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Rich Number of Future Events Announced at Town Board Meeting



BY STEPHEN E. LIPKEN

Harrison Town/Village Board Supervisor Thomas Scappaticci opened the March 5th Town/Village Board meeting, authorizing the Proposal prepared by Buckhurst, Fish & Jacquemart, Inc., (BFJ) Planning, submitted in response to the Town's Development Impact Study Request for Proposals. Two areas of study will be the Teardrop/Platinum Mile area and Downtown sector, amounting to \$108,000.

Under Actions and Resolutions, there was request by Doreen Grozinger, Harrison Council for the Arts, for a reception, Art of the Young Child, to be held on Sunday, April 26th.

Taste of Harrison committee member Rathi Gulati requested to hold the Taste of

continued on page 4

Rye High School Students Bring 'Les Misérables' to Life in Spring Musical

Rye High School students recently delivered a spectacular production of "Les Misérables" as their spring musical. Under the leadership of theater director Thomas Snowden, more than 70 students in the cast and crew worked collaboratively to bring the beloved musical to life.

"Les Misérables" tells the story of Jean Valjean, a former prisoner who seeks redemption after years of hardship and injustice. As he tries to build a new life, he is relentlessly pursued by the strict police inspector Javert while also caring for the orphaned Cosette. Set in 19th-century France, the story explores justice, compassion, sacrifice and the struggle for dignity in a society marked by poverty and revolution.

Snowden shared that his students advocated to stage the production after he had initially planned a different musical. Ultimately, he said, it proved to be the perfect year to bring the show to the Rye High School stage.

"They rallied together in their performance and forged bonds that I believe will last a lifetime," he said. "What stood out most to me was how so many people rallied behind this production – the cast, crew, administrators, parents and community members. It is a very big undertaking, and it could not have been successful without everyone doing their part."

At the conclusion of the show, the students also recognized 21 seniors among the cast and crew, who took their final bow on stage to a cheering audience.

In addition to the direction by Snowden, the production – the first one in the newly renovated Performing Arts Center – was made possible thanks to the work of choreographer Cathy Cunningham, music director Todd Beaney and lighting and set designer Jeff Loddio. Special thanks to Greycat Productions for the photographs.



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Midland School Fifth Graders Build Wooden Bridges



Midland School fifth graders stepped into the roles of engineers to design and construct their own bridges, using a variety of wooden sticks. As part of the challenge, the students worked in groups to build a two-foot bridge strong enough to support cans of cat food.

“The students did an excellent job participating and being flexible with their thinking,” teacher Julie Vinci said. “One team even created a curved bridge – the first time a group has attempted this in 10 years. Not only was it strong, but it was also aesthetically pleasing.”

Using coffee stirrers, tongue depressors, popsicle sticks or a combination of all three, the fifth graders carefully planned and assembled their structures. They tested their durability by adding cans of cat food to see how much weight the bridges could hold. The hands-on activity seamlessly tied into the students’ math unit on geometry while also reinforcing important skills, such as problem-solving, communication and teamwork.

The students completed the project with guidance from educator Gary Mack of the Rye Arts Center, who provided the materials and supported the activity alongside parent volunteers.

Rhythm on Rye Earns Third Place at ICHSA Northeast Quarterfinal



Rhythm on Rye, Rye High School’s student-directed a cappella group, had an outstanding performance at the 2026 International Championship of High School A Capella Northeast Quarterfinal, held at Bellport Middle School on Feb. 28. The group earned third place in the highly competitive field of performers from across the region.

The students performed “Apologize” by Timbaland feat. OneRepublic, with Natalie Rosenbluth as soloist and Sam Rodriguez as arranger; “Mirrors” by Justin Timberlake with Luke Gordon and Fiona Green as soloists and Maddy Valdez as arranger; and “Diamonds” by Rihanna with Leah Arus as soloist and Maddy Valdez as arranger.

Members of Rhythm on Rye include Leah Arus, Morgan Anderson, Dean Armstrong, Eliza Chai, Mia Escalera, Rebekah Golub, Luke Gordon, Fiona Green, Calvin Holler, Gaby McGuire, Raiya Morad, Melisa Pirinccioglu, Ananya Prasad, Sam Rodriguez, Natalie Rosenbluth, Hayden Souza, Maddy Valdez and Amelia Walsh. The students write their own vocal arrangements and create original choreography.

“What stood out was their ability to demonstrate their passion and joy for performing a Capella music through giving a tight, top-notch performance filled with musicianship, exciting choreography and enjoyment,” faculty adviser Thomas Snowden said.

Semifinal rounds will take place in locations throughout the country, while the national finals will be held in New York City in April.

Feeding Westchester’s “An Evening in Good Taste” Returns April 16

Feeding Westchester will host An Evening in Good Taste, its premier tasting event and largest fundraiser of the year, on Thursday, April 16, 2026. The evening will bring together the region’s culinary community and hunger-relief supporters to raise critical funds for Feeding Westchester’s mission to provide healthy, nutritious food to the 39% of Westchester households at risk of hunger.

Guests will enjoy food and drink from nearly 40 Westchester-based restaurants and beverage partners, showcasing the best of the county’s vibrant dining scene. Proceeds from the event help Feeding Westchester source and distribute over 20 million pounds of food each year through a network of 175 partner agencies, including food pantries, soup kitchens, community centers, and schools across Westchester County.

The event will again take place at Savor Food Hall at The Westchester, located at 125 Westchester Avenue in White Plains. In addition to tastings from top local chefs and restaurants, the evening will feature opportunities to bid on exclusive auction items, including sports outings, travel experiences, and private dining packages.

“An Evening in Good Taste is Feeding Westchester’s largest annual fundraiser and a wonderful showcase of a community that cares,” said Kristine Borok, President and CEO of Feeding Westchester. “At a time when many families are struggling with the rising cost of living and increasing food prices, we are proud to celebrate great food with Westchester’s culinary community, generous supporters, and the collective effort to ensure our neighbors have the nutritious food they need.”

Tickets for An Evening in Good Taste are available at <https://www.classy.org/event/an-evening-in-good-taste-2026/e762678>. Early Access ticket holders may enter the event beginning at 6:00 p.m., while Patron ticket holders will be admitted starting at 7:00 p.m.

The event is produced by Feeding Westchester’s Event Committee in collaboration with The Westchester, ESP Creative, and Abigail Kirsch.



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The Giving Circle of Lower Westchester Completes \$1 Million Campaign in Support of Feeding Westchester

Feeding Westchester hosted “Together We Nourish” honoring The Giving Circle of Lower Westchester (GCLW) for surpassing \$1 million in grants directed to hunger relief in Westchester County since the group’s founding in 2011.

Local dignitaries, Giving Circle members, and Feeding Westchester staff, gathered at Feeding Westchester’s Elmsford headquarters to celebrate the milestone in the fight against hunger.

A Decade-Plus of Community Impact: Founded in 2011 by Eric Nodiff, alongside original members Paul Warhit and Lloyd Robinson, The Giving Circle of Lower Westchester began with 20 members who collectively donated \$25,000 in its first year. Today, the all-volunteer organization has grown to 60 members, with Paul Warhit serving as President for the past four years. Operating as a “giving circle,” GCLW pools member contributions and directs them to food pantries and soup kitchens that serve Westchester residents at risk of hunger. Because the organization is entirely vol-

continued on page 12

Westchester County’s 58th Annual Salute to Seniors Event to be Held May 7th at the Westchester County Center

In celebration of Older Americans Month, Westchester County is holding its 58th Annual Salute to Seniors event, a special event incorporating fun and education for the senior community, on Thursday, May 7 from 9:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. at the Westchester County Center. Salute to Seniors is an opportunity for businesses and non-profit organizations to showcase their products and services to more than 2,000 seniors across the County.

Westchester County Executive Ken Jenkins said: “I am excited for the return of our annual Salute to Seniors event at the Westchester County Center, as we celebrate our active and vibrant senior community. Each year, Salute to Seniors provides opportunities for our seniors to form connections, stay engaged, and learn more about the important programs, services and resources available throughout Westchester County that support their health, independence and overall well-being.”

This year’s Salute to Seniors event will feature nearly 100 exhibitors, including recreational groups, residential and health care facilities, government offices, wellness activities, hospitals, assisted living centers, financial providers, and social service resources. Throughout the event, seniors will have the opportunity to connect with exhibitors, attend educational workshops, take charge of their well-being with health screenings in a designated health and wellness section, and enjoy engaging live entertainment.

Westchester County Department of Senior Programs and Services Commissioner Mae Carpenter said: “Our Salute to Seniors is an event that we look forward to on the calendar every year, as we provide our seniors, who are the pillars of our communities, a fun and engaging environment for them to explore aging. This year’s theme, Champion Your Health, aligns with our event as we encourage our seniors to take an active role in managing their health, advocating for themselves, and making informed decisions to help them lead healthier, more fulfilling lives.”

Exhibitor and sponsorship opportunities are available online at <https://westchesterpartnership.org/salute-to-seniors-2026/>. For organizations interested in participating, complete the form on the website, and return it to:

Events To Remember

Attention: Chereese Jervis-Hill

100 Clarewood Drive, Unit 3J, Hastings on Hudson

Sponsor/Exhibitor applications for the 58th Annual Salute to Seniors must be submitted by Wednesday, April 1, 2026, in order to reserve a booth. For additional information, please contact Events To Remember at (914) 218-3968 or via email at EventsCJH@EventsRemember.com.

This year’s Salute to Seniors event is hosted by the Westchester County Senior Programs and Services (DSPA); Westchester County Parks, Recreation and Conservation; Westchester County Department of Public Works and Transportation and The Westchester Public/Private Partnership for Aging Services.

Special Thank You to New York Presbyterian, our Annual Partner Sponsor.

Rich Number of Future Events Announced at Town Board Meeting

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Harrison community event, sponsored by Harrison Public Library Foundation on Sunday, May 17th, including “Touch a Truck”, local bands, three food trucks, and a mini petting zoo featuring small farm animals.

Superintendent of Recreation Gerry Salvo requested the Purchasing Department to issue bid documents for gaming room equipment for the New Recreation Building, also requesting awarding a bid to Graziella’s Market, West Harrison, for the Ron Belmont Pool Complex Snack Bar.

Town/Village Engineer Mike Amodeo requested a grant application to NYS Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) for a proposed sidewalk

extension on Union Avenue, which would complete the master layout plan connecting the Jewish Community Center with Mamaroneck Avenue. The potential grant provides 80% funding for all associated costs, with corresponding 20% share to be funded by the Town. Initial projection for the total project budget cost is \$2,000,000 with no foreseen non-eligible costs making the potential Town share at \$400,000.

Amodeo then requested renewing the contract with Millennium Strategies for Grant Writing and Grant Administrative services for the next 12 months. A further request was made for a purchase order payable to Millennium Strategies at amount not to exceed \$42,000.

‘Stronger Together’ to Honor Dan Ross, Lisa Copeland at Open Door, FSW Benefit



Dan Ross

Dan Ross, immediate past board chair of the Open Door Care Network, and Lisa Copeland, board chair of Family Services of Westchester (FSW), will be honored at Stronger Together: United for Tomorrow’s Health, a benefit that celebrates the joining together of these two high-profile organizations.

The event is scheduled for Thursday, April 16th (6:30 – 9:30 pm) at Brae Burn Country Club (39 Brae Burn Drive) in Purchase. Tickets are \$375.

“Dan and Lisa have played pivotal roles in guiding our organizations through a period of transformative change,” said Lindsay Farrell, President and CEO of Open Door Care Network. “Together, their leadership and steadfast commitment have been instrumental in helping advance a new vision of whole person care that reduces health care disparities and better serves the health and wellness of our families and communities across Westchester, Dutchess, Putnam and Ulster counties.”

Dan became a member of Open Door’s Board of Directors in 2014, serving as Chair from 2019 to 2025. A resident of Rye, he recently retired as a partner at Health Catalyst Capital, a New York City-based private equity fund manager that invests in digital health companies seeking to improve the human condition and promote value-based care. He previously was the founder and principal owner of two successful healthcare services ventures. Before that, Dan worked in the investment banking industry, largely at Salomon Brothers (now part of Citigroup), and as an attorney with Cravath, Swaine & Moore in New York City. He is a graduate of Harvard University and the University of Virginia School of Law.



Lisa Copeland

Lisa joined the FSW Board in 2013 and has served as Board Chair since 2017. A graduate of Brown University and New York University, she worked as a New York City public school teacher. Lisa has dedicated her professional and volunteer life to strengthening nonprofit governance, fundraising and volunteer engagement. In addition to her role at FSW, she serves on the board of the Open Door Foundation; is board chair of SRI, a philanthropic and financial services organization in Minnesota; vice-chair of the Sharing Self; and a board member of her family’s business, Andersen Corporation. She lives in Scarsdale.

For more information on tickets and sponsorships, visit <https://wl.donorperfect.net/weblink/WebLink.aspx?name=E354282&id=69>

DA Cacace Announces Q4 Gun Crime Statistics: 61 Arrests, 48 Guns Taken Off the Streets

Westchester County District Attorney Susan Cacace announced last month that the latest results from her office's efforts to combat gun violence and the trafficking of firearms in Westchester County.

In the fourth quarter of 2025, police agencies across Westchester made 61 arrests, incidents to gun crime and recovered a total of 48 firearms.

Of the recovered firearms, there were 36 pistols, 7 revolvers, 4 rifles, and 1 derringer. Among the recovered pistols were 4 ghost guns, that have no serial numbers, untraceable firearms made with 3D printers, or assembled from partially finished gun parts. Ghost guns are increasingly turning up at crime scenes across Westchester and New York State.

The largest recoveries were made in Yonkers (20) and Mount Vernon (15).*

Nearly half (49%) of the arrestees were from out of county. Of these, the majority were from the Bronx, with smaller numbers coming from Connecticut, Poughkeepsie, Florida, Newburgh, California, Kentucky, Maryland, and Texas.

Among those arrested, 38% were between 21 and 30 years old, 34% were 20 years old or younger, 16% were between 41 and 50 years old, 8% were between 31 and 40 years old, 2% were between 51 and 60 years old, and 2% were

between 71 and 80 years old.

DA Cacace said: "Each tally on a spreadsheet represents an illegal firearm taken off the streets, a potential life spared and a family left intact. I am proud of the significant number of seizures we accomplished with our local police departments in Q4 2025.

"Looking behind these numbers at the human toll of gun violence, we are reminded how critical this work is for those who are caught in the crossfire, average citizens taking their kids to school or making a trip to the grocery store. Just one life lost to the scourge of gun violence is one too many.

"Though we have made significant progress in conjunction with our municipal partners most acutely affected by gun crime, there remain areas of improvement we must address with renewed urgency. That the second-highest cohort of arrestees are teenagers is particularly disturbing and reflects an unacceptable trend that was super-charged by the pandemic. We must work with our legislative partners to tackle this newfound epidemic, for the safety of our communities and for our young residents themselves."

*These numbers include not only gun recoveries but also gun-related recoveries, such as shell casings and recoveries falling into the Other and Unknown categories.

Fitch Reaffirms Westchester County's 'AAA' Bond Rating with Stable Outlook

Fitch Ratings has assigned a 'AAA' rating to Westchester County's 2026 Series A, B and C General Obligation (GO) Bonds, and affirmed the County's Issuer Default Rating (IDR) at 'AAA' with a Stable Outlook.

The 'AAA' rating is the highest possible rating awarded by Fitch and reflects the agency's expectation that Westchester County will continue to maintain exceptional financial resilience through economic cycles.

Westchester County Executive Ken Jenkins said: "Receiving a 'AAA' rating once again is a powerful affirmation of Westchester County's strong financial stewardship and disciplined management. This rating reflects our commitment to responsible budgeting, maintaining healthy reserves and investing strategically in infrastructure that supports our residents and our economy. We are proud that independent analysts continue to recognize Westchester as one of the most financially stable counties in the nation."

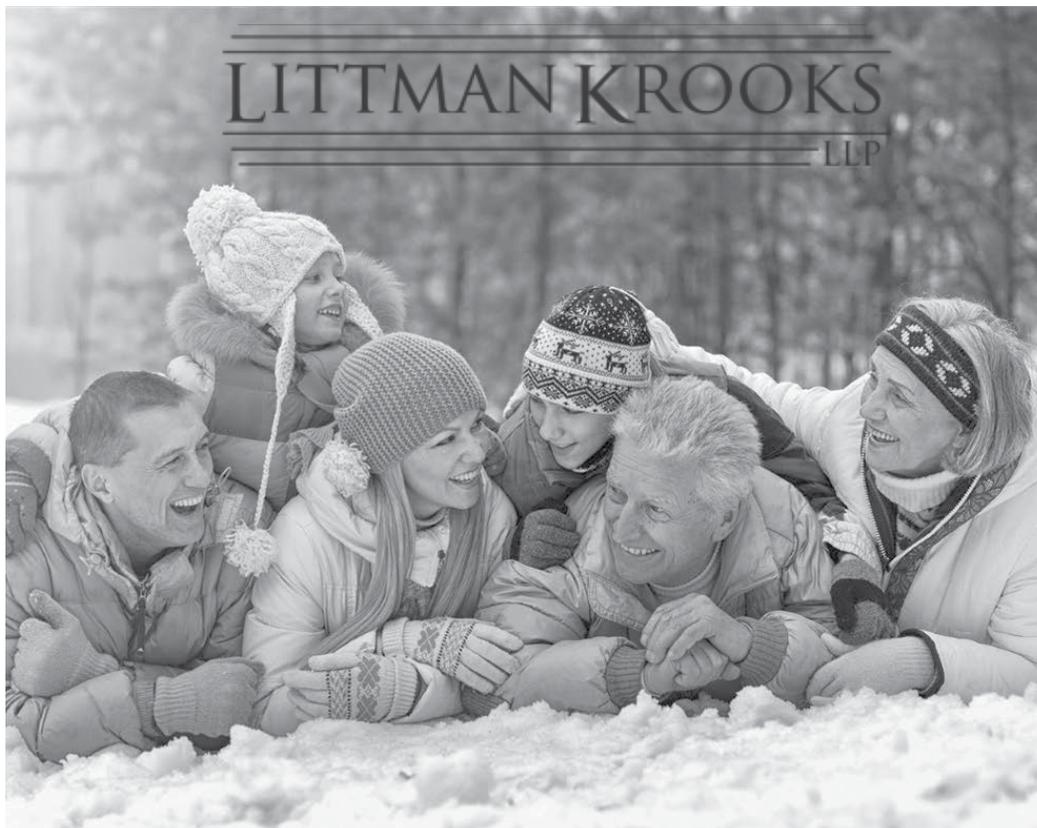
According to Fitch, the 'AAA' rating reflects Westchester County's:

- Healthy reserve levels exceeding 20% of spending over the last three fiscal years
- Strong revenue-raising flexibility
- Solid ability to adjust expenditures when necessary
- Sound operating performance
- General fund reserve policy target of at least 18% of spending

Fitch's 'AAA' financial resilience assessment assumes the County will maintain unrestricted general fund reserves at or above 10% of spending — a benchmark the County has consistently exceeded.

The rating agency also cited Westchester County's sizable and diverse economy, strong educational attainment levels and favorable median household income levels as key strengths. Additionally, the County's long-term liability burden, including direct debt and pension obligations, was assessed as "Strong," supported by a rapid pace of debt amortization and expected growth in the County's resource base.

This affirmation of the County's top-tier credit rating enables Westchester to borrow at lower interest costs, ultimately saving taxpayer dollars while continuing to invest in critical infrastructure, public safety, transportation, parks and community facilities.



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County Opens New Mental Health Safety Clinic in White Plains

Westchester County Executive Ken Jenkins has officially opened a new Mental Health Safety Net Clinic in White Plains, restoring the County's direct role in providing outpatient behavioral health services. The state-of-the-art facility, located at 112 East Post Road in White Plains, expands the County's capacity to address service gaps, reduce waitlists, and respond to the growing demand for mental health care in Westchester County.

Jenkins said: "Nearly 15 years ago, the doors of Westchester County's Safety Net Clinic were forced to close. Restoring that system of care for our residents was not an option, it was essential. For too long, our hospitals and emergency rooms have been forced to carry a responsibility they were never designed to bear – but that ends now. This clinic will provide the consistent, compassionate outpatient treatment that people need to rebuild their lives, because in Westchester County, no one faces a mental health crisis alone."

Since 2020, the demand for outpatient behavioral health services has increased significantly, contributing to extended wait times and added strain on emergency departments and hospitals. The reopening of the Safety Net Clinic



restores a critical community-based resource, and strengthens Westchester County's broader strategy to improve access to care, and reduce unnecessary hospitalizations.

Department of Community Mental Health Commissioner Michael Orth said: "This clinic represents a major step forward in strengthening Westchester's behavioral health continuum of care. I want to thank County Executive Jenkins

for his steadfast commitment to expanding access for our residents. The reopening of the Safety Net Clinic compliments our crisis response system, including 988 services and hospital diversion efforts, and reflects the commitment to providing accessible, recovery-oriented, and integrated care for individuals with mental health and co-occurring substance use challenges. I also want to recognize the dedicated staff, under the leadership of Melanie Montalto, who worked tirelessly to make this day possible."

The Clinic will provide comprehensive outpatient mental health services for adults age 18 and older. Services are trauma-informed, culturally responsive, and person-centered, with a focus on recovery, wellness and connection to community support. Operating under a "no wrong door" philosophy, the Clinic will ensure individuals with complex or co-occurring mental health and substance use needs receive coordinated and integrated care.

Assistant Director of Division Clinic Administration Melanie Montalto said: "From initial planning through construction to state licensure, this has been a true team effort. We are proud to open a clinic that ensures individuals who may not otherwise have access to care, can receive high-quality outpatient treatment. This facility will help individuals with their recovery in the community and connect them with ongoing supports."

Comprehensive services will include individual therapy, crisis intervention, medication management, group therapy, health assessments, referrals, peer services, referrals, peer services, interfaith support, integrated treatment for co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders. Spanish-speaking services are available, along with interpretation

through Language Line for additional languages.

Westchester County Board of Legislators Chairman Vedat Gashi said: "The reopening of this Safety Net Clinic reflects our commitment to meeting the critical mental health needs of our community. Access to timely, community-based mental health care is essential to the health and stability of our families and neighborhoods. By expanding services and reducing barriers to care, we are strengthening the safety net and ensuring more residents can get the support they need, when they need it."

Westchester County Legislator Jewel Williams Johnson said: "Today's opening is more than a ribbon-cutting—it's the restoration of care, dignity, and a promise our community has waited far too long to see kept. Since my first day on the Board, it has been a goal of mine to reopen the County mental health clinics that were closed under the Astorino administration—closures my mother, Hon. Alfreda Williams, who held this seat at the time, fought against with deep frustration because she understood the harm it would cause. I have worked to ensure reopening funds were included in every County budget, even when the fiscal outlook was tight, because the need never disappeared. This Safety Net Clinic is a stable, local commitment people can count on—especially as federal support is too often yo-yo'd from one cycle to the next—and I look forward to opening more sites as County finances strengthen so every resident can access timely, compassionate care close to home."

Advocate, and Team Leader for Crisis Stabilization Team at People-USA Christopher Rivera said: "The Safety Net clinic serves as an essential resource within the community. For many years, the County has faced persistent shortages of mental health providers, and the few clinics that remained operational were consistently at or near full capacity. These long standing limitations made it increasingly difficult to connect individuals with the mental health services they urgently needed. By expanding access and reducing barriers to care, the Safety Net clinic helps fill a critical gap in the local behavioral health system."

The Clinic accepts Medicaid and private insurance, as well as uninsured individuals. Services are provided in accordance with the New York State Office of Mental Health Article 31 regulations.

For more information or to schedule an appointment, contact the Department of Community Mental Health at (914) 995-7200.

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2026 SPRING HOME & GARDEN IMPROVEMENT

Start Planning Now for a Thriving Spring Garden

(Family Features) While winter weather puts outdoor gardening on pause in most parts of the country, the colder months offer a perfect opportunity to begin preparing for a lush garden come springtime.

With a little creativity, and some extra time spent creating a plan, you can set yourself on a path toward success before the growing season even begins.

Assess Your Space and Research Ideas

Evaluate your current garden, taking note of what worked well last season and where improvements can be made. Use this downtime to sketch an updated layout, research companion plants and decide which fruits, vegetables or flowers you want to grow next based on what did (or didn't) work last spring.

Build an Updated Blueprint

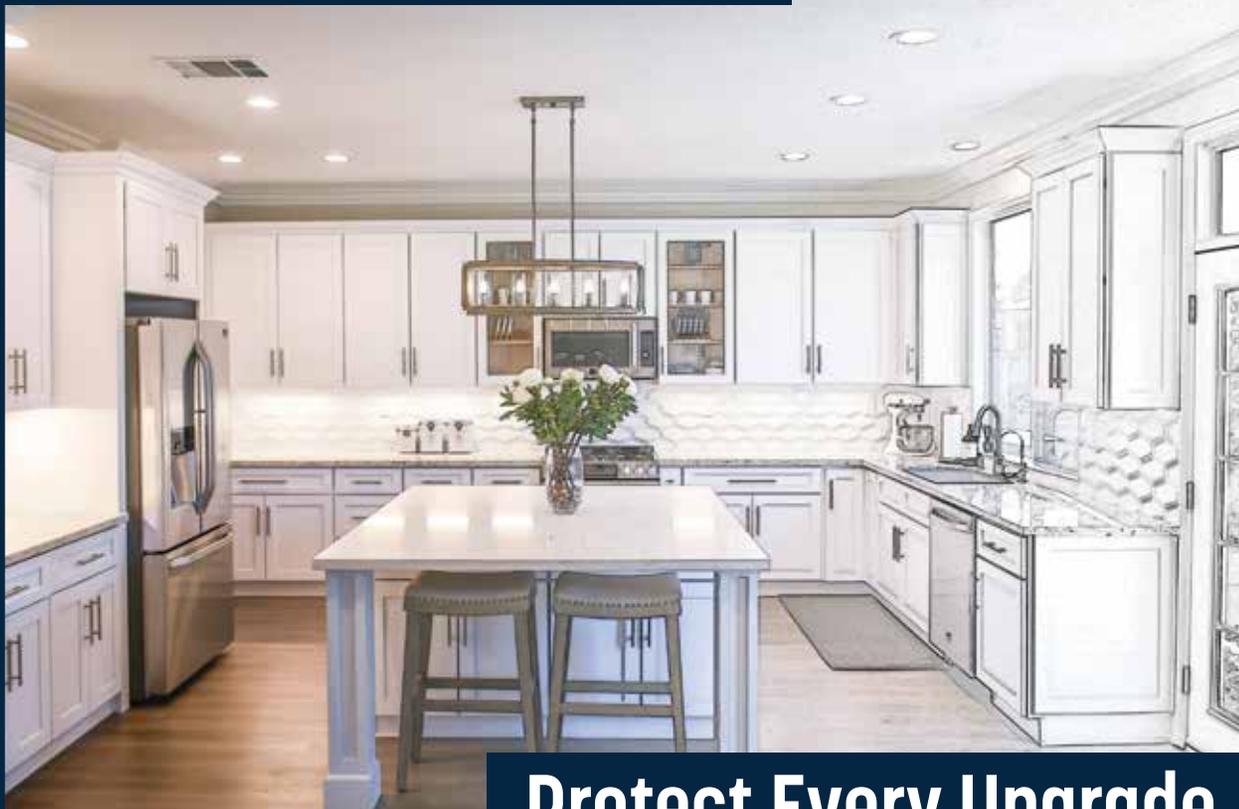
Winter is the ideal time to upgrade your garden design and make tweaks for efficiency. Use the offseason to consider crop rotation patterns for optimal soil health as well as ways to maximize your space such as raised beds, trellises or containers. You can also make a list of materials needed for any new features you may be adding, such as an irrigation system, and map out their placement so you're ready to build as soon as the weather allows.

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prepare your garden beds by adding compost, leaves or organic matter in late winter, ensuring nutrients are available when spring arrives. Also remember to test your soil's pH level now, which can help guide your fertilization plan.

Start Seeds Indoors

If you're eager to get your hands dirty, consider starting your seeds indoors. Early seed starting gives plants a head start, allowing you to transplant stronger seedlings outdoors when temperatures warm.

Get Organized

Use the slower pace of winter to clean and sharpen your garden tools, sort through leftover seeds and make a supply checklist so you're ready to dig in when warmer days arrive.

Find more advice to get your garden ready to burst to life in spring at eLivingtoday.com. Photo courtesy of Shutterstock

Create a Cozy Outdoor Space with a Backyard Firepit

(Family Features) A firepit can serve as a warm and inviting backyard retreat, perfect for roasting marshmallows for s'mores or stargazing while wrapped in cozy blankets. Before you can share time around the firepit with loved ones, however, consider these tips to elevate your outdoor space.

Choosing the Right Design

When it comes to building a DIY firepit, the design you choose can significantly impact the aesthetics and functionality. From classic stone pits to modern metal designs, the options are nearly endless. Think about the size and shape as well. Circular designs are traditional and encourage conversation while square or rectangular pits offer a more contemporary look.

Gathering Materials and Tools

Essential materials include bricks, stones or metal parts for the structure, as well as gravel or sand for the base. Fireproof materials are a must to ensure safety and longevity. You'll also need tools such as a shovel for digging the base, a level to ensure even construction and adhesive or mortar for binding materials together. Depending on your design, you may require a metal fire ring, grill grate or mesh cover.



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Create a Cozy Outdoor Space with a Backyard Firepit

continued from page 8

Keeping Safety in Mind

Safety should be your top priority when building and using a backyard firepit. Always place your firepit at least 10 feet away from any structures, trees or flammable materials. Make sure the area is clear of dry leaves and other debris that could catch fire. Consider installing a spark screen to prevent embers from escaping and always keep a bucket of water or fire extinguisher nearby.



Enhancing Ambiance with Seating and Lighting

Creating a cozy atmosphere around your firepit involves more than just the fire itself. Comfortable seating is essential for making your outdoor space inviting. Choose weather-resistant chairs, benches or DIY log stools arranged in a circle to foster conversation. Ambient lighting from string lights, lanterns or solar-powered path lights can elevate the mood and extend the usability of your firepit into the evening. Consider adding citronella candles or torches to keep insects at bay while enhancing the ambiance.

Visit eLivingtoday.com to find more ideas to enhance your living spaces. Photo courtesy of Shutterstock



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Calendar of Events

The Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA) 20th annual 5K (3.1 mile) Westchester/Rockland Walk4Hearing Harbor Island Park, Mamaroneck Sunday, May 17
Walk4Hearing registration at Harbor Island Park and Marina on Long Island Sound begins at 10:30 a.m. and the Walk begins at 12:15 p.m., following the introduction of special invited guests. The Westchester/Rockland Walk4Hearing will feature hundreds of walkers from throughout Westchester, Rockland and Putnam Counties, New York City, Connecticut, Long Island and New Jersey.

This year we will again offer free hearing tests provided by the Westchester Medical Center Cochlear Implant and Balance Center. Other local sponsors of the Walk4Hearing include Audiology & Speech Solutions, ENT & Allergy Associates, Metro Sound Pros, New York Presbyterian, Riggs Distler, Westchester Medical Center and White Plains Hospital. National sponsors include Captify, Hamilton CapTel, Hearing Industries Association, Listen Tech/Ampertronics, Med-El and ReSound. The 2026 Walk4Hearing will feature free snacks and Duck Donuts, a food & ice cream truck from famous Walter's Hot Dogs, and music and entertain-

ment for children of all ages and adults. Dogs on leashes are welcome at Harbor Island Park. To find out more, to donate, register as a walker or team captain, or to become a walk sponsor, go to www.walk4hearing.org.

Philipse Manor Hall State Historic Site and Friends of Philipse Manor Hall present "Revolutionary Women of Westchester County," an original lecture by Yonkers City Historian Mary Hoar. The event will take place both in-person at the museum and online via YouTube Live on Wednesday, March 11, 2026 at 7 PM. Although often overlooked or ignored, the American Revolution hinged on the labor and efforts of women of all backgrounds. In this engaging illustrated talk, Yonkers City Historian Mary Hoar traces the lives of Revolutionary era women in Westchester County and beyond. In-person tickets are free for everyone, courtesy the Friends of Philipse Manor Hall. To reserve your spot call 914-965-4027 or email philipsemanorhall@parks.ny.gov. Virtual access is free and open to everyone. Learn more at www.friendsofphilipsemanorhall.org. Philipse Manor Hall State Historic Site, located at 29 Warburton Ave., Yonkers, NY, 10701, is open for tours Wednesdays through Sundays, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00. Learn more at Philipse Manor Hall's Virtual Wing at www.philipsemanorhall.com.

Diverse Abilities Job and Resource Fair Westchester County Center in White Plains April 15
Employers and resource providers who have already committed to joining April's Diverse Abilities Job Fair, include: Child Care Council of Westchester, Human Development Services of Westchester, Liberty Lines Transit, MTA, New York Power Authority (NYPA), Northwell Health, New York State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision, Sonesta White Plains Downtown, SUNY Purchase, The Arc Westchester, Westchester County Parks, Westchester Library System, and many more. Job seekers interested in registering can visit: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdviQgBdjC2gE9MHtZPdieaR-oFPuitcoRTscXwXF8TQ-2tduQ/view-form>.

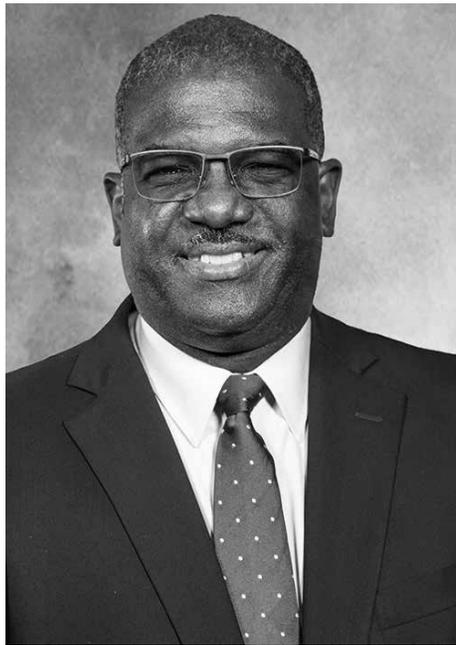
Histoury Announces One-Day-Only Colonial Homes of Dutchess County Tour Featuring Rare Access to Historic

Home Interiors Saturday, April 25, 2026 | Dutchess County, NY + Patterson (Putnam County) | Charter Bus Tour / Tickets: \$85 adults, \$95 premium seating, \$55 students
This year, Histoury 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. One of the season's most exclusive offerings is "Colonial Homes of Dutchess County: A Tour of Historic Interiors," a one-day-only charter bus experience taking place Saturday, April 25, 2026. Architectural topics featured on the tour include vernacular Cape Cod-style dwellings, stately Federal-style homes, and the region's signature "eyebrow windows," paired with guided storytelling about the people, preservation, and pivotal local history behind these properties. onlocationtours.com

Hospice of Westchester to Host Spring Soirée at Le Jardin du Roi Celebrate spring and dine out in support of Hospice of Westchester (HOW) at Le Jardin du Roi, 95 King Street, Chappaqua on Tuesday, April 14th from 11am to 8pm! As part of the organization's Spring Soirée, the restaurant will donate 10 percent of all revenue generated that day to support HOW's exceptional programs and services. Make a reservation any time between 11 a.m. and 8 p.m. by calling Le Jardin du Roi at (914) 238-1368, and remember to mention 'Hospice'. For more information about the event, contact Holly Benedict at (914) 682-1484, extension 122. For additional information, visit www.hospiceofwestchester.org or call (914) 682-1484.

The Mysteries of Psychic Abilities with Michael Edley and Mary Amy will be live at The Manor Club Theatre at 1023 Esplanade, Pelham, on Thursday, April 2, 2026, from 7:00 to 9:30 pm. "An Evening of Spiritual Awakening" will open with meditation to calm and connect to the audience. Michael and Mary Amy will then demonstrate various ways to practice psychic abilities. Following the performance, there will be a Q&A session. You may purchase tickets online at <https://tmcofpelham.org/events> or by email at themanorclubofpelham@gmail.com. The cost per ticket is \$35 if purchased in advance. Tickets will also be available at the door for \$40. For group sales or more information, call 914.738.1528.

Westchester County Launches "Westchester, Explained" Podcast Series to Break Down County Policies and Programs



County Executive Ken Jenkins

Westchester County Government has launched a new podcast segment titled Westchester, Explained, a special series designed to give residents a deeper understanding of the policies, programs and decisions shaping life across the County.

Hosted by Westchester County Government Communications Director Catherine Cioffi, the series expands on conversations introduced in the County's weekly This Week in Westchester podcast by slowing down the headlines and bringing listeners inside the work being done by County leaders and departments.

Westchester County Executive Ken Jenkins said: "Residents deserve to understand how the decisions we make in County government affect their daily lives. Westchester, Explained is about pulling back the curtain and having real conversations about the policies, programs, and investments shaping our communities. We

want people to hear directly from the experts doing the work and understand why these efforts matter for families across Westchester."

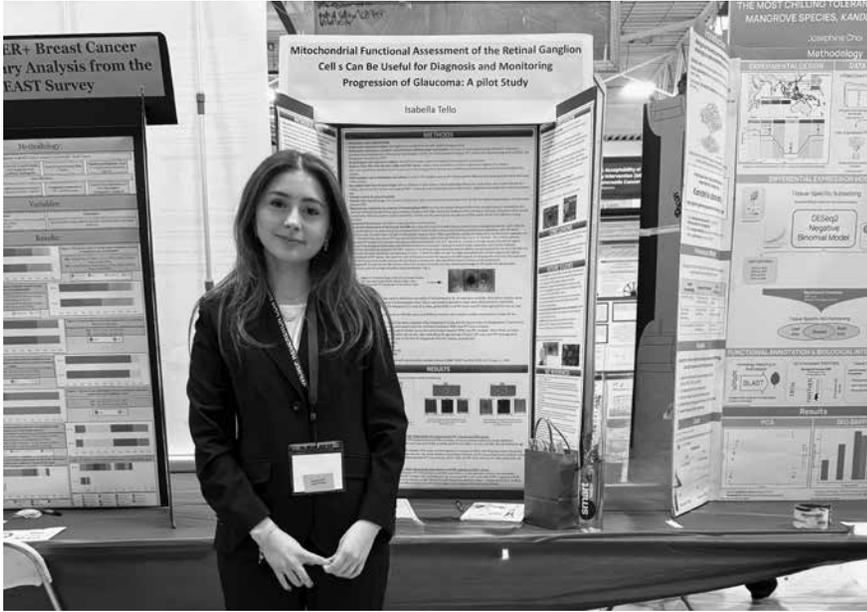
Cioffi said: "Government works best when people understand not just what decisions are being made, but why they matter. Westchester, Explained is about transparency and clarity, taking the time to break down important issues so residents can see how County government is working for them."

The first episode focuses on lead prevention and remediation, highlighting Westchester County's new Lead Registry Program, an initiative aimed at identifying and addressing potential lead hazards to better protect children and families.

Joining Cioffi for the inaugural conversation are Westchester County Health Department Deputy Commissioner for Environmental Health Christopher Ericson and Health Services Coordinator for the Westchester County Health Department, Immunization Action and Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Programs Leslie Liberatore. Together they discuss the risks associated with lead exposure, how the new registry works and what residents should know to keep their homes safe.

Episodes are available on Apple Podcasts, Spotify and at westchestercountyny.gov/podcast.

Rye High School Students Present Science Research at WESEF



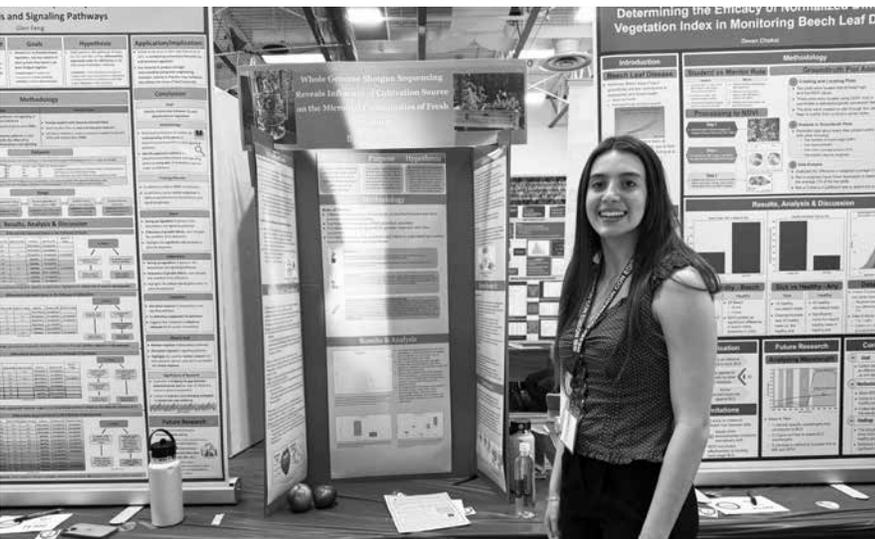
Isabella Tello

Two Rye High School students, Isabella Tello and Kate Schatz, participated in the annual Regeneration Westchester Science & Engineering Fair (WESEF), held at Somers High School on March 14. They were among more than 800 students from more than 40 high schools to showcase their research and have their work judged by local experts in the field.

Tello's research focused on improving early detection of glaucoma. Having used pattern electroretinography as a method to identify the disease earlier than the current standard tools, she has further researched a new device that measures mitochondrial flavoprotein levels as a potential biomarker for glaucoma. She plans to continue her research next year to expand and refine these new diagnostic methods and explore their clinical applications.

Schatz presented her research, "Whole Genome Shotgun Sequencing Reveals Influence of Cultivation Source on the Microbial Communities of Fresh Produce," which focuses on promoting the importance of considering the food source when purchasing fruits and vegetables. Her research focused on understanding the extent to which cultivation methods and preservation practices affect a plant's microbiome and consequently, our own human gut microbiome. To develop this research, she compared the microbiomes of plants purchased at local supermarkets to the microbiomes of plants grown in an outside soil-based garden and in an indoor tower garden setting. The goal of the research was to determine if the cultivation method caused differences in the microbiomes within the same plant species.

For her work, Schatz won the Ricoh Sustainable Development Award, which supports high school students who demonstrate environmental initiative. The regional award is given to student research that demonstrates the principles and technical innovations with the greatest potential for sustainable development.



Kate Schatz

The Giving Circle of Lower Westchester Completes \$1 Million Campaign in Support of Feeding Westchester

continued from page 4



unteer-run, virtually 100% of donations go directly toward its mission.

The Million Dollar Campaign: In 2025, when The Giving Circle recognized that total lifetime giving stood at \$875,000, the Board launched a Million Dollar Campaign to push total grants over the \$1 million threshold. The campaign officially kicked off in September 2025 with "Comics for a Cause" at the Coliseum in White Plains, a benefit event that raised \$10,000 and featured President Paul Warhit as one of the performers. Over the final three months of 2025, Giving Circle members donated more than \$125,000, bringing total lifetime grants past the \$1 million mark.

"The support and generosity of our members has been overwhelming," said Eric Nodiff, who chaired the Million Dollar Campaign. "A major factor in reaching this milestone was that our members recognized how recent federal policy changes affecting SNAP are likely to reduce benefits and increase food insecurity. This will place additional strain on Feeding Westchester and their partner

food pantries and soup kitchens, which are already experiencing record demand."

Why This Matters for Westchester: Feeding Westchester estimates that more than 1 in 3 households in Westchester County are at risk of hunger. Each month, the food bank and their 175 partners serve an average of 235,000 neighbor visits, including 80,000 child visits and 41,000 visits from seniors. The \$1 million granted by The Giving Circle of Lower Westchester translates to two million meals received by local families.

"The Giving Circle of Lower Westchester has been a valued partner for more than a decade, and this \$1 million milestone is a testament to their vision, commitment, and belief in our community," said Tami Wilson, Chief Operating Officer of Feeding Westchester. "At a time when hunger is rising and safety net programs are under pressure, their support has helped us provide nutritious food to children, single parents, veterans, working families, and seniors. We are grateful to every member of the Giving Circle for their leadership and generosity."

harrisonherald.com

Standalone Trusts vs. Sub-Trusts



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

If you're having your estate planning prepared and want to create a trust for a child or family member, should you set up a standalone trust, or include trust provisions within your existing estate plan?

A standalone trust is a separate trust document created as its own standalone document. It is distinct from your main estate plan but can be referenced in your will or revocable living trust.

For example, your revocable trust might say that when you pass away, your assets should go into the "John Doe 2026 Trust," which was set up under a separate agreement on March 3, 2026. This separate document is called a standalone trust because it exists on its own, separate from your revocable trust.

The other option is a sub-trust, which is a trust that is written directly into your main will or revocable trust. This type of trust is not created until after you pass away. If it is created through a will, it only takes effect after the estate goes through probate, meaning it cannot avoid the probate process.

The purpose of the trust often drives whether you use a standalone trust or a sub-trust. Is it a special needs trust to protect a beneficiary who receives public benefits? Is it a descendants separate trust for one of your children? Do you want other beneficiaries to be able to see the terms of the trust?

Standalone trusts tend to be more

expansive and complex, but they offer several benefits outlined below.

- Simplified Administration – Trustees may avoid showing the full estate plan to banks or financial institutions.
- Avoids Probate – Unlike testamentary trusts under a Will, a standalone trust can operate immediately upon funding without probate delays.
- Flexible Amendments – Changes can target the standalone trust without affecting your main trust.
- Facilitates Gifts from Others – Family members can contribute directly to the standalone trust.
- Comprehensive Coverage – Standalone trusts can address more contingencies than a sub-trust, without overloading the primary trust document.

A standalone trust often offers stronger protection, more flexibility, and can sometimes be easier to manage. However, whether it makes sense to create a separate trust depends on your situation, the size of your estate, and whether you ex-

pect to make changes in the near future.

If the trust's purpose is straightforward, funding is minimal, or the trust ends at a certain age then embedding trust provisions in your revocable trust or will may suffice. This keeps the plan simpler, especially if you don't anticipate major changes in the near future.

Discuss your goals with an estate planning attorney. Together, you can weigh the cost/benefit trade-offs and determine the most practical solution for your family.

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). (914-684-2100) www.littmankrooks.com

Table Hopping with Morris Gut: Where to Dine After the Spring Orchid Show at NYBG!

The annual Orchid Show at the New York Botanical Garden in the Bronx runs through April 26TH. This year's colorful theme: 'Mr. Flower Fantastic's Concrete Jungle'. (For additional info: www.nybg.org) After taking in all that beauty, we do get hungry. Here are a few great stops on the way back to Westchester...

BASILICO: This lovely dining room and bar opened 6 months ago by hospitality veterans Nick Demaliaj and Jetmir Arifaj. It is a global mix of Mediterranean/Italian/American specialties. Chef Leonardo Pavia offers such dishes as Spaghetti Bolognese, Squid Ink Linguine, Braised Short Ribs, Zuppa di Pesce, a surprising Coq au Vin, even a big juicy Wagyu Truffle Burger. Nick & Jetonir had worked previously worked at the iconic Russian Tea Room in Manhattan. Open 7 days for lunch, dinner, weekend brunch. Prix fixe lunches available. Basilico Restaurant, 142 Fifth Ave., Pelham. 914-740-5900 www.basilico-pelham.com

PELHAM PIZZERIA: Pelham Pizzeria & Ristorante has been marking over 45 years in Pelham with a classic Italian American menu and first-rate pizza specialties. The display case beckons with its fresh baked pizzas by the slice: Sausage Pie with signature

lumps of tasty sausage; Spinach Pie, White Pizza, and Chicken Cutlet Pie. Many of the classic Italian American red-sauce favorites are here: Veal, Chicken, Shrimp or Eggplant Parmigiana; Homemade Lasagna; Baked Manicotti; Veal or Chicken Francese; Shrimp Scampi; Veal Marsala; and hearty Grilled Chicken with Broccoli Rabe and Potatoes. Portions are generous. Pelham Pizzeria & Ristorante, 113 Fifth Ave., Pelham. Phone: 914-738-3554. www.pelhampizzeria.com

ONE RARE STEAKHOUSE: Veteran restaurateur Harry Sinanaj of Ben & Jack's Steakhouse in Manhattan has opened Westchester's newest upscale bastion of beef at the former Zachy's Wine Shop space right in the Village of Scarsdale. The team at this handsomely designed 120-seat restaurant with sparkling bar will lavish you. From Chef Admir's kitchen come such specialties as: a daily selection of East or West Coast Oysters, Wedge Salad, Pappardelle with short ribs, classic Surf & Turf, Porterhouse for 2 or more, and Tomahawk Steak. The bar is already a hot spot. Opens at 4 p.m.; weekends from 11:30 a.m. One Rare Italian Steakhouse, 16 East Parkway, Scarsdale. 914-330-8488 www.oneraresteakhouse.com

CAFÉ DEUX: Sisters Carrie and Harrison Herald • April 2026 •

Charlotte Denoyer premiered Café Deux in Harrison last year, an all-day café and restaurant serving breakfast, lunch and dinner. Highlights include a decadent bowl of soft scrambled eggs melded with gruyere and chives served with crusty sourdough bread. Classic French bistro fair: fresh pastries, sandwiches, entrees, and sweets including their signature 'cupped desserts' as complement their daily selection of curated coffees and teas. Cocktails, too. Jean Denoyer, their father, opened the original La Goulue in Manhattan over 50 years ago. Café Deux, 307 Halstead Ave., Harrison. 914-920-4110 www.cafedeuxny.com

TORCELLO: Imer Rraci and his veteran team reimaged the former La Riserva into a lovely setting for the Italian classics. Named after an island off the coast of Venice, this kitchen turns out such winning dishes as: colorful Mozzarella Caprice; Risotto Di Funghi with porcini; Linguine alle Vongole; Veal Chop Parmigiana; classic Rack of Lamb; and delicious Pollo Torcello, topped with applewood bacon and melted fresh mozzarella in a light bourbon mushroom sauce. Rraci had spent years working for the former Giambelli in Manhattan, and Valbella in Old Greenwich, CT. Open 7 days for dinner starting at 3:30 p.m.



Bar/cocktails. Happy hours Wed. through Fri. 3:30-6 pm. Outdoor patio. Free parking. Torcello, 2382 Boston Post Road, Larchmont. 914-833-1118 www.torcellolarchmont.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: gut-reactions@optonline.net)

Westchester County Offers School Grants for Environmental Learning

Westchester County is now accepting applications for Potable Projects for Tomorrow, a school micro-grant program that helps students learn about the environment in a hands-on way. Building on a successful first year, the program provides schools with the resources to bring conservation, soil, and water lessons directly into the classroom and beyond.

Launched in 2025, the program supports projects that help students better understand how the environment impacts their daily lives and how they can be part of the solution. Through small grants, schools can create projects that go beyond textbooks and give students real-world experience with topics such as water quality, soil health, and protecting natural resources. In its first year, students built gardens, tested local water sources and studied trees on their school grounds.

Westchester County Executive Ken Jenkins said: "Programs like this provide students the opportunity to connect classroom learning with real-world environmental challenges and help students better understand the importance of protecting our soil, water and natural resources."

Commissioner of Planning Blanca P. Lopez said: "Our students need healthy soils, clean water and access to funding that supports research and education. Education is central to the District's mission and the Potable Projects for Tomorrow grant will enhance our school's environmental education programs."

Chair of the Soil and Water Conservation District Suzanne Nolan said: "Providing students and teachers with the ability to pursue hands-on environmental research projects as an extension of classroom learning is a worthy investment in the students, as well as in the health of soil and water in Westchester and beyond."

The Westchester County Soil and Water Conservation District was established in 1967 and continues to partner closely with Westchester County to promote conservation practices that protect land, water and natural resources. The Department of Planning staffs the District and works with its County Executive-appointed Board of Directors to carry out an annual work plan.

Westchester County is excited to continue the momentum that engages Westchester's schools, and remains available to provide not only funding, but its knowledge and resources with students. Applications can be obtained by emailing SWCD@WestchesterCountyNY.gov.

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