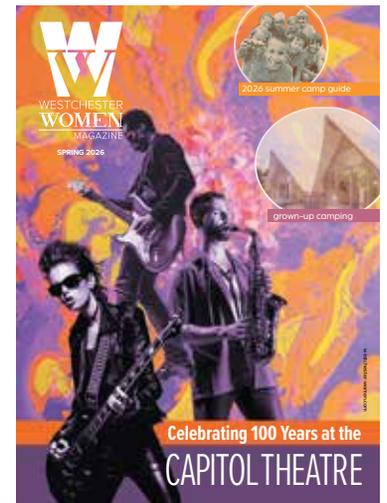


Harrison Herald



march 2026 - vol. 23 - issue 3

harrisonherald.com

IN THIS ISSUE: WW Magazine Spring 2026!

Board Honors 2026 Regeneron Scholars



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

The students were chosen as part of a highly competitive group of 300 semi-finalists and finalists in one of the nation's most prestigious science and mathematics competitions, now in its 85th year. Alumni of the Regeneron Science Talent Search include Nobel laureates, MacArthur Fellows, and recipients of the National Medal of Science. Two Westchester scholars are among the 40 finalists who will travel to Washington, D.C. in March to present their research and compete for the top prize of \$250,000.

Regeneron Pharmaceuticals hosted the annual STS Scholars ceremony at its Tarrytown headquarters, recognizing outstanding students from 12 Westchester high schools. Legislators presented Certificates of Merit to Scholars from their districts, highlighting the students' innovation, discipline, and commitment to scientific re-

continued on page 4

Proclamation Presented to Samantha Ferrara for Girl Scout Gold Award

BY STEPHEN E. LIPKEN

Harrison Town Supervisor Thomas Scappaticci convened the Thursday, February 5th Town Board meeting, presenting a Proclamation to Samantha Ferrara, Girl Scout Troop #1884 who received the Girl Scout Gold Award, their highest honor, for collecting and redistributing gently-worn formal dresses (Communion and Confirmation items) to families in need.



Harrison Supervisor/Mayor Thomas Scappaticci and Samantha Ferrara

"Samantha's accomplishment reflects great credit upon herself, her family, her true leadership and the Girl Scout Organization, and serves as an inspiration to other young women in our community," Scappaticci noted.

Next was a request by David Birdsall, Business Director, Westchester Joint Water Works (WJWW) for Board to approve a water rate increase. One factor included the debt service for required construction of the Water Filtration Plant; the Town's share is about \$55 million and must be bonded. WJWW wanted to take the debt service of the bond and roll it into the rate.

continued on page 3



Call/Text (914) 393-9115 or scan for a Free Home Evaluation



Maureen Skrilow
It's Your Move!

Licensed Real Estate Salesperson
cell: 914.393.9115
maureen.skrilow@raveis.com

WILLIAM RAVEIS
WINNER
TOP LUXURY BROKERAGE®
Highest Honor in Luxury Real Estate®
78 Purchase Street | Rye, NY 10580

Multiple Offers Over-Asking Price
Under Contract In 1 Week | 51 Club Pointe Drive, White Plains




ECRWS

LOCAL POSTAL CUSTOMER

PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
WHITE PLAINS, NY
PERMIT 5121



HOULIHAN  LAWRENCE
14 ELM PLACE, RYE, NY 10580

Rightsizing: the smartest investment in your future.

Is a move on your horizon?
Begin planning for your next chapter with Chrissy.



CHRISTINE HAZELTON
Real Estate Salesperson
M 914.309.9685
chazelton@houlihanlawrence.com

-  Hazelton_Homes
-  ChrissyHazeltonTopProducingRealtor
-  ChrissyHazelton1

EXPERIENCE THE ELEGANCE
OF *Membership*
AT HAMPSHIRE

Join the Movement in 2026!

HAMPTON GOLF RECIPROCAL PROGRAM
MEMBERS HAVE THE PRIVILEGE TO ACCESS MORE THAN 300 CLUBS AROUND THE WORLD

Don't miss your chance to join our community of golf enthusiasts.
We're offering a limited number of memberships. Secure your spot now
and take advantage of our expert instruction, beautiful course,
newly renovated practice facility, and exceptional amenities.

Contact Dorothy Palomares at 914.698.4610 ext. 214 or
dpalomares@hampshireclub.com
to learn more about membership options and benefits.
We look forward to welcoming you to our club!

HAMPSHIRE COUNTRY CLUB
1025 Cove Road Mamaroneck, New York 10543
www.hampshireclub.com




Harrison Student One of Just Twenty Nationwide Selected for Prestigious Civics Fellowship

A Harrison High School student will participate in a highly competitive civic education and leadership development program after earning a 2026 Bill of Rights Institute Student Fellowship.

Atharv Gandhi, a resident of Harrison, was one of just twenty students from across the United States selected to join the Student Fellowship program, an elite six-month educational opportunity that helps high school students develop as leaders and learn skills necessary for building civil society.

The Bill of Rights Institute is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization that develops market-leading civics and history resources and programs for teachers and students nationwide.

Through the Institute's Student Fellowship program, Gandhi will participate in dialogue around primary sources, create civic engagement projects, meet with civic leaders, and co-design a week-long capstone experience in Philadelphia.

Previous Student Fellows have met with members of Congress, toured some of the most important historic sites in the nation's capital, and even started their own



Atharv Gandhi

continued on page 4

Archbishop Stepinac's "SOUPer Bowl" Food Drive Tops 8,000 Pounds for Westchester Neighbors

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

Stepinac students navigated the ice to load a Feeding Westchester truck with cases of soup, ramen, and other donated shelf-stable items. Three other Westchester schools -- Todd Elementary School of Briarcliff Manor (488 pounds), Alice E. Grady Elementary School of Elmsford (1,420 pounds) and Church Street Elementary in White Plains (300 pounds) -- also contributed to the total.

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



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

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

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

"For our students, this is about seeing how their actions make a real difference," said Roxanne Covello, Stepinac Teacher and Coordinator of the SOUPer Bowl Drive. "They take pride knowing that the food they collected will help families right here in Westchester. Watching them work as a team and support Feeding Westchester is one of the highlights of our school year."

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

Proclamation Presented to Samantha Ferrara for Girl Scout Gold Award
continued from page 1

"Everyone will pay a flat rate, based on the size of the water meter coming into their home," Scappaticci said. "As far as the cost of water goes, my feeling is that it should pay for the operation; it should not pay for the debt service. How much will the bond cost?" Scappaticci asked.

Scappaticci then called for a motion to raise the water rate by 20%, which passed.

Police Chief John Vasta requested approval of the Department's 2026 Capital Budget, utilizing previous capital funding from Capital Accounts #20P018 and #21P028, remaining amount to be financed through bonding. Amount to be financed is \$767,269.11.

Projected improvements to the Ron Belmont Pool Complex include bid documents for a Snack Bar and ultraviolet system upgrades including replacement of UV systems serving the spray features within main and wading pools, contracting John Petroccione, PE for engineering services not to exceed \$8,000.

Finally, a Public Hearing to amend Village Code 38-42 "Vehicles and Traffic," by adding a new subsection "C" entitled "School Speed Zones" was approved.



LITTMAN KROOKS
LLP

Helping Families Plan for the Future

Estate Planning & Administration
Medicaid Planning
Elder Law
Guardianship
Special Needs Planning
Special Education Advocacy



www.littmankrooks.com

800 Westchester Avenue, • Rye Brook, NY 10573 • 914.684.2100
1325 Avenue of the Americas • New York, NY 10019 • 212.490.2020

Attorney Advertising



Same County. New Address.

Westchester County Moves to a Mandated .gov Webpage



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

The previous web address will automatically redirect to the new .gov site to ensure a seamless experience for residents, businesses and partners.

Westchester County Executive Ken Jenkins said: "This is about clarity, credibility and public confidence. When residents visit a .gov website, they know they are accessing official government information. Moving to WestchesterCountyNY.gov aligns us with federal standards and strengthens trust in how we communicate with the public. Our goal is simple: make it easier for people to know they are in the right place."

What Changed

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

What is not Changing

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Westchester County, located in the heart of the historic Hudson Valley, covers 500 square miles and has a population of just over 1 million. Originally home to Native Americans

of the Lenape tribe, it is now a rich mix of diverse cultures and landscapes. The County is a blend of bustling cities, quaint villages, and picturesque towns, as well as open spaces and a network of beautiful parks. Westchester is made up of six cities, 19 towns, and 20 villages. The County is known for its top-notch public schools and high quality of life. It is also an intellectual capital, boasting a highly educated workforce, competitive colleges and universities, Fortune 500

companies, world-changing nonprofits, and cutting-edge research centers. Westchester is led by County Executive Kenneth W. Jenkins, who took office in January 2025 as the tenth County Executive. Focusing on innovation, Jenkins is leveraging technology and fostering business growth to position Westchester as a dynamic and inclusive destination where everyone can thrive. Learn more about Westchester County by visiting www.westchestergov.com.

Harrison Student One of Just Twenty Nationwide Selected for Prestigious Civics Fellowship

continued from page 2

civic initiatives in their local communities.

"At the Bill of Rights Institute, we equip students to become principled, productive citizens," Bill of Rights Institute President and CEO David Bobb said. "Our Student Fellowship Program provides some of our most gifted young people an opportunity to explore our nation's principles and civic virtues and gain the skills to positively shape its future."

The 2026 Student Fellows were selected through a competitive national process that included being nominated by educators and composing essays that explored topics about leadership and how to be a good citizen.

Rachel Davison Humphries, the Bill of Rights Institute's Senior Director of

Civic Learning, and a former classroom teacher, said she is looking forward to providing a rich educational experience to this year's Fellows.

"Each year, our Student Fellows bring their own backgrounds, beliefs and eagerness to learn about citizenship and leadership together," she said. "I'm looking forward to this year's Fellows showing the same commitment to collaboration and civil discourse that represents the best of the Fellowship and of civic life in America."

The Bill of Rights Institute is a national nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that teaches civics and history through market-leading curricula and educational programs for teachers and students. To learn more about the Bill of Rights Institute, visit www.mybri.org.

Board Honors 2026 Regeneron Scholars

continued from page 1

search. The scope and quality of the projects reflect the County's strong academic culture.

Westchester County Board of Legislators Chairman Vedat Gashi (D-New Castle, Ossining, Somers, Yorktown) said, "Each year, these students raise the bar for academic excellence. Their achievements reflect not only their own talent and determination, but also the vital support of families, teachers, and school communities. Congratulations to all."

Westchester County's 2026 Regeneron Science Talent Search Scholars:
Ardsley High School: Khushi Karthikeyan*, Serina Tomioka
Byram Hills High School: Max Charney, Lindsay Coady

Briarcliff High School: Elias Malionek
Horace Greeley High School: Warren Fu, Kevin Guo, Brady Wang

Harrison High School: Noelle Roxane Boquet Couderc, Emily Ann Salemo
Ossining High School: Summerville Beckford

Pelham Memorial High School: Emily Walch

Edgemont High School: Vasu Jain, Ananya Shah

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

Westlake High School: Elizabeth Lilian Singh

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

*Finalists

Calendar of Events

Health is Wealth

Westchester County Center

Saturday, April 25 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The Health is Wealth Expo will feature sessions in professional development, physical wellness, emotional health and financial literacy, along with several live-fitness activations and over 40 vendors in industries spanning wellness, financial planning, gyms, home improvement and more. For speaker, vendor and sponsorship inquiries, email: lead@davereggina.com. The Westchester County Center is located at 198 Central Ave. in White Plains. Tickets are on sale at <https://county-center.biz/event/health-is-wealth/>.

Colonial Homes of Dutchess County: A Tour of Historic Interiors

Saturday, April 25

History is celebrating America's 250th birthday throughout the entire year with a special goal: to pass or include 250 colonial homes across their 2026 tours. This tour brings guests inside several private historic homes located in Hopewell Junction (East Fishkill), Wingdale, and—just over the border in Putnam County—a special interior stop in Patterson. Many additional colonial homes and historic buildings will be highlighted along the route from the comfort of our private charter bus. Because this tour includes private home interiors, it is offered one day only and will not be repeated—this year or in years to come. For more information, visit history.org.

Music at Asbury Concert Series

Julia Breanetta Simpson, "Satin Dolls: Unsung Women of Jazz"

Sunday, March 22 at 3pm

Asbury-Crestwood United Methodist Church is honored to present the world premiere of a new show from Breanetta Productions, "Satin Dolls: Unsung Women of Jazz," created and written by and starring singer / actress Julia Breanetta Simpson, as part of its Music at Asbury community concert series. Ms. Simpson's longtime collaborator, pianist / composer / arranger Mario Sprouse, will serve as music director. Concerts are held in the sanctuary at Asbury United Methodist Church, 167 Scarsdale Rd, Tuckahoe; venue is fully handicapped accessible and ample parking is available. Admission is free of charge but reservations are strongly recommended; visit www.MusicAtAsbury.com or call 914-779-3722 to reserve a general admission seat.

Polyhymnia, one of New York's venerable professional a cappella choirs, under the direction of John Bradley, continues its 30th Season with Tudor settings of The Lamentations of Jeremiah on Saturday, March 7, at 7:30 pm. Pre-Concert Lecture by Dr. Lynette Bowring at 6:30 pm. The Church of St. Ignatius of Antioch, 264 West 87th Street (At West End Avenue), New York, NY. Purchase online: <https://www.polyhymnia-nyc.org/concerts> or call (917) 838-4636.

Join the Yonkers Philharmonic Orchestra

to hear works by Gioachino Rossini, Francois-Adrian Boieldieu, and Leonard Bernstein. All are welcome and admission is free! Sunday, March 15, 3 p.m. at Saunders Trades and Technical High School, 183 Palmer Rd., Yonkers. Sponsored by the Fine Arts Orchestral Society of Yonkers, Inc. Visit yonkersphilharmonic.org

Arc Stages presents Sondheim's A Little Night Music, Mar 20-28 on the Community Stage. Pleasantville theater company Arc Stages' Community Stage presents Sondheim's A Little Night Music. The Community Stage is the second wing of a company that also includes a thriving Educational Stage and a professional stage, the Next Stage. A Little Night Music is directed by Ann-Ngaire Martin and musical direction by Marcus Baker. Starring: Matt Acocella, Reid Aronson, Payton Dell, Olivia Dower, Shannon Harding, Anne-Marie Kavulla, Hannah Kluger, Liz Nolan, Chris Partelow-Zika, Luis G. Quintero Jr., Ali Roselle, Katie Schmidt Feder, Arnie Toback, Michelle Tsai, and Ada Williams Performances are Friday, March 20 - Saturday, March 28 at Arc Stages, located at 147 Wheeler Avenue in Pleasantville, NY. Fridays and Saturdays at 8 pm, Sunday at 2 pm. Tickets are \$28 for adults and \$22 for seniors and students. To purchase tickets, visit www.arcstages.org or call 914-747-6206.

Best of Bach, concert

On Sunday, March 22nd at Irvington Presbyterian Church, 25 North Broadway, Irvington NY, 7:30 pm, the newly formed nonprofit organization Szabo Chamber Music Society, now in its second year, will present a tour de force concert presenting the most famous compositions by J. S. Bach. Beethoven famously referred to Bach as "the father of us all" due to his unparalleled technical mastery of counterpoint, harmony, and prolific composition. The program will include the dramatic organ Toccata and Fugue in D Minor, meditative prelude from the G major Suite for cello, the virtuosic prelude from Partita in E Major for violin, the breathtaking Air from Orchestral Suite No. 3, the exuberant Badinerie from Orchestral Suite No. 2, and the exhilarating Brandenburg Concerto No. 5. The second half of the concert will feature Bach's famous Coffee Cantata, his only comic opera Buffa, sung in English, which will be staged. Renowned soloists will include Cathy Yang, violin, Khaory Hinata, flute, Andy Kim, cello, Dr. Sandor Szabo, harpsichord, organ and conductor, Holly Thomas, soprano, Spencer Smith, bass and Brenten Megee, tenor. Delicious coffee and dessert will be served following the concert. This exciting concert is not to be missed! Tickets are \$25, adults, \$20 seniors and \$5 students. Donations gratefully accepted and are tax deductible. For more information contact: szabochambermusicsociety.com, or mail to: szabochambermusicsociety@gmail.com, (908)267-1980

Westchester County Executive Ken Jenkins invites you to join us as we Raise the Irish Flag

in Celebration of Irish Heritage Month, Tuesday, March 10, 5 – 7 p.m. at the Michaelian Office Building, 148 Martine Ave, White Plains. Facebook.com/westchestergov. RSVP by Tuesday, March 3: bit.ly/3ZQ17Xm

HARRISON PUBLIC LIBRARY EVENTS

Magical Movements Dance Class (Ages 2-5)

Monday, March 9, 2026

10:30am - 11:00am ET

Halperin Building - Community Room

Ages 2-5. 20 Tickets will be given out to participate in the class, first come, first serve. Join

Miss Linda from Magical Movements Dance

School in Harrison as we learn some fun

dance moves and play with shakers, scarves

and more! This event will also take place on:

Monday, March 16, 2026

Boots & Beats: Country Line Dancing

Tuesday, March 10, 2026

2:00pm - 3:00pm ET

Halperin Building - Community Room

Registration required. Back by popular

demand! Join Adam Cherko for a fun hour of

country line dancing on Tuesday afternoons at

2 pm. No experience needed. Dress comfortably

and bring water. Cowboy hat and boots

optional. When you register you will be signed

up for all Winter sessions: Feb 10, Feb 24,

Mar 10, Mar 24, Apr 7, & Apr 21. <https://www.harrisonpl.org/events/16069056>

3D Printing Craft for Kids

Friday, March 13, 2026

4:00pm - 5:00pm ET

Learning Center

Learn how to use Tinkercad and 3D print your

own designs in this workshop with Library As-

stant Kenji! Participants will learn how to use

Tinkercad during each session, working on a

specific craft each day, and then pick up their

completed craft later on. Participation in all

workshops is not necessary, and signups are

specific to each day. Limited seats are avail-

able on a first come, first serve basis. Ages 9

to 13. This event will also take place on: Friday,

April 10, and Friday, May 8, 2026

Maple Syrup Workshop and Tasting with

Crown Maple Syrup Company

Saturday, March 14, 2026

3:00pm - 4:00pm ET

Halperin Building - Community Room

Registration required. The Crown Maple Syrup

Company will be discussing the process of

collecting sap from maple trees (tapping)

and how they create delicious syrup flavors.

Crown Maple proudly showcases the excep-

tional versatility of maple in culinary, baking,

topping, and beverage applications. We invite

you to join us to explore the unique & distinc-

tive selection of Crown Maple syrups.

Registration opens two weeks before the

start date. The story of Crown Maple began

with Robb and Lydia Turner, and their desire

to find a retreat for their family. Their search

brought them to New York's Hudson Valley,

which Robb had fallen in love with during his

time at West Point. The Turner family found the perfect cabin with a wide range of geography and a phenomenal view at the top of a mountain. Robb did not set out to become the preeminent maple producer. Having grown up on a farm, Robb became inspired by the opportunity to create a higher quality maple. This inspiration sparked the passion that created a new maple standard, Crown Maple. This program is open to adults, teens, and children with an adult. <https://www.harrisonpl.org/events/15422028>

Kids Baking: Ages 7-12

Monday, March 16, 2026

4:00pm - 5:00pm ET

Halperin Building - Community Room

Ages 7-12. Tickets will be given out on a first

come, first serve basis. This event will also

take place on: Monday, April 6, 2026, Monday,

April 20, 2026, and Monday, May 18, 2026

Cardboard Octopus Workshop: Sculpting with Layers - Maker-in-Residence (Adults and Teens 12-18) cardboard octopus

Wednesday, March 18, 2026

4:00pm - 6:00pm ET

Halperin Building - Community Room

Registration required. Turn upcycled card-

board into something bright and full of

personality! In this hands-on workshop, par-

ticipants will design and build a freestanding

octopus sculpture using layered cardboard.

You'll explore how layering can add depth

to a flat illustration, and everyone will get to

safely try a cardboard-cutting power tool.

All materials provided; no prior experience

needed. Register: <https://www.harrisonpl.org/events/16235365>

Birdhouse Wreath Workshop

Friday, March 27, 2026

3:30pm - 5:00pm ET

Halperin Building - Conference Room, Learn-

ing Center

Registration required. Add a little spring charm

to your door! Join us to craft a birdhouse

wreath with mini birdhouses, greenery, and

decorative touches. All materials included.

Registration opens two weeks before the start

date.

Sphero Robotic Bowling for Ages 6-11

Monday, March 30, 2026

2:00pm - 3:00pm ET

Halperin Building - Community Room

Registration required. This program is made

possible through the generous support of the

Harrison Public Library Foundation. We extend

our heartfelt gratitude to them for their com-

mitment to enriching our community and fos-

tering educational opportunities at the Library.

An action-packed program where children

build, code, and compete with their very own

robotic bowling machines, introducing them to

the world of robotics and coding through the

fun and familiar game of bowling.

Registration opens two weeks before the

program.

Senator Shelley Mayer Hosts Successful Toiletry Drive with LifeWay Network

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

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

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

Senator Shelley Mayer said, "I am grateful for the generosity of so many in my district who donated toiletries to support survivors of human and sex trafficking. So many of us do not think twice when getting ready in the morning—we have everything we need. But that is not the reality for everyone, especially those working to rebuild their lives. I am deeply proud to be part of a community that consistently helps our neighbors in need. I extend my heartfelt thanks to the Yonkers Grinton I. Will Public Library, Pound Ridge Town House, and Mamaroneck Public Library for allowing us to use your spaces as donation locations. Thank you to all who contributed, and a special thanks to Ali Boak, Pound Ridge Council Member and Executive Director of LifeWay Network, for your partnership, efforts, and lifelong advocacy—as well as the entire LifeWay Network team for their outstanding work in supporting victims of trafficking. I also would like to extend a special thanks to St. Thomas Mar Thoma Church Youth Fellowship, for putting extra care into creating bags of supplies for survivors."

Alison Boak, Executive Director, LifeWay Network, said, "LifeWay Network is deeply grateful to New York State Senator Shelley Mayer for her leadership and generosity in leading a toiletry drive in honor of Human Trafficking Awareness Month. Her commitment helps ensure that survivors have access to the dignity, care, and essentials they need as they rebuild their lives. We also thank Senator Mayer for her ongoing dedication to justice, equity, and the protection of women's rights—values that are vital to creating safer, more just communities for all. It's so heartening to see the community's overwhelming response! The toiletries we received will supply the women we serve through the end of 2026, allowing LifeWay to provide more than 4,000 safe nights of housing."

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



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

Westchester County Board of Legislators Announces 2026 Committee Leadership

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

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

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

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

The list of Committee Chairs is as follows:

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

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

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

Health: Legislator Jewel Williams Johnson (D–Elmsford, Greenburgh, Tar-

Westchester County Board of Legislators 2026 Committee Chairs



rytown, White Plains)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

A full list of the new committee assignments can be viewed at <https://www.westchesterlegislators.com/committees>



AN INNOVATIVE KNEE SURGERY GOT SOPHIA OUT OF A BRACE AND BACK ON THE COURT. THAT'S EXCEPTIONAL.

When Sophia repeatedly dislocated her kneecaps, she was given a temporary fix—a bulky leg brace and a seat on the sidelines. Dr. Steven Andelman at the White Plains Hospital Center for Orthopedics & Spine Surgery had a permanent solution. He performed a highly specialized surgery that only a handful of doctors in the region are trained to do. Now, Sophia is back on her feet and in the game.

WP White Plains Hospital
Exceptional. Every day.

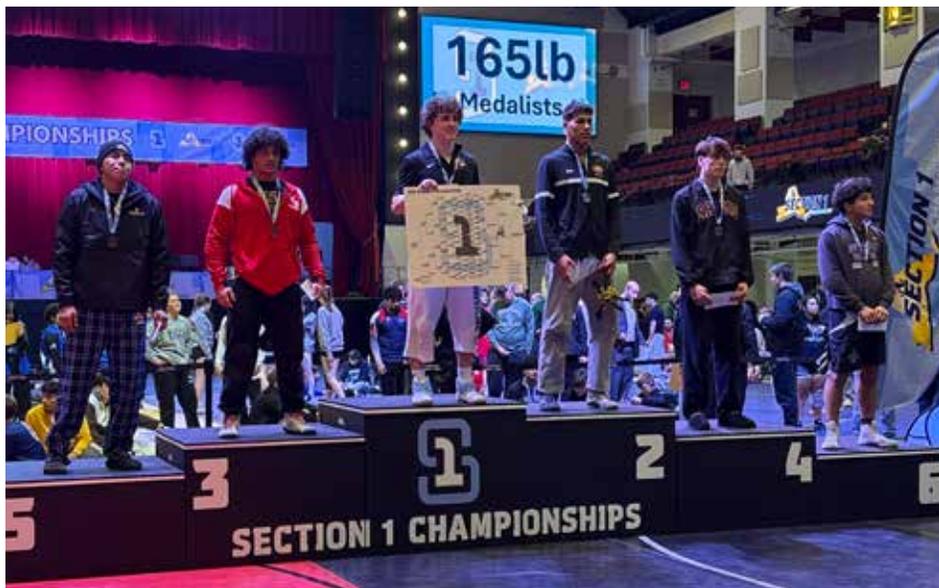
A MEMBER OF THE MONTEFIORE HEALTH SYSTEM



Scan or visit wphospital.org/stories to learn more. Or call 914-WPH-BONE to make an appointment



Rye High School Wrestlers Compete with Pride at Section One Championships



Rye High School varsity boys wrestlers demonstrated outstanding determination, resilience and sportsmanship during a demanding two-day Section One Boys Wrestling Championship weekend, representing their school and community with pride from start to finish.

The team began competition early Feb. 7, wrestling throughout the day and returning home late that evening before turning around to compete again on Feb. 8. Despite the long hours and physical de-

mands, Rye's athletes continued to compete with focus, grit and perseverance.

Several Rye wrestlers earned podium finishes in their respective weight classes. Tyler Walsh finished with a 5-3 record, placing sixth in the 157-pound weight class. Jason Gaylord posted a 5-1 record, earning second place in the 165-pound weight class. Jack Anderson finished 6-1, earning second place in the 215-pound weight class.

Beyond the podium finishes, the

weekend highlighted the physical and mental toughness required in wrestling. Each of these student-athletes faced challenges throughout the season, continuing to work, improve and trust their coaches. Their success serves as a strong example of how hard work, perseverance and resilience pay off.

The team is led by head coach Brian Scher, along with assistant coaches Greg Domestico, Billy Calvacca and Jalin Ba-

dillo, whose leadership and support were instrumental throughout the season and championship weekend.

Jason Gaylord and Jack Anderson will compete at the NYSPHSAA Division I Wrestling State Championships on Feb. 27-28 at the MVP Arena in Albany.

Rye City School District congratulates the entire wrestling team and coaching staff on a hard-fought, resilient and commendable championship performance.

Rye Middle School Squash Teams Compete at Middle School Nationals



Rye Middle School squash athletes recently traveled to Philadelphia to compete in the Middle School Squash National Championships, marking an exciting milestone for the growing program.

RMS sent three coed teams of six players each to the national tournament, with every team playing four matches over the course of the weekend. While the teams did not place overall, students recorded strong wins, faced challenging matchups and demonstrated determination and resilience throughout the competition.

Beyond the match results, the weekend stood out for the sportsmanship and teamwork displayed by RMS players. Students supported one another on and off the courts and represented their school and community with pride. Coaches and program leaders noted how gracious and encouraging the athletes were as both competitors and teammates.

The RMS squash program continues to grow significantly this season. The A Team included 18 players who traveled to Nationals, consisting of one sixth grader, two seventh graders and 15 eighth graders. The B Team included 28 players, and the Beginner Team included 15 players. With 61 total participants, this is believed to be the largest squash program RMS has had to date.

In addition to Nationals, the A and B teams have participated in three FairWest League Jamborees at Chelsea Piers in Stamford as part of the public school squash league for Fairfield and Westchester counties. The first two jamborees took place on Dec. 6 and Jan. 10, with the final event scheduled for Feb. 7. The program will also host intra team tournaments for the Beginner and B teams on Feb. 8, followed by an end of season celebration for all teams on Feb. 11.

With strong participation and enthusiasm across all levels, the RMS squash program continues to build a solid foundation for future success, strengthening the pipeline of talent for the Rye High School squash team in the years ahead.

Congratulations to all RMS squash athletes on a successful season and an impressive showing at Nationals.

Join our country club and experience a vibrant community built on camaraderie and connection.



Learn more



HARRISON MEADOWS COUNTRY CLUB

123 North Street
Harrison, NY 10528

MEMBER BENEFITS

- 18 HOLES OF CHAMPIONSHIP GOLF
- GREEN FEES INCLUDED
- ACCESS TO THE PRACTICE FACILITY
- 10% OFF GOLF SHOP MERCHANDISE
- DON'T WAIT - LIMITED AVAILABILITY

914-925-7001

www.harrisonmeadowsc.com

harrisonherald.com

FEEDING
WESTCHESTER

An Evening In **GOOD TASTE**



THURSDAY
APRIL 16, 2026



SCAN HERE TO BUY TICKETS

From Despair to Hope: Conquering Peripheral Neuropathy

“My feet feel like they’re on fire.” “Each step feels like I’m walking through wet paint.” “I can’t sleep because my hands and feet tingle all night.” “I live in constant fear that I’ll fall.”

What do all of these people have in common? They each suffer from Peripheral Neuropathy (PN). It is estimated that more than 20 million people in the United States have PN. Unfortunately, this figure may be significantly higher as the disease is often misdiagnosed due to its wide array of symptoms.

Ginnette Diaz, Licensed Acupuncturist, founder of White Plains Acupuncture, shares the belief that PN is more common than even the worst estimate. “I’ve been treating neuropathy, in all its various forms, for over 15 years, and so often my patients come to me because of the symptoms, not because of a diagnosis. They read one of my news articles, or read the testimonial of another patient, and say to themselves, ‘Hey, I feel the same thing.’”

Frankie M. of Rye testified to this: “I remember my husband driving me to my consultation and I saw a woman running just outside our neighborhood. I was so envious- I just kept thinking ‘I would give anything just to walk again.’ My primary care doctor told me my troubles with pain and balance were just symptoms of old age and gave me a prescription. I was so depressed.”

Fortunately, Frankie would eventually see Ginnette Diaz on the local news talking about similar symptoms and how she offers a real solution at White Plains Acupuncture. “I just knew I had to see her. She was my last hope.”

“Almost all of our patients come to us with a story similar to Frankie’s. They’ve been everywhere else. They’ve been told there’s no hope. They’ve been told it’s ‘just part of getting older,’”



shares Jenny, a Patient Care Technician at White Plains Acupuncture. “It just breaks my heart, but I know how much we can help people like Frankie, so I’m always so happy when they walk through our door.”

Peripheral neuropathy is a result of damage to the nerves, often caused by (and always compounded by) a lack of blood flow in the hands and feet. This lack of blood flow results in a lack of nutrients, and the nerves begin to degenerate and die. This causes pain and other sensations ranging from uncomfortable to debilitating. Because neuropathy is a degenerative condition, once those nerves begin to deteriorate they will continue to do so until they are completely expired, leaving those suffering with crippling balance issues. “In this case, the absence of pain is not necessarily a good thing,” shares Ginnette Diaz. “This usually indicates that your nerves are hanging on by a fragile thread.”

Those diagnosed with peripheral neuropathy often face a very grim reality: Western medicine declares that there is no solution, while alternative therapies offer little to no results. Ginnette Diaz and the staff at White Plains Acupuncture have a track record that proves that they are different, and they pride themselves

on being “the last resort with the best results.”

So exactly how is Acupuncturist Ginnette Diaz able to reverse the effects of this degenerative disease? Through a unique blend of one of the most time-tested therapies and the most cutting-edge. “Acupuncture has been used to increase blood flow for thousands of years, and it helps get the necessary nutrients to the affected nerves. But the real magic happens when I integrate ATP Resonance BioTherapy®. This is a technology that was originally developed by NASA to expedite healing and recovery.”

“I just can’t say enough about White Plains Acupuncture,” Frankie shares through tears of joy. “My husband and I moved here 3 years ago and he’s gone to the beach almost every day. I always stayed home because of the pain and discomfort. But yesterday, I walked on the beach with him! And next week we’re starting dancing lessons. I am truly living life these days.” “According to Frankie’s test results, she has seen a 74% improvement in pain and functionality, which is on par with a majority of our patients,” shares Jenny. “But more important than those test results is the joy she’s expressed in being here, and getting to hear about all the amazing things

she’s able to do because she feels great!”

By seamlessly blending the ancient science of acupuncture with modern medical solutions, Ginnette Diaz has achieved a 90% success rate in reversing the effects of neuropathy. She starts each patient with an initial consultation during which a sensory exam is performed. “This not only aids in making a proper diagnosis, but it helps to define just how much nerve damage has occurred,” explains Ginnette Diaz. “This is important because if a patient has suffered more than 95% damage, there is little that I can do to help them. I’m familiar with the medical miracle but I know my limits as a practitioner and the limits of my medicine.”

When it comes to treating Peripheral Neuropathy, regardless of its origin, early detection greatly improves your chances of a full recovery.

If you or someone you love are suffering with chronic pain that presents as burning, tingling or ‘pins and needles,’ or you’ve recently been diagnosed with Peripheral Neuropathy (PN), it’s important to know that there are options.

**There is hope.
Call (914) 354-0333 to
schedule an initial
consultation or visit
WhitePlainsAcupuncture.com
to read more incredible success
stories.**

Westchester County Executive Ken Jenkins Hosts Annual Lunar New Year Reception

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

2026 Asian Hall of Fame Inductees:

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

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

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

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

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

Westchester County Youth Bureau and Youth Advisory Board Host Annual Youth Service Awards

The Westchester County Youth Bureau and the Westchester County Youth Board hosted the annual Youth Service Awards to honor outstanding high school juniors and seniors who have distinguished themselves for their leadership and dedication to service and social justice.

The 12 students received certificates from Westchester County Executive Ken Jenkins and the Westchester County Board of Legislators, along with awards from the members of the Westchester County Youth Board and their NYS Legislators. Students who were honored all had an impressive body of accomplishments ranging from creating accessible sports opportunities for disabled youth,



establishing a community volunteer network and using arts and media to promote social awareness. Many had to overcome enormous personal ob-

stacles with resilience to achieve their goals.

Jenkins said: "It is often said that youth are the leaders of tomorrow.

While this is meant to be a compliment, I would like to respectfully disagree. The young people we are honoring today are not waiting for tomorrow. They are not waiting for a degree, a certain age or an invitation to care about their neighbors. They have looked at the challenges facing their communities and they have stepped up now. Tonight, we aren't celebrating their potential -- we are celebrating their presence and their proven track record of action."

Westchester County Youth Bureau Executive Director Ernest McFadden said: "Each year, the WCYB proudly salutes Youth Service Award recipients whose actions

continued on page 12

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

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

Partners Ro Flanagan, Shane Clifford and Chef Brendan Donohue, proprietors of popular Jack's Bar & Kitchen, a popular Irish American tavern in Eastchester, premiered Jill's Bar & Restaurant in Mamaroneck, across from Harbor Island Park. Jill's, a colorful ode to modern Ireland, serves a winning combination of gastropub favorites and modern-American and European specialties along with a good dose of hospitality. A special menu will be served including such traditional favorites as Corned Beef & Cabbage, Fresh

Cod & Chips, and Shephard's Pie. There's also Truffle Parm Fries, Chili Roasted Cauliflower, Lobster Cobb Salad, Braised Beef Short Ribs, Ahi Tuna Bowl, and Surf & Turf Tacos. Jill's, 100 W. Boston Post Road, Mamaroneck, off the corner of Mamaroneck Ave. Happy Hours. Weekend brunch. 914-341-1776 www.jillsbaran-drestaurant.com

Jack's Bar & Restaurant, 219 Main St., Eastchester. Owner Shane Clifford and his friendly crew have all the good cheer, TVs and finger foods you want. Generous specialties coming out of Chef Brendan Donohue's kitchen include traditional Corned Beef & Cabbage; Double-Stacked Smash Burger; Shepherd's Pie; decadent Short Rib Mac N' Cheese; Jack's Meatballs; Seared Scallops; Chicken Curry; Shroom Pizza out of their woodfired oven; Berkshire Pork Chop; and Grilled Lamb Sliders. 914-652-7650 www.jackseastchester.com

I recently got back to the Beechmont Tavern, across from IONA University in New Rochelle. It has been around since

1928, they say, and proprietor Rob Hayes keeps the place warm and buzzing. We ordered their popular traditional chicken wings, a Gael burger and fries, and a summery goat cheese and pear salad. We shared. All were great. Beechmont Tavern, 750 North Ave., New Rochelle. Open 7 days. 914-636-9533 www.beechmonttavern.com

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

Dunne's Restaurant & Pub, 15 Shapham Place, White Plains. A neighborhood treasure, an authentic Irish tavern with all the traditional Gaelic accoutrements intact. Owner Declan Farrell keeps it a friendly, home-style place with a good kitchen to boot, dishing out generous servings of traditional Irish-style fare. Try their

fabulous Corned Beef & Cabbage, Corned Beef Reuben Sandwich, Beer Battered Fish & Chips, or Salmon Crisp, grilled salmon on sautéed spinach topped with baked mashed potatoes. 914-421-1451. www.dunnespub.com

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

Bread & Brine, 119 Main Street, Hastings-On-Hudson (914-479-5243) The place bustles inside and out, and 'summers in Maine' is the theme. Host and owner Jeremy McLellan and his crew will be dishing out plenty of spirited cheer. Great chowders. Oysters are a seasonal treat. A fine Fish & Chips and Lobster Rolls. www.breadandbrinehoh.com

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

Partners Gregory Galli, a veteran of the hospitality industry, Anthony Fragoso and Norca Reyes, premiered Scratch Bar & Grill in downtown New Rochelle, adding a jazzy flair to the Queen City dining and nightlife scene. They are planning a special all day Happy Hour and St. Patrick's Day menu: Shepherd's Pie, Bangers & Mash, Corn Beef & Cabbage with cocktails and desserts to match. Scratch, 26 Division St., New Rochelle. 914-278-9650 www.scratchnr.com

If you are planning to cook up some Gaelic favorites at home, check out these specialty food markets for authentic Irish ingredients: Butcher's Fancy, 961 McLean Ave., Yonkers. www.butchersfancy.com; Prime Cut Irish Butchers (Riverdale) 4338 Katonah Ave., Bronx 718-324-9262; and Food Ireland, they have a Mount Vernon outlet, www.foodireland.com

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

Westchester County Youth Bureau and Youth Advisory Board Host Annual Youth Service Awards

continued from page 11

remind us of the power of compassion, integrity and selfless service. This award honors young people who consistently choose to uplift others, lead by example and make a meaningful difference in our community. Their dedication to serving with humility and heart represents the very best of youth leadership and inspires us all to give back."

Westchester County Youth Board Chair Dr. Alexandria Connally said: "As Chair of the Westchester County Youth Board, it is my distinct honor and privilege to celebrate 12 extraordinary young people whose talent, character and leadership inspire us all. With these leaders at the helm, Westchester County's future is bright and promising, and I am confident they will continue to shape our community with vision, integrity and purpose."

Youth Service Award recipient Eric A. Rodrigues said: "I am truly honored to receive the Youth Service Award. I am very thankful that my achievements have been recognized by the

Westchester County Youth Bureau as well as the elected officials. It is a blessing to represent Mount Vernon and to hear about the impressive achievements of the other honorees. This experience brought me great joy, seeing others succeed just as much if not more than myself. I hope we all continue down this path and create meaningful change in our respective communities. The reason for my achievements was never for recognition, but simply to be myself and serve others, which is why I am so honored and grateful to receive this award."

"Lastly, I am grateful to God, my family, my school, and the Mount Vernon Youth Bureau for supporting me and providing a platform that made everything possible."

2025-2026 Youth Service Award Recipients:
Rafael Aldana-Diaz (Yonkers) – Saunders Trade & Technical High School

Rowan Dias (Scarsdale) - Deerfield Academy

Harrison Greebel (Scarsdale) – Scarsdale High School

Joshua Jones (Peekskill) – Peekskill High School

Adanhyr Morocho-Chuchuca (Sleepy Hollow) – Sleepy Hollow High School

Lily Mei Peckham (Bronxville) – Bronxville High School

Dana Proudian (Mamaroneck) – Rye Neck High School

Eric A. Rodrigues (Mount Vernon) – Mount Vernon STEAM Academy

Leila Sadek (Yonkers) – Yonkers Montessori Academy

Micahia Simpkins (New Rochelle) – New Rochelle High School

Zior Williams (Mount Vernon) – Mount Vernon STEAM Academy

Chairwoman's Award

Aiden Mendez (Ossining) – Ossining High School

harrisonherald.com

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



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

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

during life and after death.

At its most basic level, a trust is a legal arrangement that allows property to be held and managed for the benefit of someone else. When a trust is created, assets are transferred into the trust and are no longer owned outright by an individual. Instead, the trust becomes the owner of those assets, and they are managed according to the written instructions set forth in the trust agreement. Those instructions determine how the assets are invested, used, and eventually distributed.

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

Every trust has at least one beneficiary. The beneficiary is the person or organization for whose benefit the trust exists. Beneficiaries may include children, grandchildren, spouses,

individuals with disabilities, or charitable organizations. Depending on the terms of the trust, a beneficiary may be entitled to receive income, principal, or both. In some trusts, distributions are required at certain times or ages, while in others, distributions are left to the discretion of the trustee to ensure that funds are used appropriately.

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

Trusts also have tax and reporting considerations that vary depending on the type of trust created. Some trusts use the grantor's Social Security Number and do not require

separate income tax filings during the grantor's lifetime, while others require their own tax identification number and annual tax returns. Depending on the structure of the trust, income may be taxed to the trust, the grantor, or the beneficiaries. While these rules can seem complex, proper planning ensures that reporting requirements are met and that tax consequences are understood and managed.

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

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

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

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

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

Catherine Borgia Appointed Acting Director of the Office for Women

Westchester County Executive Ken Jenkins has appointed Catherine Borgia Acting Director of the Office for Women, citing her decades-long commitment to advancing the rights of women and children, and her proven record of leadership in public service, advocacy and organizational transformation.

A lifelong advocate for gender equity, economic justice and reproductive autonomy, Borgia brings more than 25 years of experience championing policies that expand opportunity and protect vulnerable communities. Her work has consistently focused on increasing diversity and intersectionality in institutions, strengthening protections for survivors of violence, and ensuring families have access to the resources they need to thrive.

Jenkins said: "As a County, we are committed to protecting and empowering women, children and all members of protected classes. Throughout Catherine's career, she has been a fearless advocate for pay equity, access to childcare, reproductive health protections, safe leave for victims of intimate partner violence and due process. She understands that advancing equality requires both strong policy and compassionate leadership. She is the right person to lead the Office for Women at this critical moment."

Borgia said: "I am grateful for this opportunity and I thank County Executive Jenkins for this role. In this office, our focus will be clear, we will work every day to ensure women and families in Westchester have

access to economic opportunity, reproductive autonomy, safe communities and the support systems they deserve. We will continue to stand up for survivors of violence, advance equity in the workplace, and protect the rights of all protected classes. Equality is not abstract – it is about real people, real families and real futures."

Most recently, Borgia has served as Special Advisor to the County Executive on Women and Families, following six terms as a Westchester County Legislator representing the 9th District. During her tenure on the Board of Legislators, she served as Chair of the Board, Chair of the Budget and Appropriations Committee, Majority Leader and Chair of multiple key committees. In these leadership roles, she helped restore the County's fiscal health, guided budgetary and economic development initiatives, and ensured County policies centered women, families and marginalized residents.

Borgia was a co-Sponsor of Legislation advanced by then BOL Chair, now County Executive Ken Jenkins that established the Office for Women as a separate department, which was adopted unanimously in 2012. The Office for Women was first established by Executive Order in 1980.

Borgia has championed legislation like the Immigrant Protection Act, budget priorities focused on pay equity, affordable and accessible child care, earned paid sick leave, protections for reproductive health clinics, access to

counsel for housing disputes and safe leave for victims of domestic and intimate partner violence. She also played a leadership role in advocacy efforts to pass the New York State Equal Rights Amendment, safeguarding voting rights, pay equity and reproductive rights for women and LGBTQ residents.

Borgia currently serves as staff coordinator for the Westchester Gun Violence Prevention Task Force, focusing on the impact of gun violence on survivors and families. Her advocacy has consistently elevated the voices of those most affected, particularly women and children who experience disproportionate harm from violence and economic instability.

Prior to her County leadership, Borgia served as Chief Executive Officer of Clear View School and Day Treatment Center/AMIC, where she led a transformative turnaround of a nonprofit organization serving students with emotional disabilities and adults with developmental disabilities. There, she strengthened financial stability, expanded training and advancement opportunities, and cultivated a workplace culture rooted in inclusion and empowerment.

Her long-standing advocacy also includes decades of work to expand funding and improve the quality of childcare in New York State, leadership within the Empire State Campaign for Child Care, and service on numerous advisory boards focused on women's mental health, environmental protection, voting rights and LGBTQ inclusion.

26 Suspects Charged in Tri-County Crackdown on Organized Retail Theft

Twenty-six suspects were arrested recently during a tri-county crackdown on organized retail theft crews operating in Westchester and the southern Hudson Valley.

Multiple departments in Westchester, Rockland and Putnam participated in the initiative, which targeted retail theft crews that were committing larcenies across municipal and county lines in the region. The enforcement initiative was coordinated by the Real Time Crime (RTC) intelligence center based at Westchester County Police headquarters.

A multi-agency Organized Retail Theft Enforcement Detail was conducted on Feb. 5 and Feb. 6. The operation leveraged intelligence information and inter-agency coordination to identify and apprehend subjects involved in organized theft activity at major retail stores, including Kohls, Marshalls, Nordstrom and Target.

The detail resulted in 26 total arrests across multiple jurisdictions and led to the identification of additional suspects connected to prior incidents.

Public Safety Commissioner Terrance Raynor said, "This operation demonstrated the effectiveness of regional collaboration, intelligence-led enforcement, and coordinated deployment in addressing organized retail theft networks that operate across municipal and county lines. I congratulate all the agencies involved for their great work in this initiative."

A total of 27 law enforcement agencies from Westchester, Putnam, and Rockland Counties, as well as state and federal partners, participated in this enforcement detail.

Westchester: Bedford Police Department, Croton-on-Hudson Police Department, Dobbs Ferry Police Department, Eastchester Police Department, Greenburgh Police Department and Greenburgh Task Force, Irvington Police Department, Mamaroneck Village Police Department, Mount Pleasant Police Department, New Rochelle Police Department, North Castle Police Department, Peekskill Police Department, Pelham Manor Police Department, Port Chester Police Department, Rye Police Department, Rye Brook Police Department, Westchester County Police Department, White Plains Police Department, Yonkers Police Department and Yorktown Police Department.

Rockland: Clarkstown Police Department, Haverstraw Police Department, Orangetown Police Department and Rockland County Intelligence Center.

Also: FBI Westchester Safe Streets Task Force, New York State Police and Putnam County Sheriff's Office.

"Beyond the immediate arrests, follow-up investigation and consultation with regional loss prevention specialists revealed that many of the individuals apprehended were responsible for open cases involving similar theft patterns. As a result, these subjects are being charged with prior crimes, leading to the closure of numerous pattern cases across the region," Raynor said.

BUSINESS CARDS

\$125. per issue for 3 months. Prepaid only. Just mail us your Business Card and Full Payment and we'll take care of the rest. Mail to: Shoreline Publishing, 629 Fifth Ave., Suite 213, Pelham, NY 10803



WANTED!!
PART TIME AD SALES EXECUTIVE

FOR ALL OF OUR NEWSPAPERS AND SPECIAL PUBLICATIONS.

EMAIL COVER LETTER OF INTEREST ALONG WITH YOUR RESUME TO:
es@shorelinepub.com

CLASSIFIEDS

ANTIQUES • ART • COLLECTIBLES

Most cash paid for paintings, antiques, furniture, silver, sculpture, jewelry, books, cameras, records, instruments, coins, watches, gold, comics, sports cards, etc. Call Aaron at 914-235-0302.

JUNK REMOVAL AND CLEAN OUTS

'Dump N Chase' junk removal is a group of college hockey players who will remove your junk, transport large household items, and clean out garages, attics, and sheds. Call or text 914-860-5177.

PURCHASING MIDCENTURY MODERN, ART, ESTATES

Established NYC collector & dealer paying highest prices possible for 20th C. Modern Furniture & Art. Single items and estate contents. Please contact me directly at 917-566-9451.

THE ADVANTAGE EVERY SELLER WANTS

We invest our own money upfront to prepare your property before it hits the market - and you pay nothing back, ever. We give you exclusive access to over 50,000 buyers & renters. Text / call: 646.321.9428

Classified Ad Form

6 newspapers over 100,000 readers -- **1 PRICE, PREPAID \$150.00 FOR 4 LINES.**
Ad runs in 6 papers for 1 month. Make check payable to: Shoreline Publishing, Inc., 629 Fifth Avenue, Suite 213, Pelham, NY 10803

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

4) _____

5) _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Harrison Herald

The Harrison Herald is published monthly by Shoreline Publishing, Inc., 629 Fifth Avenue, Suite 213, Pelham, NY 10803. 914-738-7869. The entire contents of the Harrison Herald is copyrighted. No portion may be reproduced without written permission of the publisher. The views, opinions and content of this publication does not necessarily reflect that of the staff of Shoreline Publishing.

Shoreline Publishing accepts the submission of articles, events and items of interest no more than 500 words with .jpg photos for inclusion in Shoreline newspapers and websites. Email to: shorelineproduction@gmail.com or Shoreline Publishing, 629 Fifth Avenue, Suite 213, Pelham, NY 10803. Shoreline Publishing reserves the right to edit or omit any submissions.

Edward Shapiro, President and Publisher
es@shorelinepub.com

Cynthia Pena, Editor, Art Director
shorelineproduction@gmail.com

Nancy Coveney, Editor
nancy.coveney@shorelinepub.com

Lauren Levine, Advertising Account Executive
levinelaur@gmail.com

www.shorelinepub.com

Larchmont Ledger
www.larchmontledger.com

Harrison Herald
www.harrisonherald.com

New Rochelle Review
www.newrochellereview.com

The Pelham Post
www.thepelhampost.com

Scarsdale Sentinel
www.scarsdalesentinel.com

Westchester Women Magazine
www.westchester-women.com



31 New Firefighters Graduate from the Westchester County Career Fire Chiefs Firefighters Academy

Thirty-one recruits from 14 fire departments in Westchester and beyond graduated today from the Westchester County Career Fire Chiefs Firefighters Academy.

The new firefighters are going to work for nine departments in Westchester, three in Dutchess, one in Orange and one in Nassau. They were awarded their certificates before a packed house at the Chappaqua Performing Arts Center in New Castle.

County Executive Ken Jenkins congratulated the graduates for successfully completing the rigorous academic and physical demands of their Academy training. He noted that firefighters need a broad range of skills to handle incidents ranging from building fires to hazardous materials to rescue and recovery efforts following severe storms.

Jenkins said, "Firefighters are also called upon to come to the aid of the people in all kinds of conditions and at all hours of the day and night. The major winter storm we experienced last weekend is a fresh reminder of that reality. I am sure there are many in this room who made their way to and from work during the storm, and responded in whiteout conditions to fires, vehicle accidents and other calls. I am grateful to all of you, and to your fellow firefighters, for the service you rendered in those treacherous conditions."

He thanked the career chiefs, Academy commanding officers, instructors and staff from the Department of Emergency Services for preparing the new firefighters for the challenges ahead.

Other speakers who lauded the graduates were DES Commissioner Susan Spear; Deputy County Executive Richard G. Wishnie; Peekskill Fire Chief James Seymour, president of the Westchester Career Chiefs Association; and Eastchester Fire Department Lt. Dominick DiRienzo, who served as the Academy's commanding officer along with New Fire Rochelle Fire Department Deputy Chief Joseph Sinatra.

The graduates and their departments are:
Eastchester: Nicholas DiBrino, Kevin Donovan, Giovanni Ruffolo.

Harrison: Daniel Cochrane.

Mount Vernon: Taj Bridgers, Daniel Brooks, Christopher Cargill, Matthew Doria, Lennie Graham, RayQuan Hyatt, Damon Reynolds, Julius Runcie, Akeem Vereen.

Pelham Manor: Leonard Esposito, Santino Esposito.

Rye Brook: Charles Nielsen.

Scarsdale: Nicholas Camardella.

White Plains: Helany Cano, Emiliano Dominguez, Adam Seit, Thomas Tassone.



Love Local? Sell Local!



Shoreline Publishing is hiring **Advertising Sales Executives** for our long-standing local newspapers and magazine, serving the community in both print and online.

This is a commission-based opportunity with established territories and total flexibility selling print and digital ads. ***Work part-time or full-time—you decide how much you want to work and earn!***

If you enjoy building relationships with local businesses and representing trusted media brands, we'd love to hear from you.

Start selling what your community already trusts.

Email your cover letter and resume to es@shorelinepub.com

Every Stage. Every Move. One Trusted Team. COMPASS

Just Listed | Listed by Hope Stone



54 Allapartus Road, Ossining, NY 10562
\$1,155,000 | 4 Beds 3 Baths Ranch on 2 Acres

Just Sold | Sold by Annalise Stack



3 Brook View Lane, Rye PO, NY 10580

Under Contract | Julia Brasesco Representing Buyer



1408 Henry Ave, Mamaroneck, NY 10543

Under Contract | Annalise Stack Representing Seller



66 Milton Rd Milton, Unit #C41, Rye PO, NY 10580



Left to right: Annalise Stack, Taylor McKenna, Julia Brasesco, Kayla Johnson, Hope Stone Brasesco

Concierge-Level Service, Tailored to Every Transition
Professional Guidance Backed by Proven Results
Exceptional Market & Industry Expertise Across NY & CT
Consistent, Transparent Communication — From List to Closing
Reach out today to learn more about the JB Homes Team and how we can help you buy or sell!

JB Homes Team at Compass

Julia Brasesco
Licensed Associate Broker in NY & CT
M: 914.450.8338 | O: 914.353.5570
julia.brasesco@compass.com



The Julia Brasesco Team is a team of real estate agents affiliated with Compass, a licensed real estate broker and abides by Equal Housing Opportunity laws. All material presented herein is intended for informational purposes only. Information is compiled from sources deemed reliable but is subject to errors, omissions, changes in price, condition, sale, or withdrawal without notice. This is not intended to solicit property already listed. Photos may be virtually staged or digitally enhanced and may not reflect actual property conditions.