

Harrison Herald



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Plans for Holiday Project Outlined

BY STEPHEN E. LIPKEN

Harrison Town/Village Board Supervisor Richard Dionisio opened the October 8th meeting, saying that the Town of Harrison is being recognized by “Travel and Leisure” magazine as one of the best places to live on the East Coast, ranked 9 out of 10.

“Also, please join me for congratulations to Greg Ricci, recipient of the Citizen of the Year Award. He has been collecting, preserving and archiving historical memorabilia of the Town.

I also would like to congratulate Mike Masciola, Sr., on receiving the Patriotic Citizen Award for his dedicated decades of consistently demonstrating the highest levels of civic responsibility and patriotism through his exemplary service and selfless contributions to the Town.”

Next was a presentation by Toni Braiotta and Jenny Schenk regarding the Harrison Holiday Project. “We appreciate our partnership with Department of Community Services, Controller’s Office and everybody that



supports the efforts that we do. This year we received the majority of wish lists from families who are eligible and invite the community to shop for knee socks, bedding, housewares and toys for kids,” Schenk stated.

“We will also be partnering with the Purchase community,” Braiotta added. “They will be hosting a toy drive and we set up a toy store that people can shop from. We will give everyone eligible a Wegman’s gift card as well as a gift,” Schenk concluded.

Under Actions and Resolutions, request by

Department of Public Works General Foreman Christopher Park for Purchasing Department to issue a purchase order to Sealcoat USA, Inc. in the amount not to exceed \$74,250 for work associated with asphalt crack sealing at various locations within the Town/Village. Request by Police Chief John T. Vasta to approve license plate reader equipment from Rekor was made.

In Village Board business, the Board approved a request by Treasurer Maureen MacKenzie for a bond resolution for the Fremont Street Parking Lot.

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The Junior League of Westchester on the Sound Awards Largest Grant In Its History

The Junior League of Westchester on the Sound (JLWOS) celebrated its 75th anniversary on October 9 with a lively event at Locals 10538 in Larchmont, attended by its members, representatives of its community partners, and several local elected officials. In recognition of the significance of the 75th anniversary milestone, JLWOS President Chris Howe announced a Transformational Grant of \$100,000 to Meals on Main Street of Port Chester, a nonprofit organization addressing hunger and food insecurity for New Yorkers across the Sound Shore. This is the largest single grant in the history of the JLWOS.

Over the years, JLWOS has played an important role in catalyzing community organizations and services like Furniture Sharehouse, the Youth Employment Service at Mamaroneck High School, and LMC Media, among others. JLWOS also has a strong tradition of providing grants to community organizations, having disbursed an estimated \$1 million since its inception to a wide range of nonprofits across Sound Shore neighborhoods. In its 75th anniversary year, JLWOS launched the ambitious Transformational Grant initiative to spark innovative and



Pictured L-R Caroline Vance JLWOS former JLWOS, Jon Haseltine ED of Meals on Main Street, Port Chester accepting the \$100K Transformational Grant for a first of its kind mobile community cafe and Chris Howe, JLWOS President

high-impact initiatives intended to bring about significant and lasting positive change.

JLWOS' Transformational Grant will fund the launch of Meals on Main Street's innovative Mobile Community Café, a first-of-its-kind sit-down dining experience featuring a menu with no prices. The Mobile Community Café will traverse the Sound Shore in collaboration with community

partners like Hope Community Services in New Rochelle to be accessible in convenient locations for its target clients. In its first year of operations, the Mobile Community Café is expected to provide 50,000 meals, to connect 25 percent of people served with local support services, and to serve as a showcase for other communities in Westchester County and beyond.

"We are thrilled to support the launch of the Mobile Community Café, at a time when food insecurity is on the rise, and we are excited about its new model to provide high-quality meals with dignity where they are most needed," said JLWOS President Chris Howe.

"Innovation in the fight against hunger and food insecurity is not just about creating new solutions, it's about reimagining how we bring nourishment directly to the people who need it the most, with dignity, speed, and care," said Meals on Main

Street Executive Director, Jon Haseltine.

About Junior League of Westchester on the Sound (JLWOS): JLWOS is an educational and charitable organization of women with a mission to advance women's leadership for meaningful community impact through volunteer action, collaboration, and training. It is a local chapter of a national organization—the Association of Junior Leagues International. JLWOS members live in and serve eight communities across the Sound Shore: New Rochelle, Larchmont, Mamaroneck, Rye Neck, Rye Brook, Rye, Harrison, and Port Chester. JLWOS' volunteer and outreach activities are supported by the sales of its thrift shop, the Golden Shoestring, which won Best of Westchester in the consignment/thrift category in 2024 and 2025. For more information about JLWOS, go to <https://westchesteronthesound.jl.org>.

About Meals on Main Street: The organization builds community through food by using a low-cost food delivery model that brings high-quality, nutrient-dense meals directly to those in need and helps improve community health and wellbeing, supports children's growth and learning, and prevents food waste. For more information about Meals on Main Street, go to <https://www.mealsonmainst.org/>.



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World-renowned lung surgeon Brendon M. Stiles, MD, specializes in minimally invasive techniques for lung and esophageal cancer and unusual thoracic cancers. With a patient-first approach, he personalizes surgical therapy for each patient and leads a multidisciplinary care team with access to state-of-the-art clinical trials.

Dr. Stiles completed his surgical residency at the University of Virginia Health System. After a surgical research fellowship at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, he completed his cardiothoracic surgery

residency at NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell and Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center.

His many roles in the lung cancer community include Vice Chair and former Chair of the Board of Directors for the Lung Cancer Research Foundation, and Co-Chair of the American Association for Thoracic Surgery Foundation Advisory Council. Dr. Stiles is a recipient of an ASPIRE Award from the Mark Foundation for Cancer Research.



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43rd Annual Senior Hall of Fame Celebration

Westchester County Executive Ken Jenkins is proud to announce that the achievements of 61 seniors from throughout the County will be honored at the 43rd Annual Senior Citizens Hall of Fame Awards Celebration on Friday, December 5 at the Westchester Marriott. This year's program will present Dr. Nicholas Cicchetti of Hawthorne and Lena Anderson, Esq., of White Plains with top honors, and will honor 61 seniors from across 33 municipalities.

Jenkins said: "I am deeply honored to recognize this year's distinguished group of seniors as they are inducted into the Westchester County Senior Citizens Hall of Fame. The Hall of Fame is one of the County's most meaningful traditions, providing an opportunity to express our gratitude to the seniors whose leadership, service and dedication have strengthened our communities. The exceptional accomplishments of this year's honorees reflect the very best of Westchester County, and I look forward to celebrating their achievements at the awards ceremony."

Department of Senior Programs and Services (DSPS) Commissioner Mae Carpenter said: "We are celebrating 43 years of the Senior Hall of Fame. I am so proud of this accomplishment and the won-

derful people who have given countless hours of their time helping others. This is what building communities is all about! I could not be more delighted to acknowledge this year's honorees and thank them all for their incredible contributions to improving the lives of others."

Among this year's honorees, four seniors will be recognized as a Distinguished Honorees: Helen Frankel of Yonkers, Janice King Griffith of White Plains, Colette Phipps of New Rochelle, and Meow Yee of Millwood.

The 43rd Annual Senior Citizens Hall of Fame Awards will be hosted by the Westchester County DSPS, Parks, Recreation, and Conservation, and the Westchester Public/Private Partnership for Aging Services.

This year's event is sponsored by: Annual Sponsor- NewYork-Presbyterian; Bronze Sponsors- Wartburg and Westchester Public/Private Partnership for Aging Services.

To purchase a ticket or to congratulate an honoree, visit www.westchesterpartnership.org/hall-of-fame/ or contact Angelique Morelli at AngeliqueM@EventsRemember.com or (914) 218-3968.

Westchester County Senior Citizens Hall of Fame - Class of 2025

Top Honors: Lena Anderson, Esq., White Plains

Lena Anderson has spent her life advancing education, civil rights, and community empowerment. As a teacher, administrator, and consultant, she has shaped generations of students in Westchester. As President of the White Plains/Greenburgh NAACP, she guided the branch to implement the National NAACP's agenda, advancing reforms in education, policing, and economic empowerment. Anderson has been a steadfast advocate for fair housing through her service on the CHI Board, ensuring access to housing for vulnerable families, and her leadership in Bethel Baptist Church and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc. has inspired countless others to pursue service and justice. Through her roles in the NAACP, CHI, and Bethel Baptist Church, Anderson has consistently addressed issues impacting seniors, from advocating for affordable housing to promoting lifelong learning opportunities, helping seniors age with dignity and remain engaged in community life.

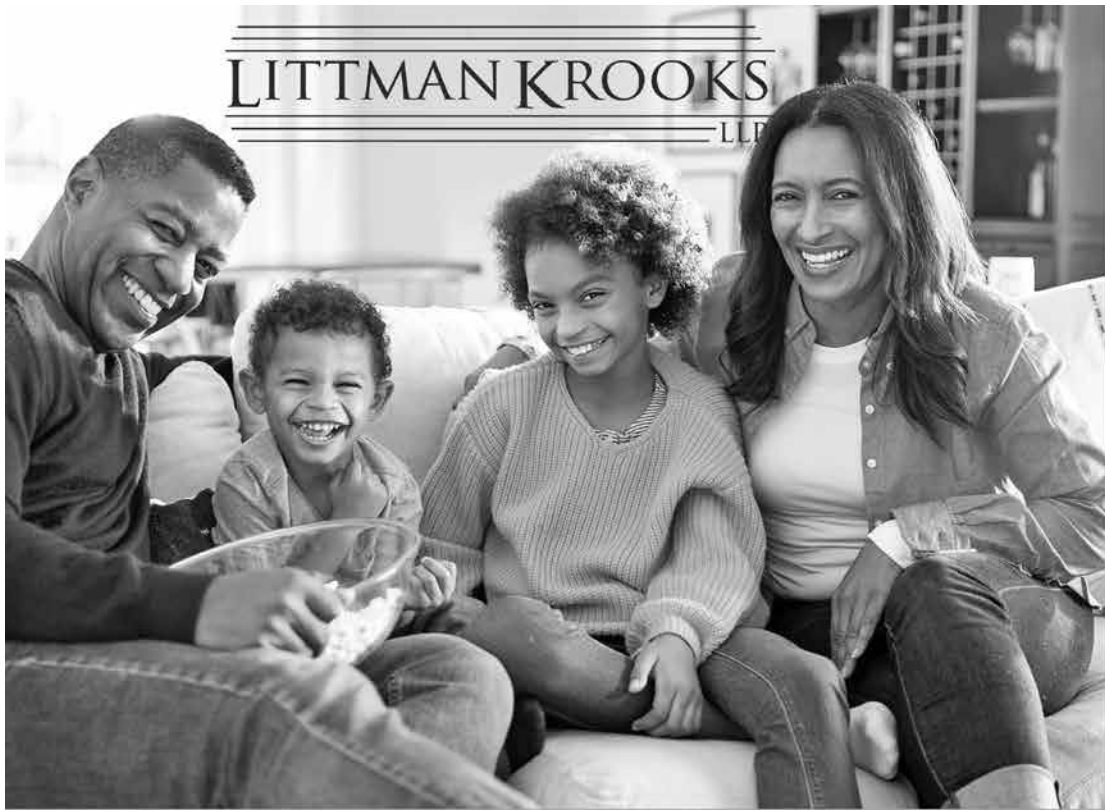
Top Honors: Dr. Nicholas Cicchetti, Hawthorne
Dr. Nicholas Cicchetti has dedicated

almost 40 years to advancing community health, elder care, and civic engagement in Westchester County. As Chairman of Wartburg's Foundation, he has helped establish a strong foundation for future growth by creating a governance structure that unified leadership, strengthened fundraising, and expanded donor engagement. In addition, Dr. Cicchetti championed groundbreaking partnerships, including Wartburg's collaboration with the Institute of Music and Neurologic Function, which brought internationally recognized music therapy to seniors and those with neurological challenges. As Board Chair at the Westchester Community Health Center, he has consistently elevated the conversation around health equity and has expanded opportunities for underserved populations to have access to affordable and quality healthcare.

Distinguished Honoree: Helen Frankel, Yonkers

Helen Frankel is a trailblazer in the field of elder advocacy and protection, founding the first ever non-profit guardianship program in Westchester County and named its inaugural Director. Under her leadership, the Family Service Soci-

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Hispanic Heritage Month Celebrated

Westchester County Executive Ken Jenkins joined community members, leaders and advocates to mark Hispanic Heritage Month in October with a reception honoring the Hispanic community's lasting contributions to Westchester's cultural identity and economic success.

The reception featured music, cultural dishes, and reflections on the strength of a community that has become one of the County's fastest growing populations. The celebration also acknowledged the release of Westchester's

first Hispanic Community Needs Study in over two decades, which provides crucial insights into how the County can strengthen support for Hispanic families moving forward.

Jenkins said: "Hispanic Heritage Month and our annual reception is a time to honor traditions, history and culture, but it is also a time to recognize the profound impact our Hispanic neighbors have on Westchester every single day. This community fuels our economy, inspires our arts and shapes our neighbor-

hoods. At a time when Hispanic communities are too often under attack on the national stage, Westchester is proud to stand in solidarity."

Deputy County Executive Richard Wishnie said: "Hispanic Heritage Month provides us with an opportunity to highlight the powerful role the Hispanic community plays in Westchester's economy and daily life. The community's influence is evident in our schools, businesses and neighborhoods. This administration is proud to celebrate alongside them."

Director of Minority and Women-Owned Business Development Martha Lopez said: "This Hispanic Heritage

Month reception is a moment to shine a spotlight on the hard work of our Hispanic community members who keep our County moving. This celebration is about lifting up those contributions and committing to a future where every resident, regardless of background, can thrive."

Hispanic Advisory Board Chair Dr. Carmen Martínez-López said: "With this celebration, we celebrate our history and our heritage, but we also highlight our growing influence in Westchester and beyond. Our Hispanic residents are a driving force in the economy and culture of this County, and it is important that they receive the recognition and support they deserve."

Families of the Fallen Honored at Gold Star Mothers Ceremony



Westchester County Executive Ken Jenkins and Veterans Service Agency Director Josh Gaccione led a solemn ceremony last month, paying respects to the parents and families of those who died in military service.

The County's Annual Gold Star Mothers and Families Tribute Ceremony took place at the Kensico Dam Plaza Walk of Honor, where county service members lost during Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom are memorialized. They were saluted at the ceremony by members of Bronx Army Recruiting Company and New York City Recruiting Battalion as their names were read.

The tradition of wearing a gold star to signify a family member loss in service goes back to World War I. In 1936, Congress designated the last Sunday in September as Gold Star Mother's Day, now known as Gold Star Mother's and Families Day. After World War II, the Gold Star Lapel Pin was designated by Congress to be given to immediate family members of active-duty military killed in service.

County Executive Ken Jenkins said: "When a child is called to military service, for parents there's pride, there's patriotism, but there's trepidation too, because military parents share a fundamental dream -- that their child will come home. No one dreams of a Gold Star. To our Gold Star mothers, fathers and families, we are in awe of you. Our respect for your strength is deep. Our empathy for your loss is boundless. Our commitment to you is total, and our resolve to keep your child's memory alive is absolute. Their spark of life may be gone from the plane, but we know still burns in you. May it burn in us too."

Westchester County Executive Ken Jenkins and Veterans Service Agency Director Josh Gaccione: "There's no human loss more profound than the loss of one's child. There are many sacrifices in military life, but for the mothers and fathers of our fallen heroes, that sacrifice is enduring. It is a testament to their strength and grace that they too endure. We can't replace what they've lost, but we can resolve every day to fill the hole left behind with our strength, support and love."

43rd Annual Senior Hall of Fame Celebration

continued from page 4

ety of Yonkers Guardianship Program became a critical safeguard for Westchester's most vulnerable elderly residents, such as those who are incapacitated and at risk of abuse, neglect, or exploitation. Since its inception, the program has protected over 2,000 seniors. Frankel also launched a Kinship Support Program, helping grandparents and other relatives provide safe, nurturing homes for children in their care. In addition, Frankel developed the Homestead Program, which provides safe, stable housing for homeless elderly and disabled residents of Westchester.

Distinguished Honoree: Janice King Griffith, White Plains

Janice King Griffith has provided transformative leadership in Westchester County as a civil rights advocate, community leader, and volunteer. As President of the White Plains/Greenburgh NAACP Branch, she has worked tirelessly with elected officials, institutions, and grassroots groups to advance racial justice. Her innovative leadership of the White Plains Police Reform Committee produced some of the strongest reform recommendations in New York State, many of which have already been implemented. Through her NAACP leadership and committee roles, Griffith has worked to build stronger, safer, and more inclusive communities where seniors can thrive.

Distinguished Honoree: Colette Phipps, New Rochelle

Colette Phipps is the Executive Director of Livable Communities, A Vision for All Ages, an umbrella initiative that has provided and promoted awareness, discussion, and action through programming meant to improve quality of life in the Westchester community. Programming

developed under Ms. Phipps' leadership includes, Westchester's Livable Communities Initiative with six contracted regional coordinators strategically located throughout the country to deliver hyperlocal, targeted services, Caregiver Coaching and other caregiver support programs, Telehealth Intervention Programs for Seniors (TIPS), Health for Life, The Chronic Disease Self-Management Program, The Village Approach, The Speaker's Bureau, and work with the aging network through specialized collaboratives. Under Ms. Phipps' leadership and direction, Westchester became a member of AARP's Network of Age-Friendly Communities and the Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities of the United Nations' World Health Organization, paving the way for the county to be designated an Age-Friendly place. Ms. Phipps serves on several boards, she is a New York Academy of Medicine Fellow and an adjunct professor at Fordham University Graduate School of Social Service. Ms. Phipps is the current President of the State Society on Aging of New York.

Westchester County Senior Citizens Hall of Fame – Class of 2025

Harrison – Fred Claar
Larchmont – James Owen Druker
New Rochelle – Rita Echevarria,
Sandy Savitz Gruenberg, George Morris,
**Colette Phipps, Susan Brown Hollander
Pelham – Lisa Kiernan
Rye – Paul Rheingold
Rye Brook – Ervan Caesar
White Plains – ***Lena Anderson,
Esq., Rakesh Behal, Sheila A. Giddings,
Gingie Greene, **Janice King Griffith, Leroy Jones, Stuart Kolbert, Dr. Vito Sessa,
Francine Taplin Shorts

New Law to Equip County Police Officers with EpiPens for Allergy Emergencies

Standing alongside Westchester County Police Officers, Westchester County Executive Ken Jenkins recently signed into law legislation that will ensure relevant County Police officers are equipped and trained to administer epinephrine auto-injectors (EpiPens) while on duty—providing a critical, life-saving tool for allergy emergencies.

Jenkins said: “By signing this bill into law, Westchester County is taking a major step forward in protecting our residents and giving our officers the tools they need to save lives. This legislation is about preparedness, compassion, and ensuring that no family has to experience a preventable tragedy.”

Board Chairman Vedat Gashi said: “When a constituent reached out asking us to help families struggling with potentially life-threatening allergic reactions, I knew Westchester needed to do everything it could. Too many families, including my own, live with the daily fear of a severe allergic reaction, and this law will help ensure that first responders are ready to save lives. I’m proud that the entire Board voted to make this common-sense step a reality.”

The new law—known as the Giovanni Cipriano Act—provides that all relevant County police officers carry EpiPens. Named in memory of Giovanni “Gio” Cipriano, a 14-year-old New Yorker who tragically died after unknowingly consuming peanuts in trail mix, the legislation ensures officers—often the first on scene during 911 calls—can respond immediately to cases of anaphylaxis, a severe and potentially fatal allergic reaction.

The Love for Giovanni Foundation Founder Georgina Cornago said: “To see Gio’s Law come to life here in Westchester County is deeply emotional and inspiring. This law will ensure that officers are trained and ready to act when seconds matter most. My son Giovanni’s legacy continues to save lives, and I’m profoundly grateful to County Executive Ken Jenkins, Legislator Vedat Gashi, and everyone who helped make this happen.”

Westchester County Department of Public Safety Chief of Police James Luciano said: “This initiative is a tremendous step forward in protecting the lives of our residents and visitors. In cases of anaphylaxis, every second counts. By equipping our officers with EpiPens, we’re ensuring they have one more lifesaving tool to use in those critical moments before medical personnel arrive. This new law reflects the strong partnership between our County leadership and the Department in advancing public safety.”



Majority Whip Terry Clements Chair of the Board’s Public Safety Committee said: “This is a simple, life-saving measure. Giving our officers epinephrine auto-injectors means they can act fast and protect residents when it matters most.”

Legislator Colin D. Smith Chair of the Board’s Legislation Committee said: “We have heard heartbreaking stories, including the tragic deaths of children, due to the lack of immediate access to life-saving treatment. This Act takes a

crucial step forward by ensuring our officers have both the tools and training to respond in those critical moments. I am proud to support legislation that will help prevent these tragedies in our community.”

Legislator Nancy E. Barr Chair of the Board’s Human Services Committee said: “For an individual experiencing a life-threatening allergic reaction, the quick administration of epinephrine is a matter of life and death, so training and supplying our County public safety officers with epinephrine auto-injectors is sure to save lives. I hope that the passage of this law at the County level will encourage all of Westchester’s cities, towns and villages to adopt a similar law in their local municipality if they have not already done so.”

Westchester County Office for Women Provides Cell Phones to High-Risk Clients in Partnership with T-Mobile

In recognition of October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month, the Westchester County Office for Women (OFW), under the leadership of County Executive Ken Jenkins and with the support of the Westchester County Board of Legislators, obtained 100 cell phones for high-risk clients served by the Office for Women.

The phones were donated through a partnership with T-Mobile for OFW clients who are victims of domestic violence in high-risk situations. For victims, access to a clean, safe and reliable phone can be a lifeline in emergencies — allowing them to call 911, contact advocates, and connect with critical services without fear of being monitored or cut off.

Jenkins said: “Domestic Violence Awareness Month reminds us that too many of our neighbors live with fear and danger every day. These phones are more than just devices — they are a tool for safety, protection, and empowerment. This initiative ensures that victims of domestic violence have a reliable way to seek help when they need it most.”

Westchester County Office for Women Director Robi Schlaff said: “For our high-risk clients, safety planning often begins with access to reliable communication. This initiative highlights the County’s commitment to protecting and empowering survivors, not just in October but all year long. We express our gratitude to T-Mobile for working closely with the Office for Women to make it possible.”

Westchester County Executive Ken Jenkins Announces New Director of the Office for People with Disabilities

Westchester County Executive Ken Jenkins has announced Carin Horowitz, LMSW as the new Director of the Office for People with Disabilities. The appointment comes as part of Jenkins ongoing commitment to ensuring that all people are included and welcomed, have equal access to programs and facilities, and receive accommodations to fully participate in life in Westchester County.

Jenkins said: “Our Office for People with Disabilities stands as a promise — guaranteeing access, protecting rights, and providing support for every resident so that no one is left behind. We are proud to continue that mission with strong leadership, and I’m thrilled to welcome Carin Horowitz as the new Director of the Office for People with Disabilities. Her passion and experience will be invaluable as we work to build a more inclusive and accessible Westchester for all.”

Horowitz said: “I am honored to take on this role as the new Director of the Office for People with Disabilities, and be a voice for the disability community in Westchester. I look forward to listening, learning and working together to develop meaningful programs that truly support and empower individuals with disabilities. My goal is to build strong partnerships with community members, advocates and local organizations across the County, to ensure that every person has access to the resources they need to succeed.”

Horowitz has served as Chair of the Westchester County Advisory Council on People with Disabilities since February 2022, where she was responsible for advising the County Executive on how to improve services and increase opportunities for County residents of all ages with disabilities. Horowitz previously worked as Regional Transition Training Specialist for Putnam Northern Westchester BOCES.



Carin Horowitz, LMSW



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Lasdon Park, Arboretum & Veterans Memorial Announces New Name

Lasdon Park, Arboretum & Veterans Memorial in Katonah has changed its name to Lasdon Public Gardens (LPG) and Veterans Memorial. The modification was decided by the Westchester County Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation (PRC), the Lasdon family, and the Friends of Lasdon Park & Arboretum.

“Public Gardens” clearly defines the beauty and function of Lasdon as an institution that maintains plants to provide them as resources for public education and enjoyment, in addition to scientific research and conservation. Lasdon Public Gardens has 30 gardens and collections throughout its 234 acres, including but not limited to, the Veterans Museum, Trail of Honor, Memorial Garden, Lilac Collections, and Conservatory.

County Executive Ken Jenkins said: “Lasdon has long been a place of learning, reflection and beauty. By renaming the park to Lasdon Public Gardens and Veterans Memorial, we’re better aligning its identity with its mission. This change places Lasdon among the region’s distinguished public gardens, a destination for education, horticulture and peaceful enjoyment. I want to thank all those whose hard work and dedication made this transition possible. Their efforts ensure Lasdon will continue to flourish for generations to come.”



Commissioner of the Westchester County Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation, Kathy O'Connor said: “Lasdon boasts designed landscapes, educational programs and provides a respite for visitors to connect with nature in a meaningful way through its gardens and exhibits. This new name reflects that purpose and highlights Lasdon’s role as one of Westchester’s most treasured destinations.”

Michele Metsch, William and Mildred Lasdon’s great granddaughter and representative of the Lasdon Family Foundation said:

“The Lasdon family is excited for the reinvigoration of our family home as Lasdon Public Gardens. Mildred and William Lasdon would be so proud of the preservation of open space and the vast array of programs for the community. We are so thrilled that the property will continue to be enjoyed now and in the future as a shining gem in the County parks system.”

Laura Blau, President of Friends of Lasdon said: “Lasdon Public Gardens is representative of our mission to be a sanctuary where plants inspire, education grows, and the beauty of nature is celebrated. 30 gardens and

collections invite visitors of all ages to explore, learn, and reflect. Interwoven into the heart of every path, planting, and program is a living memorial honoring Westchester County’s veterans. Lasdon Public Gardens is everyone’s garden.”

The rebranding comes at a time when significant County Capital Project funding recently restored Lasdon’s Main House. A current County Site Work project broke ground in August and will enhance the visitor’s experience by upgrading pathways and facilities.

LPG is an institutional member of the American Public Gardens Association, the headquarters for the 9th District Federated Garden Clubs of NYS. It also holds memberships to the American Horticultural Society’s Reciprocal Garden Network, the Philadelphia Horticultural Society, Metro Hort Group, and the NYS Turf and Landscape Association.

As partners of Lasdon’s public horticultural center, Friends of Lasdon and the Lasdon Family will collaborate with PRC in the rebranding effort through education and by continuing to raise funds to support annual programming and capital expenses that include a future Welcome and Education Center.

Lasdon Public Gardens is located at 2610 NY Route 35 in Katonah.

Purchase College Awarded \$50 Million for Major Geothermal Project

Purchase College, SUNY, is pleased to communicate that Governor Hochul recently announced that she is dedicating \$200 million to expanding thermal energy networks, which use a system of pipes to share heating and cooling resources among multiple buildings. This funding will support projects at municipal and State-owned buildings and will specifically include several projects within the State University of New York (SUNY) system. The thermal energy projects are part of Governor Hochul’s \$1 billion Sustainable Future Program which is the largest climate investment in New York’s history.

Purchase is one of three SUNY campuses to be awarded funding to improve energy efficiency and reduce our carbon footprint. Purchase College will receive \$50 million of the \$200 million total that was awarded to the three campuses. The money allotted to campus will be to design and construct the first phase of a thermal energy network and establish a framework for future geothermal systems on campus.

SUNY Chancellor John B. King Jr. said, “SUNY remains committed to helping Governor Hochul achieve the state’s climate goals, and thanks to her investment we will

be able to transition the State University of New York at Buffalo, SUNY Purchase, and the State University of New York at Stony Brook to more efficient and sustainable energy sources. This funding will help SUNY meet its goal of reaching net zero greenhouse gas emissions and ensure students will have a brighter, more sustainable future.”

Purchase College President Michael E. Steiper, Ph.D. said, “Purchase College is excited to be at the forefront of sustainability and clean energy. We are grateful to Governor Hochul and our representatives in the New York State Senate and Assembly for this investment. We are eager to get to work on this new project, which will have a significant, positive impact on our campus, the wider community, and our environment for decades to come.”

Tom Kelly, Senior Energy and Sustainability Manager at Purchase said, “This project is transformative from an environmental, economic and educational perspective. When completed, the campus will reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by approximately 65 percent while reducing utility costs and integrating sustainable projects into the curriculum.”

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*Mind the Meal Gap 2025 (2023 data), Feeding America

Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins Hosts Community Resources Fair for Youth Advisory Council

Last month, New York State Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins hosted her third annual Community Resources Fair for members of her Youth Advisory Council (YAC) at the Yonkers Riverfront Library. The event brought together local organizations, advocates, and community leaders to connect directly with Westchester’s next generation of changemakers.

The Youth Advisory Council, made up of 50 high school students from the 35th Senate District, had the chance to engage one-on-one with experts across a wide range of fields, including criminal justice, human rights, social services, and environmental advocacy. Students learned about internships, volunteer opportunities, and pathways to meaningful community involvement.

“Each year, I am so impressed by the questions, ideas, and perspectives that my Youth Advisory Council members bring forward,” said Senator Stewart-Cousins. “They are not just preparing for the future, they are shaping it now. This fair gives them the tools, connections, and confidence to turn their passion into action.”

Participating organizations included Cluster, Feeding Westchester, Groundwork Hudson Valley, Hope’s Door, Family Service Society of Yonkers, NAACP,



Neighbors Link, Girls Inc., Nonprofit Westchester, New Bridges, OCA Westchester and Hudson Valley, AAPI MAANGO, P-CoC, Volunteer New York!, Westchester County Human Rights Commission, Westchester County Youth Bureau, Westchester Disabled on the Move, WJCS, Westchester Women’s Agenda, and Westchester Youth Alliance.

“We, the youth of America, have a responsibility to make the world a better place. It’s so important that we get opportunities such as the Community Resources Fair to enhance our involvement in our communities,” said Sleepy Hollow High School junior and YAC member

Dylan Smith. “Thanks to Senator Stewart-Cousins and all the wonderful organizations that we heard from at the fair, we have the chance to become better students, thinkers, members of society, and humans. One spark now can ignite a lifetime of activism and change.”

Throughout the fair, each organization shared its mission, current initiatives, and ways for young people to get involved in creating positive change.

“Young people are powerful voices for justice, equality, and opportunity,” Senator Stewart-Cousins added. “By bringing them together with organizations working on the front lines, we’re encouraging them to lead with purpose and vision.”

Westchester County Department of Community Mental Health and St. Vincent’s Hospital 988 Suicide and Crisis Hotline

The Westchester County Department of Community Mental Health (DCMH), together with St. Joseph’s Medical Center, released a Public Service Announcement about the 988 Suicide and Crisis Hotline. The 988 Call Center, which is operated out of St. Vincent’s Hospital, provides a 24/7 hotline service for those in crisis. The Lifeline is free, local and confidential, and residents are able to call, text or chat about family issues, anxiety, stress, bullying, substance use or thoughts of self-harm. The PSA replicates a call to 988, portraying a realistic conversation between a caller and a mental health professional.

Westchester County Executive Ken Jenkins said: “The 988 Call Center received nearly 18,000 calls in 2024. Our mission now is to make sure that everyone in the County is aware of the 988 Lifeline, and knows that this crucial service is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. I want to thank ‘A Journey Home Film’ for their work to create this PSA, that shows how a call to 988 is handled. It is my hope that this powerful 30 second advertisement will save lives.”

Commissioner of DCMH Michael Orth said: “I want to thank County Executive Jenkins for his continued support to our efforts to end the stigma of mental health challenges. Whether it is the Healing Garden or declaring September 8 as 988 Day in the County, or supporting the 988 Call Center, the commitment to Westchester residents continues. This PSA is part of that ongoing effort that continues as we meet with business leaders, education leaders and healthcare leaders to help spread the word that 988 is a resource for those in need,” said Michael Orth, Commissioner DCMH.”

Deputy Commissioner of DCMH Joseph Glazer Esq. said: “Many people are affected either directly or indirectly by suicide. It is my hope that this attention-grabbing public service announcement will assist people in finding their way to the help they need. I am so grateful to ‘A Journal Home Film’ for their work in putting this ad together. We can come together and show people a path to hope and to help.”



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Why Safe Deposit Boxes May be Creating More Problems Than Protections



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

For generations, families relied on bank safe deposit boxes to safeguard important documents, jewelry, and sentimental heirlooms. Having a key to a safe deposit box once symbolized prudence and financial responsibility. But in today's world of digital records, cloud storage, and home safes, these boxes are not only outdated but they can create serious legal and practical challenges, especially after a death. Understanding how safe deposit boxes work, and how access is handled when an owner or co-owner dies, can prevent costly delays and emotional frustration for loved ones.

When a person who rents a safe deposit box dies, the box and its contents are typically sealed by the bank. Financial institutions do this to protect themselves from liability and to ensure that only an authorized person, usually the executor or administrator of the estate, can access the contents. The problem is that the executor often cannot be appointed until the Will is submitted to the Surrogate's Court for probate, and the original Will is often inside the box. This circular dilemma can delay probate for weeks or months.

In New York the Estates, Powers and Trusts Law (EPTL) allows limited access to a decedent's safe deposit box for specific purposes, such as retrieving a Will, burial instructions, or a life insurance policy. However, the bank must follow a prescribed procedure and require proper identification and usually a court order before opening the box. The process takes time, particularly if the family is unaware that the box exists or cannot locate the key.

Many people assume that naming a joint owner on a safe deposit box will avoid these problems. Unfortunately, that is not always the case. A "joint tenant" has full access during both parties' lifetimes, but

once one owner dies, banks often restrict access until proof of death and estate documentation are provided.

This happens because the contents of the box may not actually belong to the surviving joint owner, even if their name appears on the box. The legal question becomes one of ownership: were the contents jointly owned, or did the deceased simply grant access for convenience? In some cases, the court appointed executor must provide a full inventory of the contents before removing anything, to prevent misappropriation of estate assets.

Beyond the access issues, safe deposit boxes themselves are quietly disappearing. Many major banks no longer offer them at new branches, and some have stopped renting them altogether. Maintaining secure vaults is expensive and labor-intensive, and today's consumers increasingly prefer digital or in-home alternatives.

Many of the reasons people once used safe deposit boxes, including storing original deeds, stock certificates, savings bonds, or important legal documents, no longer apply. Most records are now maintained electronically or can be easily replaced. What cannot be replaced is your original estate-planning documents which should be kept somewhere immediately accessible to your fiduciaries, not behind a locked door in a bank vault.

Branch consolidations also pose a risk. As banks close or merge, box holders may be notified that their branch is shutting down and must remove their contents by a deadline. If the notice is missed or goes to an old address, the contents can end up in the state's unclaimed property system, creating another layer of complexity for heirs.

For most people, a well-secured home safe offers a more practical and accessible option. Fireproof and waterproof safes rated for at least one hour of fire resistance can protect critical papers and valuables. Originals of your last will and testament, power of attorney, health care proxy and any trusts should be stored there, while your attorney should maintain copies.

It's also wise to maintain a written inventory of what's in the safe, share its location with your executor or trusted family member, and ensure that someone knows the combination or where to find it in

the event of an emergency.

Digital storage is another alternative. Many law firms now provide secure client portals, and reputable online vaults offer encrypted storage for scanned copies of legal documents, insurance policies, and passwords. However, digital storage should supplement, not replace, properly executed original documents.

Safe deposit boxes once represented the height of security and orderliness, but in modern estate administration they often cause the opposite: inaccessibility, delay, and confusion. Families can avoid these complications by understanding how banks handle access at death, reconsidering whether a box is necessary, and ensuring that essential documents remain easily accessible

Table Hopping with Morris Gut -- Osteria Sardegna Premiers in Mamaroneck

I was driving up Halstead Ave. in Mamaroneck when I noticed the lights on at a new spot called Osteria Sardegna. It turns out to be a second coming for veteran restaurateur Vittorio Scarpa and his family who had operated a restaurant featuring the rustic dishes of Sardinia back in 2007 in Larchmont.

He has taken over the space once occupied by Padre Pio. A quick look inside and it is a charmer, filled with the art and artifacts of his native island off the coast of Italy's west coast. Scarpa, who came from a family of cooks, started in the food service business at his family's restaurants in Sardinia and Rome, then came to the States in the 80s and has been involved in the field in Los Angeles and New York City.

The 40-seat dining room is lined with lovely photos and prints of his native Sardinia. According to Scarpa, the roots of Sardinian cuisine come from fresh ingredients, nothing frozen. Sardinians are very proud of their fresh fish from the Mediterranean, roast pig, homemade breads, milk and cheese from goats, sheep and cows, and homegrown fruits, vegetables and herbs, garlic being of primary importance.

The opening menu offers such great starters as Pane Carasau, thin, flat and crispy Sardinian bread with mozzarella cheese, rosemary and olive oil; Bombas alla Sarda, meatballs, Sardinian style with tomato sauce and pecorino cheese; Arancini Quattro Formaggi, arborio rice, ricotta cheese, Sardinian pecorino, mozzarella and parmesan; Involtini di Melanzane, eggplant and ricotta, pecorino in tomato sauce; Arugula Salad with pears and gorgonzola in

to those who will need them most. By modernizing how you store and safeguard your important papers, you can give your loved ones the true peace of mind that safe deposit boxes were once meant to provide.

Bernard A. Krooks, Esq., is a founding partner of Littman Krooks LLP. He was named 2021 "Lawyer of the Year" by Best Lawyers in America® for excellence in Elder Law and has been honored as one of the "Best Lawyers" in America since 2008. He was elected to the Estate Planning Hall of Fame by the National Association of Estate Planners & Councils (NAEPC). Krooks is past Chair of the Elder Law Committee of the American College of Trust and Estate Counsel (ACTEC). Mr. Krooks may be reached at (914-684-2100) or by visiting the firm's website at www.littmankrooks.com.

a lemon dressing; traditional Caesar Salad, and Calamari Fritti.

Robust pasta specialties include Malloreddus, Sardinian style pasta with beef ragu; Culingiones, ravioli stuffed with pecorino, ricotta, garlic and basil sauce; Spaghetti Cacio e Pepe; Orecchiette Rapini, pasta with sausage and broccoli rabe, garlic & olive oil; and Linguine with eggplant and burrata cheese in tomato sauce.

Hearty main courses include Chicken Scarpariello, boneless with sausage, cherry peppers, served with penne, tomato sauce; Branzino alla Vermentino, sauteed with Sardinian white wine served with sauteed vegetables; Bistecca alla Sarda, grilled steak with broccoli rabe and roasted potatoes; Pork Chop Agrodolce Sardinian Style, double cut pork chop with vinegar peppers, rosemary and assorted vegetables; and Chicken Milanese. Breaded with an arugula chopped salad, olives, mozzarella, tomatoes and shaved parmigiana in a balsamic and lemon dressing. Daily specials augment the menu.

Osteria Sardegna Italian Restaurant is located at 501 Halstead Ave., Mamaroneck. 914-315-1580. The restaurant is open Tuesday through Sunday from 3 p.m. to 9 p.m. A bit later on weekends. Closed Mondays. Cozy bar and cocktails. Major credit cards. Proper casual dress. Free parking. Reservations accepted. www.osteriasardegna.com

(Morris Gut is a restaurant marketing consultant and former trade magazine editor. He has been tracking and writing about the food and dining scene in greater Westchester for over 30 years. He may be reached at: 914-235-6591. E-mail: gutreactions@optonline.net)

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Calendar of Events



Westchester County Executive Ken Jenkins and Veterans Service Agency Director Joshua Gaccione invite you to join them for a Veterans Day Ceremony on Friday, November 7 at Noon. Lasdon Public Gardens and Veterans Memorial 2610 NY – 35 Katonah, NY 10536 Facebook.com/westchestergov



Ted & Nune Studio, 45 Main St. Hastings on Hudson is proud to announce the opening of Syunik: Landscape of Endurance, an exhibition dedicated to Syunik, a mountainous region in southern Armenia where history and geography are inseparable. As a land of steep ridges and deep valleys, Syunik has repelled invading armies for nearly three thousand years. It was the last Armenian kingdom within the Armenian Highlands to fall. After the recent loss of Artsakh, Syunik became Armenia's southern stronghold and is strategically, economically, demographically, and symbolically vital. Its security is directly related to Armenia's survival. Opening Reception: November 8, 2025, 5:00 – 8:00 PM River Arts Studio Tour: Nov 8, 11-5 PM and Nov 9, 11 – 3 PM. Open through January 31, 2026 Hours: Wed – Sat, 12:00 PM – 5:00 PM or by appointment. Website: tedandnune.com



Senator Shelley B. Mayer will host a free community training session on Narcan (Naloxone) administration from 6:30-8:30 p.m. on Monday, November 10 at the Eastchester Public Library, 11 Oakridge Place, Eastchester. This training, led by the Office of Addiction Services and Supports, will provide information on how to respond to an opioid overdose and administer Narcan to someone to reverse the effects of an opioid overdose. This session is free and open to everyone; however, pre-registration is requested. To RSVP, you can visit <https://tinyurl.com/Nov2025Narcan> or call Senator Mayer's District Office at (914) 934 - 5250.



Harrison Public Library Introduction to Quilling - Class Three: sunflower
Monday, November 10, 2025
3:30pm - 5:30pm ET
Learning Center
Registration required.
Learn to use basic quilling tools and techniques to create a sunflower card similar to the one pictured. Registration opens two weeks before November tenth. <https://www.harrisonpl.org/events/14830596>

Aspects of Emancipation: Quakers, War, and Runaways
Philipse Manor Hall State Historic Site, 29 Warburton Ave., Yonkers
November 12 at 7:00 pm
Historian Peter Bunten will host "Aspects of Emancipation: Quakers, War, and Runaways," a talk about slavery and freedom in New York State. The talk will examine three iterations of the effort by enslaved people to gain their freedom in 1700s Westchester County. Quakers in the eastern part of the county were under pressure from Quakers meetings north of them and from their own consciences, as a steady stream of Freedom seekers moved through the area. The Philipsburg Proclamation during the Revolutionary War both put pressure on Patriot slaveowners and gave new incentive to enslaved men to break out of their bonds and join the British war effort. And throughout the entire 18th century, scores of enslaved men, women and children took the momentous step to free themselves. These "aspects of emancipation" shed light on the risks and opportunities facing enslaved people during this period. Tickets for the in-person lecture are \$6 for adults, \$3 for seniors and students, and free for Friends of Philipse Manor Hall members. Pre-registration is recommended but not required. To register, call 914-965-4027 or email philipsemanorhall@parks.ny.gov.

The magic of the holidays returns as Lumina – A Magical Light Experience once again transforms Harvest Moon Farm & Orchard into a dazzling winter wonderland. Now celebrating its fifth season, Lumina features over half a million glowing lights in an immersive, walk-through display where families can continue the cherished tradition of returning year after year to celebrate the

spirit of the season. More information and ticket information can be found here www.luminahm.com. Guests can indulge in seasonal favorites including fresh apple cider donuts, toasty s'mores, hot cider, and festive holiday drinks and treats while taking in the sights and sounds of this one-of-a-kind experience, perfect for family outings, date nights, and holiday celebrations alike. Lumina – A Magical Light Experience opens November 21, 2025, and runs through December 30, welcoming guests from 5:00 PM to 8:30 PM on weekends and select weekday evenings. Tickets are available online at luminahm.com, and presale begins November 3rd.

Philipse Manor Hall State Historic Site presents the "Saw Mill River Industrial History Walking Tour", leaving from Philipse Manor Hall (29 Warburton Ave. Yonkers, NY) on Saturday, November 8, 2025 at 10:30am and returning at 1pm. Although often ignored today, the Saw Mill River was for centuries the main hub of life in Yonkers. On this special 2.5 mile, 2.5 hour urban hike, explore the Saw Mill River over 400 years of history, from its days as a fishing tributary called Nepperhan, through its earliest uses for water power, to its industrial heyday, burial, and daylighting. We'll learn about historic mills, from Adriaen Van Der Donck's saw mill to the Alexander Smith Carpet Mills, why it's called Chicken Island, the influence of the Old Croton Aqueduct, and how the river shaped Yonkers' working life. This urban hike takes a circular route of approximately 2.5 miles and departs from Philipse Manor Hall and includes inclines, hills, and some unpaved trails. Hike lasts approximately 2.5 hours. Participants are encouraged to dress for the weather and wear comfortable shoes and sunscreen or a hat. Tour departs promptly at 10:30 a.m., museum opens at 10:00

a.m. Museum accessible via Hudson line train, car, or bus. Pre-registration is recommended, but not required. To register, call 914-965-4027 or email philipsemanorhall@parks.ny.gov. If heavy rain, storms, or road closures occur, this hike will be cancelled.

Alternative Device Fair
Saturday, November 22, 10 AM to 12:30 PM
Scarsdale Public Library, 54 Olmsted Road
Thinking about your child's first phone or watch? Before defaulting to an iPhone or Apple Watch, explore options designed with kids and parents in mind. Learn about phones and watches that allow calls, texts and location tracking without social media. This event is sponsored by IRL NY. To learn more email Scarsdale@WeAreIRL.org.

Free Art Appraisal Event
November 9, 10am–4pm
Bedford Hills Train Station, 46 Depot Plaza, Bedford Hills
Have a hidden treasure at home? Shapiro Auctions will host a free art appraisal event at the Bedford Hills Train Station on Saturday, November 9, from 10am to 5pm. Meet Gene Shapiro, professional art appraiser and featured expert on PBS's Antiques Roadshow, and have your items evaluated on the spot. Bring your Artwork, Antiques, Jewelry, Collectibles, Rare Books, and more for a complimentary appraisal. Participants may bring up to three items. Firearms will not be accepted.

St. Paul's Church National Historic Site
897 South Columbus Avenue, Mt. Vernon
914-667-4116 www.nps.gov/sapa
Tuesday, Nov. 11, 11 AM. Join us for our annual Veterans Day commemoration, with a brief ceremony in the church, followed by a walking

tour of the historic cemetery, recalling the lives of some of the soldiers and sailors buried at St. Paul's. There will be a special salute to Private George Diehl, who served in the Civil War with the 103rd New York Volunteer Infantry. Descendants of Private Diehl will be present.
Sat. Nov. 15, 1 PM. Author and historian Francis C. Cogliano explores themes from his recent, highly regarded book, "A Revolutionary Friendship: Washington, Jefferson, and the American Republic".
Sat., Nov. 22, 1 PM. The acclaimed duo of Alyssa Reit on Harp and Peter Reit on French horn, perform seasonal music and other selections.
Sat. Nov. 29, 1 PM. Ronald Campbell, bass baritone, with Anthony Evans on keyboard, performs spirituals, oratorio and show tune selections.
Tuesday, Dec. 2, 7 PM. Join us for a holiday performance by the renowned Bronx Opera Company, featuring arias and duets from the classics, as well as carols and seasonal favorites.

The Yonkers Philharmonic Orchestra, presented by the Fine Arts Orchestral Society of Yonkers, Inc., presents Connections - Saturday, November 1, 2025 3:00 pm. This concert is devoted to the connection between the orchestra, patrons of the arts and audience; how they are intertwined as a collective in bringing music to life. The concert begins with Porcelana de Oro by Cristobal MarYan. Soloist Hannah Holman joins the orchestra for Elgar's Cello Concerto and we round out the afternoon with Brahms' Symphony #4. The concerts take place on SATURDAY at Saunders Trades and Technical High School, 183 Palmer Road, Yonkers All concerts are FREE. Please visit our website, www.yonkersphilharmonic.com to stay updated on the latest news, special events and donate.

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The JB Homes Team is here to guide you through your real estate journey, scan to learn more!

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