

Harrison Herald



may 2026 - vol. 23 - issue 5

harrisonherald.com

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Scappaticci Recognizes Volunteer Efforts

BY STEPHEN E. LIPKEN

Harrison Supervisor Thomas Scappaticci opened the Thursday, April 9th Board meeting, announcing that April was Volunteer Appreciation Month. “Tonight I want to recognize the people who make our community what it is, and that is our volunteers,” Scappaticci began. “Everything we do in community services is powered by our volunteers; for example, Meals on Wheels (MOW).

“Our MOW volunteers deliver about 62 meals every week and spend a lot of time with our seniors; in some cases that may be the only friendly face that these seniors may see that day. Sometimes that moment changes their life.”

Scappaticci noted that MOW volunteers’ interaction with World War II veterans facilitate their securing veteran benefits, finding a safe home and finally, securing a dignified military burial.

“We also have the Harrison Food Pantry, whose volunteers distributed about 48,400 pounds of food in 2025, serving an average of 114 households each month.




“The Sustainability Committee and Pollinator Pathway runs the Food Scrap Initiative, spring cleanup, compost giveback, acorns to oaks and they create the plantings that greet us at the Police Department, Libraries and Town entryway. Regarding acorns to oaks, it will be possible to pick up a tree to plant during Great to Live in Harrison Day on Sunday, October 11th .

“Volunteers with the Harrison Youth Council help to lead an organization that offers our youth sustainability, job resources and place to turn to during a crisis. And finally, in collaboration with the Harrison Central School District, Functional Academic Skills Education (FASE) focuses on life skills and independence, preparing the students for meaningful work after graduation.


“Each year the FASE program at Harrison High School sends us students to work with us at the Food Pantry and Harrison Children’s Center,”


Scapaticci said.

Scappaticci then awarded Certificates of Appreciation and small gifts to FASE students Sammy Saes, Nicholas Cardona-Gomez and Lexi Gullo, Harrison Children’s Center.



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Source: OKMLS, 2020-2025 combined, single family homes sold, Harrison school districts.

St. Vincent's Youth Awards Held in Harrison Honor Local Student Samantha Ferrara

St. Vincent's Hospital Westchester hosted its 34th Annual St. Vincent's Youth Awards on Wednesday, March 25, bringing together students from across Westchester County for a ceremony held in Harrison. The event recognized young leaders whose service, compassion, and commitment have made a meaningful impact in their communities.

Among the honorees was Harrison resident and Harrison High School junior Samantha Ferrara, the sole student selected from Harrison High School this year. She was recognized for her sustained dedication to volunteer service and for building an initiative that connects public health, clothing insecurity, and environmental sustainability.

Ferrara is the founder of Sam's Sacred Style, a community-based program that collects and redistributes formal dresses to individuals who may not otherwise have access to milestone events. The initiative addresses clothing insecurity while reducing textile waste, a growing environmental issue linked to pollution and microplastic exposure. By extending the life of garments, her work promotes more sustainable consumption and highlights how everyday choices connect to broader public health outcomes.



Her impact is measurable. Ferrara has redistributed hundreds of dresses, diverting thousands of pounds of textile waste from landfills and saving families significant costs. Through nonprofit partnerships, her work has expanded beyond the local level, reaching communities across the United States and internationally.

At the ceremony, Ferrara received multiple honors in recognition of her work. She was named a St. Vincent's



Youth Award recipient, reflecting the hospital's core values of respect, compassion, and service to others. She also received a New York State Senate Certificate of Merit and a United States Congressional Certificate of Special Recognition, recognizing her leadership and the broader impact of her initiative.

The event brought together students representing a range of schools throughout Westchester County, each selected for their unique contributions

to service and leadership. Hosted in Harrison, the ceremony highlighted both regional excellence and the role local students continue to play in advancing community health, sustainability, and access.

Ferrara's recognition reflects a growing model of student leadership that connects environmental responsibility with real-world public health challenges and delivers practical solutions at the community and global level.

NewYork-Presbyterian Mini-Grants 2026

NewYork-Presbyterian is committed to supporting local organizations that make a meaningful difference in the health and well-being of our communities. Through our Mini-Grants program, we aim to invest in small, grassroots community-based organizations (CBOs) that often work with limited resources to create lasting impact. Mini-Grants are a renewable, three-year funding opportunity, awarding \$7,500 in Year 1, and eligible for renewal of up to \$10,000 in Year 2 and up to \$12,500 in Year 3, for a maximum total award of \$30,000. Renewal of funding is contingent upon the awardee's successful fulfillment of all grant requirements.

We invite CBOs whose programming supports health and wellness for communities across NewYork-Presbyterian's catchment areas to apply, specifically: Bronx, Brooklyn, Manhattan, Queens and Westchester County. Grant funds are intended to support direct program operations. This may include relevant staffing, supplies, stipends, facilities rental, and other programmatic costs. Funds may not be used for general administration, strategic planning, or travel unrelated to the program.

For more information about the grant, eligibility criteria, and grant requirements, please refer back to the NewYork-Presbyterian Mini-Grants RFP here.

We are seeking proposals from CBOs that are:

- Focused on health and wellness
- Serving under-resourced communities in NYC or Westchester County
- Committed to program sustainability and organization growth

Mini-Grants can support either new initiatives or strength existing programs. Programs must be available and open to all eligible individuals, in compliance with federal law, and not discriminate against, exclude or deny services to any group or individual on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion or other protected characteristics.

Eligibility Criteria

- Have a total annual operating budget under \$500,000
- Be a registered 501(c)(3) or operate under a fiscal sponsor
- Serve communities in Brooklyn, Queens, Lower Manhattan, Northern Manhattan, or Westchester County
- Be independent of NewYork-Presbyterian (not a hospital department, affiliate, or subsidiary).

For More Details: <https://nypcommunityaffairs.my.site.com/minigrant/s/>

Hilltop Hanover Farm Kicks Off 2026 Farm Stand Season on May 7

The 2026 season at Hilltop Hanover Farm and Environmental Center begins Thursday, May 7, with the opening of its farm stand and annual vegetable plant sale. Gardeners and food lovers alike can shop a diverse selection of vegetable starts – young plants ready for transplanting – available while supplies last on a first-come, first-served basis.

Visitors can browse a range of seasonal offerings, including tomatoes, cucumbers, eggplants, peppers, squash, leafy greens and more. Explore what's currently available at the stand, including a full list of plant varieties.

The farm stand will operate Thursdays through Sundays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., continuing through Thanksgiving.

County Executive Ken Jenkins said: "There's nothing quite like purchasing fresh produce directly from the farm where it's grown. It offers exceptional flavor and quality, while also supporting local agriculture and the hardworking farmers behind it. When residents support places like Hilltop Hanover Farm, they're investing in the hardworking farmers who keep Westchester's agricultural heritage alive and ensuring that fresh, locally grown food remains accessible for years to come."

Commissioner of the Westchester County Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation Kathy O'Connor said: "The farming at Hilltop Hanover Farm is exceptional, and the staff and volunteers work tirelessly year-round to ensure the highest quality produce is grown and harvested. I encourage visitors to stop by the farm stand and take the opportunity to explore everything the farm has to offer while they're here."

The farm stand accepts SNAP, FMNP, cash, credit cards and Apple Pay. Customers using SNAP, WIC, FreshConnect or FMNP benefits receive a 50 percent discount on produce and 30 percent off sourced goods.

Registration is now open for Hilltop Hanover's 2026 Farm Membership Program, a reimagined CSA. Visitors can also sign up in person during farm stand hours. Enrollment will remain open until seasonal capacity is reached. Learn more about membership options and benefits here.

For more information, contact the farm stand at (914) 862-5034 during operating hours, or email farmstand@hilltophanoverfarm.org.



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Westchester County Diverse Abilities Job and Resource Fair Draws Record Attendance

On April 15th, the eighth Westchester County Diverse Abilities Job and Resource Fair drew its largest group of job seekers, employers, and resource providers to date at the County Center in White Plains for a day of networking and on-site interviews. Among the attendees for this popular event were more than 75 exhibitors and 400 job seekers, including student groups from local high schools and colleges. Since its inception, the event has attracted more than 1,800 attendees.

Westchester County Executive Ken Jenkins said: "The Diverse Abilities Job and Resource Fair has proven to be a vital event for both job seekers of all abilities and Westchester's many inclusive employers. Walking into the County Center and seeing so many talented individuals connecting face-to-face with local employers – and hearing about the

wonderful employees that have been hired as a result of this event – illustrates why it is so important. Thank you to everyone who came out and contributed to its success."

Westchester County Director of Policy and Programs, Small Business and Chambers of Commerce Shari Rosen Ascher said: "The Diverse Abilities Job and Resource Fair is a bridge between our business and nonprofit communities and an eager workforce. We are continuously impressed by the success of this event and look forward to bringing it back for the ninth time in the near future."

Westchester County Office for People with Disabilities Director Carin Horowitz said: "We are grateful to the employers and resource providers who contributed to the success of the eighth Diverse Abilities Job and Resource Fair. The room was full of positive energy, enthusiasm, and curiosity.



Westchester County Office for People with Disabilities Director Carin Horowitz; Westchester County Executive Ken Jenkins; Westchester County Director of Policy and Programs, Small Business and Chambers of Commerce Shari Rosen Ascher; Westchester County Director of Minority and Women-Owned Business Development and Immigrant Affairs Martha Lopez-Hanratty; and, from the Office of Congressman George Latimer, Caseworker/Press Aide Tara Conte.

Purchase College Celebrates New Pathway Program with Rockland Community College



Purchase College, SUNY hosted a special event to highlight the new RCC-Purchase Pathway Program with Rockland Community College which includes a clear, supportive, and affordable route to earn both an associate and bachelor's degree.

The event highlighted the benefits of the partnership including supportive advising and a significant cost savings. The partnership allows Rockland County students to be accepted to both programs. Upon acceptance, students complete two years at RCC then transfer to Purchase without losing time or credits, which allows students to complete their bachelor's degrees on time. NY State Students with a 3.0 in this new RCC-Purchase Pathway program may qualify to receive a scholarship of \$3,000 per year for the two years they attend Purchase.

The event included a signing of the new agreement by Purchase College President Michael E. Steiper, Ph.D., and Rockland Community College President Dr. William P. Mullaney, as well as Purchase Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs Earnest Lamb and RCC's Vice President of Academic Affairs, Dr. Melanie Rie, all of whom offered remarks, as did Diego Nova, a student who shared his story on how he has benefited from transferring from community college to Purchase. Congressman George Latimer was in attendance and offered remarks in support of public higher education in our region.

President Steiper said, "Together, Purchase and RCC are removing barriers to access, strengthening families and communities, empowering the next generation of leaders, and fueling the economic vitality of Westchester and Rockland counties, and of our state as a whole. Through this agreement, Purchase, which is the closest four-year SUNY to RCC, will be able to make an even greater impact in the lives of students by expanding credit transfer opportunities across more programs and reaching more students than ever before. It also allows us to provide deeper financial and academic support so that every student has the resources they need to succeed."

"Proximity matters for our students. Many choose Rockland Community College because they want or need to stay close to home, and this new transfer agreement with SUNY Purchase strengthens that pathway," said Dr. William Mullaney, president of Rockland Community College. "With SUNY Purchase less than 30 miles away, our students can continue their education seamlessly, affordably, and close to their families and communities."

For more information about the college, visit www.purchase.edu.

Westchester County is home to a talented and diverse workforce, and we are proud to have this event play a role in connecting good people to good jobs."

Among the 75+ employers and resource providers who joined April's Diverse Abilities Job Fair, were: Child Care Council of Westchester, Human Development Services of Westchester, Liberty Lines Transit, MTA, New York Power Authority (NYPA), North-

well 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.

For an up-to-date list of Westchester County's job fairs, and other skills training opportunities, visit <https://westchestercatalyst.com/events/>.

Westchester County Office for Women Hosts Empower Hour

The Westchester County Office for Women (OFW) held its second webinar of the Empower Hour series featuring OFW Acting Director Catherine Borgia and guest, Patti Reyes D'Agostino, Chief of Development and Community Relations of Hope's Door. They shared a candid and, at times, deeply personal discussion about how to best support someone close to you who the victim of domestic violence or in a dangerous relationship. The conversation touched on different approaches based on whether the victim has disclosed the abuse, as well as how the closeness of the supporter's relationship with the victim impacts the approach. The dialog also focused on how to spot the warning signs that indicate someone is in trouble, and concluded with a two-part Q & A, responding to many pertinent questions from the attendees.

Borgia said: "Thank you so much to Patti D'Agostino for both sharing her experiences and for providing such useful and complete information about how to support a friend who might be a victim of domestic abuse. This conversation was both compelling and informative. We want everyone to know how to help someone you know, and the resources to access help should you need it. Remember, you are not alone. We are here to assist with compassion and confidentiality."

D'Agostino said: "There is only one person who has something to gain from silence and that's the abuser. Sharing stories and conversations, like the one today, make us aware that domestic violence knows no economic, social or racial boundaries. Its very existence changes not only those directly affected by it like children and other family members, but every member of the community."

For resources and to reach the Office for Women, call: White Plains Office weekdays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. (914) 995-5972, in Spanish, (914) 995-6581, after hours and weekends, (914) 995-2099 or go to www.WestchesterCountyNY.gov/women

Empower Hour is presented by the Westchester County Office for Women as part of our commitment to supporting, educating and uplifting women across Westchester County.

Watch the Webinar Here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PA-arKV-iGM>

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Rye High School's Hockey Team Honored after Historic State Championship Win



Members of the Rye High School varsity hockey team were honored by the board of education and Superintendent of Schools Dr. Tricia Murray at the April 14 board of education meeting, recognizing a season defined by teamwork and historic achievement.

The students received a Rye Recognition of Excellence Award – an honor that celebrates outstanding student accomplishments in academics, the arts and athletics. They also received certificates from Rye Deputy Mayor James Ward, New York State Assemblyman Steve Otis and New York State Senator Shelley Mayer. The recognitions followed the team's historic victory when the Garnets defeated Byram Hills to capture the program's first New York State championship.

"What makes this accomplishment especially meaningful is the team's journey," Dr. Murray said. "After falling behind early in the title game, the Garnets responded with composure and determination, scoring five unanswered goals to secure the win. Throughout the postseason, they rose to every challenge, defeating Aquinas and Clarence before earning a measure of redemption against Byram Hills on the biggest stage."

The championship effort was fueled by goals from Finn Draddy, Jamie Morris, Max Niejadlik, Colin Nigro and Will Weinman, along with a strong performance in net from Fernando Mosquera. Senior defenseman Will Weinman was named tournament MVP, a reflection of his leadership and impact in key moments. The team is led by head coach Pete Thomas, now in his 12th season, who has brought leadership, vision and unwavering belief in his team. The Garnets concluded the season with a record of 19 wins, three ties and three losses, sweeping the Division I champion to win their league and capturing two midseason tournaments along the way.

Congratulations to Kai Brittain, Grayce Coyne, Conor Crotty, Luke Davies, Connor Dehmer, Trevor Dolan, Finn Draddy, Ryan Draddy, Davis Goodman, Cody Greenhaw, Mac Kelly, Julian Levenson, Aidan Lynch, Jack McGill, Will Molin, Jamie Morris, Fernando Mosquera, Max Niejadlik, Will Niejadlik, Colin Nigro, Elle Ridley, Matt Rovenger, Jake Souza, Will Weinman and Baker Wells, as well as head coach Pete Thomas and assistant coaches Thomas Bailey and Mark Kronenberger.

Purchase College 2026 Commencement to Take Place at Westchester County Center



Purchase College, SUNY will hold its 54th annual commencement ceremony on Friday, May 15, 2026 at 12:30 p.m. at the Westchester County Center in White Plains. Degrees will be conferred upon more than 700 graduating scholars representing dozens of majors and several countries.

This year, world-acclaimed choreographer **Kyle Abraham** '00, who just won a Guggenheim Fellowship for choreography this week, will receive an honorary Doctor of Fine Arts degree and Dr. Audrey Tyrka '99 and Maxwell Pearce '18 will receive the President's Award for Distinguished Alumni.

Tachynel Merveille, an acting major from Staten Island, will offer remarks on behalf of the senior class. Jeanette Gonzalez, a vocal performance major from New Rochelle, will perform the National Anthem. Top Shelf Party Band, which is comprised of Purchase alumni from 2003 to 2009, will perform throughout the ceremony.

President Michael E. Steiper said, "I look forward to celebrating the wonderful achievements of both our graduating class and the impressive accomplishments of our honorary degree and distinguished alumni awardees. The ceremony will honor three decades of Purchase alumni from vastly different academic and professional fields. Taken together, they are a testament to the incredible value of a Purchase education and to the lifelong benefits of being part of a creative, supportive, and intellectually curious community."

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Planning for Emergency Hospitalizations: An Estate Planning Perspective

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

No one expects to be hospitalized suddenly. Yet accidents, unexpected illnesses, or medical crises can happen at any time. While we cannot control when emergencies occur, we can prepare for them. From an estate planning perspective, thoughtful preparation for an emergency hospitalization can reduce stress, protect your wishes, and ensure that your loved ones are able to help when you need them most.

Emergency planning is not just for older adults or those with chronic illness. Every adult should have a plan in place that allows trusted individuals to step in quickly if they become unable to communicate or manage their affairs.

Health Care Directives: Your Voice When You Cannot Speak: At the core of emergency planning are health care directives. These documents allow you to legally appoint someone to make medical decisions for you if you cannot make them yourself and provide guidance about your wishes.

A Health Care Proxy designates a trusted person to make medical decisions on your behalf if you are unable to do so. This person should understand your values and be willing to advocate for your wishes, even in stressful situations. It is recommended to name at least one alternate agent in case your primary agent is unavailable.

A Living Will expresses your preferences regarding life-sustaining treatment, such as resuscitation, artificial nutrition and hydration, and mechanical ventilation. While not every situation can be anticipated, providing written guidance helps your health care agent know your wishes.

A HIPAA authorization should also be included. This document allows medical providers to share your health information with the individuals you designate. Without it, even close family members may have difficulty obtaining updates from doctors or hospitals.

Power of Attorney: Managing Financial and Legal Matters: An unexpected hospitalization can also interrupt your ability to manage finances or legal matters. A **Power of Attorney** allows a trusted agent to handle financial tasks such as paying bills, managing accounts, communicating with insurance companies, or handling real estate matters if you are incapacitated.

Without this document, your family may need to pursue a court-appointed guardianship to manage your affairs, which can be time-consuming, costly, and emotionally draining. A properly drafted power of attorney allows someone to step in immediately and keep your financial life running smoothly.

Create an Emergency Information Packet: In addition to legal documents, it is important to assemble a practical emergency

information packet. This packet should be easy to access and shared with key individuals. Consider including the following:

Emergency Contact List: Prepare a list of people who should be contacted in an emergency, including family members, close friends, and professional advisors. Include phone numbers, email addresses, and the order in which they should be contacted. Make sure your designated health care agent is clearly identified.

Medication List: Maintain a current list of all medications you take, including dosages, prescribing physicians, and any allergies. In an emergency, having accurate medication information can be critical to safe treatment. Update this list regularly and keep a copy in your wallet or phone.

Doctor and Medical Provider List: Include contact information for your primary care physician, specialists, therapists, and pharmacy. This helps hospital staff quickly obtain medical history and coordinate care.

Insurance Information: Keep copies of your health insurance cards, Medicare or Medicaid information, and any supplemental policies. Knowing your coverage can help your loved ones navigate billing and coverage issues more easily.

Care for Dependents and Pets: Emer-

gency planning should also address the needs of those who rely on you.

If you care for minor children, older relatives, or individuals with disabilities, create written instructions about their daily routines, medications, and key contacts. Identify who will step in temporarily to provide care if you are hospitalized. While formal legal arrangements may be necessary for long-term care, even short-term planning is invaluable during an emergency.

Do not forget about pets. Identify a trusted friend, neighbor, or family member who can take responsibility for them on short notice. Provide information about feeding schedules, veterinary contacts, medications, and any special needs. Some people include a small emergency fund or written authorization to allow a designated person to obtain veterinary care if needed.

Where to Store and Share Information: Having documents and information prepared is only helpful if they can be located quickly. Store originals of your estate planning documents in a secure but accessible location. Inform your agents and trusted family members where to find them. Consider providing copies to your health care agent and keeping digital versions in a secure, shared folder.

Many people also carry a wallet card not-

ing that they have a health care proxy and listing an emergency contact. Some smartphones allow you to display emergency contacts and medical information on the lock screen.

Review and Update Regularly: Emergency planning is not a one-time task. Review your documents and information at least every few years, or after major life events such as marriage, divorce, relocation, or changes in health. Ensure that the individuals you have chosen as agents are still willing and able to serve.

Preparing for emergency hospitalizations may feel uncomfortable, but it is one of the most thoughtful gifts you can give your loved ones. By putting clear legal documents and practical plans in place, you reduce uncertainty and ensure that your wishes are honored.

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.

Table Hopping with Morris Gut: Outdoor Farmers Markets Reopen

Get ready for some delicious spring/summer foraging...

THE PELHAM MARKET Opens May 10th. Sundays 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Harmon Ave. & Fifth Ave. Go to Facebook, or www.pelhammarket.org

LARCHMONT FARMERS MARKET, Metro North Station at Chatsworth Ave./Myrtle Blvd., Larchmont. Saturdays, Year round. 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. www.downtoearthmarkets.com

SCARSDALE FARMERS MARKET Sundays, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Spencer Place at Chase Road, near Metro-North station. www.downtoearthmarkets.com

RYE FARMERS MARKET, operates Sundays, 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., Rye parking lot, Theo Fremd Ave. www.downtoearthmarkets.com

WHITE PLAINS FARMERS MARKET, the popular outdoor White Plains Farmers Market is in full swing on Wednesdays, 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. It takes place on Court Street between Martine and Main Streets. www.cityofwhiteplains.com

MUSCOOT FARMERS MARKET Starts May 10. Muscoot Farmers Market, part of Muscoot Farm on Rt. 100 in Ka-

tonah, has reopened for the season. The market operates every Sunday from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. thru November. Free admission. For further info: 914-864-7283, or www.muscotfarm.org

IRVINGTON FARMERS MARKET Year Round. Main Street School Lot, 110 Main St., Irvington. Sundays, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. www.theirvingtonfarmersmarket.org

PLEASANTVILLE FARMERS MARKET It will continue to operate at 10 Memorial Place every Saturday from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Parking at the Metro-North parking lot. www.pleasantvillefarmersmarket.org

MOUNT KISCO FARMERS & MAKERS MARKET Every Sunday starting May 17th thru November. Kirby Plaza near Metro North. 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. www.mkfarmersmarket.com

GOLD SPRING FARMERS MARKET NOW AT BOSCOBEL The popular Cold Spring Farmers Market has moved to the historic Boscobel Estate Museum in Garrison. A lovely setting. It takes place every Saturday from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. www.coldspringfarmersmarket.org

FARMERS MARKET AT JOHN JAY HOMESTEAD John Jay under construc-

tion. The farmer's market will continue to run every Saturday thru November, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. Lot 2, 190 Katonah Ave., Katonah Village. First pick for members. www.johnjayhomestead.org

OSSINING FARMERS MARKET 'Down to Earth' Farmers' Market, corner of Main & Spring Streets, Ossining. Year round, Saturdays, 8:30 to 1 p.m. www.downtoearthmarkets.com

PEEKSKILL FARMERS MARKET, 1 Bank Street, Peekskill. (914-737-2780) The 2023 season will kick off on Saturday, June 6th, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., rain or shine. <https://discoverpeekskill.com>

CHAPPAQUA FARMERS MARKET at the Metro-North Station. Starting Saturday, May 9th. www.chappaquafarmersmarket.org

HUDSON VALLEY FARMERS MARKET, 15 Mount Ebo Road South, Brewster. Year round: Sundays 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

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

DA Cacace Inaugurates Pinwheel Garden for Victims of Child Abuse

Westchester County District Attorney Susan Cacace announced the inauguration of a pinwheel garden at the Westchester County courthouse to raise awareness about child abuse, in commemoration of National Child Abuse Prevention Month.

According to the National Children's Alliance, 1 in 4 girls and 1 in 13 boys experience sexual abuse during their childhoods. In 2021, 1,820 children in the U.S. died of abuse or neglect, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Every Monday in April, members of DA Cacace's staff sold pinwheels in the lobby of the courthouse, with the aim of selling at least 407 pinwheels by the end of the month, representing the number of child abuse cases the office prosecuted in 2025.

The proceeds were donated to the Sharing Shelf of Port Chester, which provides clothes, backpacks and other necessities to low-income children in the community.

DA Cacace said: "The common observation that children are resilient overlooks the deep scars left behind by child abuse, scars that often last for the rest of their lives. Child abuse extracts a toll from its victims over extended periods of time, affecting a child's growth, cognitive development and behavioral characteristics well into adulthood. That's why it is imperative to detect and intervene in child abuse cases at the earliest possible moment, to allow child victims to restore the sense of normalcy that had been robbed from them.

"My office works 24/7 to combat the scourge of child abuse and to bring abusers to justice. In 2025, our team reviewed and investigated 6,246 reports from Child Protective Services and scheduled 151 forensic interviews at our Child Advocacy Center, which was re-accredited as a Tier 1 facility in October. We also launched a new era of cooperation with our school districts, encouraging better communication between law enforcement and mandated reporters. We will never stop in our pursuit of keeping the children of Westchester safe from harm."



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Harrison Herald

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Kyle Abraham is the Founder and Artistic Director of A.I.M by Kyle Abraham, a company widely celebrated as “one of the most consistently excellent troupes working today” by The New York Times. A Pittsburgh native, Abraham trained at the Creative and Performing Arts High School before earning a BFA from SUNY Purchase and an MFA from NYU Tisch School of the Arts, later receiving an honorary Doctorate in Fine Arts from Washington Jefferson College. A Guggenheim Fellow (2026), MacArthur Fellow (2013), and Doris Duke Award recipient (2016), he has been recognized with a Princess Grace Statue Award, multiple National Dance Critics’ Awards, and an Olivier Award nomination for Best New Dance Production. His choreography has been commissioned by some of the world’s most prestigious companies, including American Ballet Theatre, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, New York City Ballet, and the Royal Ballet.

Beyond his artistic achievements, Abraham has been a dedicated educator and cultural leader, serving as the Claude and Alfred Mann Endowed Professor in Dance at USC’s Glorya Kaufman School of Dance and as a visiting professor at UCLA. He is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and has served on advisory boards for Dance Magazine — for which he served as the first-ever Guest Editor — and Hubbard Street Dance Chicago. Named a Kennedy Center Next 50 Leader and honored by Dance Magazine as a “voice of a generation,” Abraham continues to push the boundaries of contemporary dance through works that celebrate Black and queer stories and the full richness of human experience.

Audrey Tyrka, MD, PhD., graduated summa cum laude from Purchase College in 1988 with a degree in Psychology. During her time at Purchase, Audrey also explored the visual arts through studio classes, supporting a lifelong interest in creative practice. She went on to earn her M.D. and a Ph.D. in Psychology from the University of Pennsylvania in 1999. Following her residency training at Brown University, Dr. Tyrka joined the faculty in 2003. Over the past two decades, she has held various clinical, research, and leadership roles, and in 2024 was named the Mary E. Zucker Professor and Chair of the Department of Psychiatry and Human Behavior at The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University. Internationally known for her groundbreaking work on the biological impact of childhood adversity and trauma, Dr. Tyrka is the founding Co-Director of the Miriam Hospital COBRE Center on Stress, Trauma, and Resilience. She also serves in local and national roles to advance equitable policies and inclusive communities in science and healthcare. Alongside her professional career, Audrey has maintained an active art studio since 2014. As a painter and photographer, she contributes the proceeds from her work to Sojourner House, a Rhode Island-based agency providing advocacy and services for victims of sexual and domestic violence.

Maxwell Pearce is an award-winning mixed media artist and a Harlem Globetrotter from Tuckahoe, New York, who challenges how we perceive humanity in and out of sports. He was a starting point guard at Purchase College, where he quickly built a global reputation for his slam dunk videos. His social presence led to being featured in CNN, GQ, CBS, Sportscenter, MTV, and more. In 2018, he won the first ever Shark Tank business competition at Purchase College with his idea for a nonprofit called Flynance, a program that he founded with a teammate from Purchase. This program aims to help student athletes with the transition from sports into their next phase of life. This program was named a 2018 Westchester Up & Coming Award recipient, and was featured in Westchester Magazine. That same year, he represented Purchase College in the ESPN College Slam Dunk Championship in San Antonio and came in 3rd place. Pearce became just the 7th Division III player to participate in the championship. His outstanding performance led to being discovered by the Harlem Globetrotters and signing a contract upon graduating with a bachelor’s degree in economics. In 2020, he was an ESPYS ‘Can’t Stop Watching Moment of the Year’ award honorable mention nominee.

As an artist, Pearce notably creates his artwork out of shoelaces and sports equipment to remind us of the total human under the jersey - with family stories, passions, and histories. He has worked with HBCUs, NFL, NBA, Reebok, Players Tribune, and more. Maxwell’s work has been commissioned for Patti Labelle, Chaka Khan, Gladys Knight, Diana Tausi, Clipse, and many more. His art has been covered by the following publications: NBC, Forbes, Black Enterprise, Revolt TV, CBS Mornings, NCAA, and more. Recently, Maxwell wrote an op-ed for the Miami Herald, collaborated with NBA to mentor HBCU students at NBA Allstar weekend, was the Keynote speaker at Howard University Art Basel exhibition, gave a TED Talk at TED headquarters in NYC about the intersection of sports and art, and will be a part of the new Capital One Arena Art Collection this fall.

For more information about the college, visit www.purchase.edu.

Calendar of Events

The 47th Annual Polish Heritage Festival will kick off this summer’s series of heritage festivals on Sunday, May 31, from noon to 6 p.m. at Kensico Dam Plaza in Valhalla. The festivals are all from 12 noon to 6 p.m. and will be held rain or shine. Seating is informal; bring blankets or folding chairs for sitting on the lawn. No coolers will be allowed. Admission and parking are free.*

This year’s schedule of cultural heritage celebrations are:

- Asian-American, Saturday, June 6, Kensico Dam Plaza, Valhalla
- Albanian, Sunday, June 7, Kensico Dam Plaza, Valhalla
- Irish, Saturday, June 27, Ridge Road Park, Hartsdale

*Admission: \$5 adults; free for ages 14 and under

- African-American, Sunday, June 28, Kensico Dam Plaza, Valhalla
- Hispanic, Sunday, July 12, Kensico Dam Plaza, Valhalla
- Italian, Sunday, July 26, Kensico Dam Plaza, Valhalla
- Heritage of India, Sunday, Aug. 2, Kensico Dam Plaza, Valhalla
- Jewish, Sunday, Aug. 16, Kensico Dam Plaza, Valhalla
- Muslim Heritage, Sunday, Aug. 23, Kensico Dam Plaza, Valhalla
- Arab-American, Sunday, Sept. 13, Ridge Road Park, Hartsdale

Kensico Dam Plaza is located at the north end of the Bronx River Parkway, in Valhalla. Ridge Road Park is located at 287 Ridge Road, Hartsdale

On May 31, the Bronx River Parkway will be closed for Bicycle Sundays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. between Scarsdale Road in Yonkers and the Westchester County Center in White Plains. On June 7 and 28, July 12 and 26 the parkway will be closed from 8 a.m. to noon. On Sept. 13 the parkway will be closed from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The park can be accessed via Route 22, from the north or south.

2026 State of the County Address

Wednesday, May 6

Doors Open at 6 p.m.

Speech Begins at 6:30 p.m.

Michaelian Office Building

Board of Legislators Chambers

148 Martine Ave

White Plains, NY

Watch the event live:

WestchesterCountyNY.gov or Facebook.com/Westchestergov

The Bach Virtuosi Festival

Three Events: May 12, May 15, May 19

Bach Virtuosi Festival Brings World-Class Performances to New York City.

Featuring The Goldberg Variations, A Mighty Fortress Is Our God, the “Coffee Cantata,” Brandenburg Concerto No. 3 in G Major, and much more...

All events at 7:30 pm. Doors open at 6:30 pm.

Tickets: \$50; free admission for students with student ID

Tickets are available in advance from Gotham Early Music Scene (GEMS).

www.gemsny.org/events/bach-virtuosi-festival or call (212) 866-0468.

OR at the door.

The 2026 season at Hilltop Hanover Farm and Environmental Center begins Thursday, May 7, with the opening of its farm stand and annual vegetable plant sale. Gardeners and food lovers alike can shop a diverse selection of vegetable starts – young plants ready for transplanting – available while supplies last on a first-come, first-served basis. Visitors can browse a range of seasonal offerings, including tomatoes, cucumbers, eggplants, peppers, squash, leafy greens and more. Explore what’s currently available at the stand, including a full list of plant varieties. The farm stand will operate Thursdays through Sundays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., continuing through Thanksgiving. For more information, contact the farm stand at (914) 862-5034 during operating hours, or email farmstand@hilltophanoverfarm.org. Hilltop Hanover Farm and Environmental Center is located at 1271 Hanover Street in Yorktown Heights.

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