's estate may also be required to file a New York estate tax return if the decedent owned real property or tangible personal property located in New York and the federal gross estate, together with certain includible gifts, exceeds the New York basic exclusion amount.

For example, if a Florida resident dies

owning a New York cooperative apartment, house, or other New York real property, the estate may have a New York filing obligation even though the decedent was not domiciled in New York.

What Form Is Filed and When Is It Due?

When a New York estate tax return is required, the estate files Form ET-706, New York State Estate Tax Return. The return is generally due nine months after the decedent's date of death, and any tax due is generally payable within that same period.

An estate may request an extension of time to file and/or pay when additional time is needed. However, interest may apply if tax is paid late.

When Is New York Estate Tax Actually Owed?

Whether estate tax is actually owed depends on the taxable estate after allowable deductions and credits are applied. Common deductions may include funeral and administration expenses, debts, mortgages, certain charitable transfers, and the marital deduction for qualifying transfers to a surviving spouse.

Therefore, an estate may be large enough to require a New York estate tax filing but still owe no New York estate tax after deductions are applied.

The New York Estate Tax "Cliff" – One of the most important features of New York's estate tax is the so-called "cliff." If the taxable estate is at or below the basic exclusion amount, no New York estate tax is owed. If the taxable estate is slightly above the exclusion amount, some tax may be owed. However, once the taxable estate exceeds 105 percent of the basic exclusion amount, the estate loses the benefit of the New York exclusion entirely.

For 2026, 105 percent of the \$7,350,000 exclusion is \$7,717,500. Once the taxable estate exceeds that amount, the estate may be taxed from the first dollar rather than only on the amount above the exclusion.

This rule can produce a significant tax liability from a relatively modest increase in the taxable estate. Careful planning is particularly important for New York residents whose estates are near or above the exclusion amount.

Estate Tax Rates and Portability – New York's graduated estate tax rates can reach 16 percent. New York also does not provide portability between spouses. This means that if the first spouse to die does not use his or her New York estate tax exclusion through proper planning, the unused exclusion is not automatically transferred to the surviving

Larchmont Police Blotter

Tuesday, June 16, 2026, 4:21 AM: A Larchmont woman reported being the victim of a check-washing scam. She told police that she mailed a check to pay a credit card bill, but the check was stolen and altered to pay an unknown person named "Amear Talley" \$1,667.98.

Tuesday, June 16, 2026, 9:01 AM: A citation was issued to a woman who drove through a red traffic light on Forest Park Avenue.

Tuesday, June 16, 2026, 2:33 PM: A man was charged with petit larceny, criminal mischief, possession of burglar tools and criminal possession of stolen property after police saw him riding a \$390 Giant Revel bicycle that had been reported stolen. A cut wire cable lock was on the bike, and a pair of Anvil bolt cutters were found in the suspect's backpack. The bicycle was returned to the owner.

Tuesday, June 16, 2026, 5:47 PM: A Larchmont woman told police that her tricycle was stolen from the bike rack at the Larchmont train station.

Wednesday, June 17, 2026, 12:47 PM: Both drivers were ticketed after a minor accident on Palmer Avenue, each for operating a motor vehicle with a suspended registration.

Thursday, June 18, 2026, 9:20 PM: A Wendt Avenue resident told police that someone in a white van took a bag of trash from her garbage can.

Tuesday, June 23, 2026, 10:11 AM: A woman was ticketed after police saw her talking on a cell phone while she was driving on Boston Post Road.

Thursday, June 25, 2026, 9:18 AM: Police issued a speeding ticket to a driver who was going 37 mph in a 20 mph school zone on Chatsworth Avenue.

Thursday, June 25, 2026, 10:42 AM: Police issued summonses for third-degree aggravated unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle, operating a vehicle with a suspended registration and talking on a mobile phone while operating a motor vehicle to the driver of a 2025 Honda Passport. Police towed his car and it was impounded.

Friday, June 26, 2026, 2:19 PM: A Kendra Scott necklace with a pink stone worth about \$76 was found on the sidewalk in front of the French American School, 111 Larchmont Avenue, and turned in to police.

Monday, June 29, 2026, 3:57 PM: Patrons of the Larchmont Public Library, 121 Larchmont Avenue, reported that a man approached a group of senior citizens playing Mah Jongg and asked to join the game. A short time later, he exposed his penis to one of the women playing the game.

Wednesday, July 1, 2026, 11:03 AM: The driver of a 2024 Chevrolet Suburban was arrested after he punched the rear window of a 2026 Honda HRV in front of his vehicle, causing it to shatter, while both were stopped on Boston Post Road. He told police that after the Honda driver failed to stop at several stop signs and did not seem to care when confronted, he became enraged and smashed the Honda's window. He told police that he forgot to put his Suburban in park during the confrontation and it rolled into the Honda, causing minor damage. The Suburban driver was treated for 60 lacerations to his arm.

Friday, July 3, 2026, 11:17 AM: Police stopped a driver holding a cell phone who passed a red light on Boston Post Road and gave him a verbal warning

Sunday, July 5, 2026, 9:55 AM: Police issued a verbal warning to a driver who made a U-turn on Chatsworth Avenue and had an expired inspection sticker on her vehicle.

Friday, July 10, 2026, 12:45 PM: A Larchmont woman reported that she received a telephone call from a woman who said she was a Capital One representative and that \$8,738 was charged to her account to purchase guns. She then transferred the call to a man claiming to be from the New York City Police Department who requested a list of her financial assets. Once she realized the scam, the woman froze her accounts and reported the incident to police.

Saturday, July 11, 2026, 12:31 PM: A Raleigh bicycle, helmet and lock worth a total of \$700 were reported stolen from a bike rack at the Larchmont Metro-North train station sometime the day before between 7:45 AM and 10:45 PM.

Saturday, July 11, 2026, 5:38 PM: A \$4,500 Cartier watch was reported stolen from an unlocked vehicle in the driveway of a home on Pryer Lane.

Monday, July 13, 2026, 7:18 PM: A Larchmont resident reported that he lost his wallet containing his platinum American Express card, driver's license and \$250 cash at Manor Park.

Wednesday, July 15, 2026, 11:59 AM: A Larchmont woman told police she hit another vehicle while attempting to park her Jeep in a parking lot on the Boston Post Road.

Wednesday, July 15, 2026, 6:54 PM: An I-Pad was found on a bench at the intersection of Palmer and Chatsworth Avenues and turned in to police.

Sunday, July 19, 2026, 11:14 PM: A man told police that he was hit by an egg thrown from a passing car while he walked on the Boston Post Road.

spouse.
This is an important consideration for married couples whose combined estates may exceed the New York exemption amount.

Form 706 vs. Form 1041 -- Executors and beneficiaries often confuse Form 706 and Form 1041, but they address different taxes.

Form 706 is an estate tax return. It reports the value of the decedent's assets at death, applies allowable deductions, and determines whether estate tax is owed. For New York estate tax purposes, Form ET-706 serves a similar function.

Form 1041, by contrast, is an income tax return for an estate or trust. It reports income earned after death during the administration of the estate, such as interest, dividends, capital gains, rental income, or other taxable income.

For example, a brokerage account may be reported on Form 706 at its date-of-death value, while dividends or capital gains earned by that account after death may later be reported on Form 1041.

An estate may need one form but not the other. A smaller estate may have no estate tax filing obligation but may still need to file Form 1041 if it earns sufficient income during administration. Conversely, a larger estate may need to file Form 706 or New York Form ET-706 even if it earns little or no post-death income.

Conclusion -- Determining whether a New York estate tax return is required can be complex. Each estate must be reviewed based on its assets, debts, deductions, residency, New York property, lifetime gifts, and post-death income.

Proper estate planning may help individuals and married couples reduce or avoid unnecessary estate tax, preserve available exemptions, and simplify administration. Executors and Administrators should work with an experienced estate attorney and coordinate with the estate's accountant to determine which filings are required, identify available deductions, meet deadlines, and address probate, creditor claims, taxes, and distributions.

Because relying on general assumptions can lead to costly mistakes, professional guidance can help ensure that the proper filings are made and the estate is administered as efficiently and properly as possible.

Bernard A. Krooks, Esq., is a founding partner of Littman Krooks LLP. He was named the 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) and 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 through the firm's website at www.littmankrooks.com.

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Larchmont Calendar



Student Art Show

Saturday, August 1 to Monday, August 31
Monday through Saturday, 9 AM to 5 PM, open until 8 PM on Tuesday and Thursday, Sunday, Noon to 5 PM
Larchmont Public Library Oresman Gallery, 121 Larchmont Avenue

The Center for Continuing Education is holding a Student Art Show featuring watercolor, drawing, painting, and pastels created by its students. A reception takes place on Tuesday, August 11 from 4 PM to 6 PM. Learn more at lmcce.org.



Sundaes in the Park

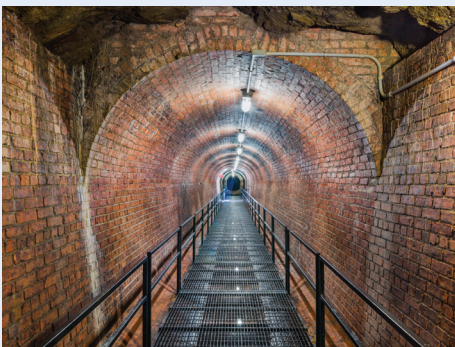
Wednesday, August 26, 4:30 PM to 7:30 PM
Kensico Dam Plaza, 1 Bronx River Parkway, Valhalla
Enjoy musician Jamie Cairney and face painting from Making Faces, along with \$5 cones, shakes and sun-

daes (toppings extra). Admission and parking are free. Learn more at <https://parks.westchestercountyny.gov/sundaes-in-the-park>.



Birding for Beginners

Saturday, August 29, 10 AM to 11:30 AM
Marshlands Conservancy, 220 Boston Post Road, Rye
For anyone interested in birdwatching, this is a great way to learn some basics. Bring binoculars, your questions, and your love of birds! Led by Chris Mignone. For more information, call (914) 835-4466.



Weir Tour

Saturday, August 22, 10 AM to Noon
Joseph Caputo Center, 95 Broadway, Ossining
After a brief walk, descend into the Weir in Ossining and explore the original 1842 brick water tunnel and learn its history. This free tour is designed to be an engaging, story-driven experience and is not suitable for children under 10. To register, go to <https://aqueduct.org/civicism/event/register/?reset=1&id=459>

Artcycling

Wednesdays, August 5, 12, 19, 26, 2:30 PM to 4:30 PM
Larchmont Public Library, 121 Larchmont Avenue
Use the library's leftover craft supplies and coloring sheets to make something new and beautiful! Want some direction? Ask about the "It Came From the Sky" art challenge of the day. For ages four and older with a caregiver. For more information, email kids@larchmontlibrary.org.

The Brit Pack

Thursday, August 6, 7:30 PM
Emelin Theatre, 153 Library Lane, Mamaroneck
If you love classic rock, The Brit Pack delivers a powerhouse night of the

music that defined generations. From the anthemic swagger of Led Zepelin and The Rolling Stones to the theatrical brilliance of Queen and the cool edge of David Bowie, this is a high-energy celebration of the greatest British rock ever recorded. For tickets, call the box office at (914) 698-0098 option 1.

Family Tides

Saturdays, August 8 and August 22
10 AM to 1 PM
Marine Education Center, 1 Harbor Island Park, Mamaroneck
Drop in for a morning of hands-on marine science. STEM Alliance educators will introduce you to the center's live animals and touch tank. Get creative with marine-themed art and expand what you know with hands-on science explorations. Don't miss the daily featured read-aloud at 11:30 AM. For more information, go to <https://www.thestemalliance.org/family-tides>.

Outdoor Movie Night

Saturday, August 8, 8 PM
Harbor Island Park, Mamaroneck
The August screening of this summer movie series features Hoppers, the animated comedy about a college student who transfers her mind into a robotic beaver to help save their habitat. Free admission. For more information, go to villageofmamaroneckny.gov.

Patrick Perone & Blue Suede Rockers

Thursday, August 13, 7 PM
West Harrison Village Green, 73 Lake Street
This Elvis Presley tribute band performs classic rock from the King of Rock & Roll. Free admission. For more information, call (914) 670-3000.

Summer Sing

Thursday, August 13, 7 PM to 9 PM
First Presbyterian Church of Yorktown, 2880 Crompond Road
Join the Taghkanic Chorale to sing through Mozart's Requiem. Scores will be available. All singers regardless of experience level are welcome for an opportunity to sing together for the pure joy of it, without regard for performance quality. Admission is \$10. Learn more at <https://www.taghkanicchorale.org/>.

Comedy From Scratch

Saturday, August 22, 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. BYOB and snacks. Advance tickets are \$25. Learn more at ComedyFromScratch.com.

HOW "In Celebration" Gala

Thursday, September 17, 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM
Westchester Country Club, 99 Biltmore Avenue, Rye
Hospice of Westchester (HOW) will host its annual "In Celebration" Gala Cocktail Reception, which will support The Anna & Louis H. Shereff Caregiver, Complementary Care and Bereavement Programs. This year's event will honor Susan Fox, President & CEO, White Plains Hospital and feature a Celebration of Life for James P. O'Toole, former Board Chair. A special recognition will be given to Grand Sponsor of the event, Rochelle E. Shereff. For more information, contact Holly Benedict at hbenedict@hospiceofwestchester.com or 914-682-1484, ext. 122.



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