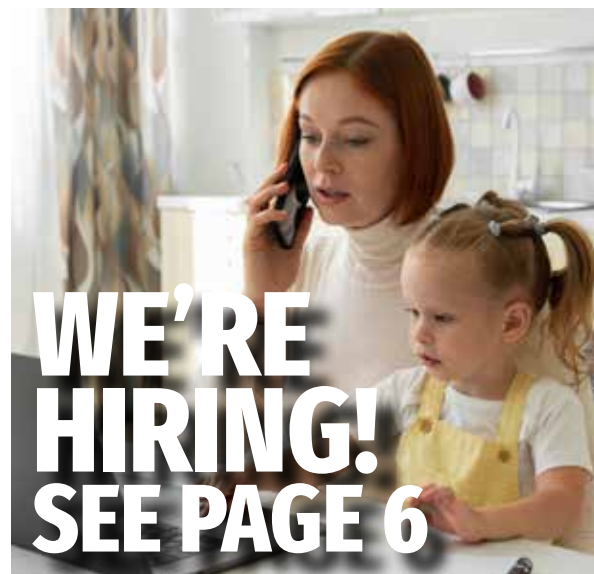


# Harrison Herald



july 2026 - vol. 23 - issue 7

[harrisonherald.com](http://harrisonherald.com)



## Celebrating 100 Years of a Harrison Legend: Honoring WWII Navy Veteran Mike Masciola

Harrison came together in a series of heartfelt celebrations to honor Mike Masciola, a World War II Navy veteran, lifelong Harrison resident, and beloved community treasure, who turned 100 years old on June 5.

The celebrations began on May 30, when the John A. Caboto Club welcomed more than 150 members for a dinner in Mike's honor. Mayor Tom Scapattici presented him with a Town of Harrison Proclamation, recognizing not only his milestone birthday but the extraordinary life behind it. In a gesture of respect, the Caboto Club donated over \$1800 to VFW Post 3047 in Mike's honor.

On June 5, thanks to County Legislator Nancy Barr, Mike received a surprise from the county; his name appeared across the Westchester County Center Jumbotron, officially declaring June 5th as "Mike Masciola Day" in Westchester County. Seeing his name in lights was a moment that touched everyone who knows him.

The celebrations concluded on June 7 at Veterans Park, where Mike was surround-



Assemblymember Chris Burdick presented Mike Masciola with a New York State Declaration

ed by his beautiful family — his children, 8 grandchildren, and 14 great-grandchildren — for a joyful 100th birthday party. Assem-

*continued on page 2*

## Harrison High School Production of Les Misérables Recognized with Four Metro Awards

The Harrison High School Spring Musical production of *Les Misérables* received honors at the Metro Awards this spring. Held in the SUNY Purchase Performing Arts Center on June 15th, the Metro Awards celebrate the best musical theater in the region, with over 70 schools participating across Rockland, Westchester, Putnam, and Bergen counties.

Harrison's production received thirteen nominations, tied for the most of any school, and earned awards for Outstanding Performance in a Featured Male Role for Dean Pasarelli's performance as Thénardier, Outstanding Comedic Performance by a Female Performer for Talia Russo's performance as Madame Thenardier, Outstanding Achievement in Music Direction for LMK Chorus teacher Mr. Scott Test, and the first ever Guild of Technical Theater Students Student Technician Scholarship for Nicholas Pelliccio.

In addition to receiving four Metro Awards, nominations included Overall Produc-

*continued on page 8*



Recognized among the region's best student performers, Dean Pasarelli and Talia Russo received Metro Awards for their outstanding performances in Harrison High School's *Les Misérables*.

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## Congratulations to the Class of 2026

Wishing this year's graduates a future filled with success, happiness, and endless opportunity. Your hard work has paid off, and the best is yet to come.



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### *Celebrating 100 Years of a Harrison Legend: Honoring WWII Navy Veteran Mike Masciola*

*continued from page 1*

blymember Chris Burdick presented him with a New York State Declaration, honoring both his milestone and his service to our nation.

At just 18 years old, he enlisted in the United States Navy on June 8, 1944, serving as a Seaman First Class aboard the USS Soley (DD-707), a destroyer deployed to the Pacific Theater during World War II. He earned the American Campaign Medal, the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal, and the World War II Victory Medal — honors that reflect not only where he served, but the courage and character with which he served. Today, he remains a proud member of VFW Post 3047, where his presence is a reminder of the sacrifices made by the Greatest Generation.

Harrison is shaped by people who give of themselves quietly, consistently, and with heart. Mike is the embodiment of that spirit. He represents everything good about Harrison, and everything good about the country. His kindness, his humility, his strength, and his unwavering love for family and community remind us of the values that built this country and the values that still guide us.

Mike often says he owes his long life to, “a good wife, a good family, and always staying moving.” He remains deeply grateful to Harrison, insisting he has, “received back much more than he ever gave.” But those who know him — or even simply know of him — would say the opposite. Harrison is better because of Mike.

Harrison celebrates him not just for reaching a remarkable milestone, but for the example he sets every single day. He is a reminder of the kind of person we should all aspire to be.

Happy 100th Birthday, Mike! Cheers from a grateful town!



*Submitted article and photos.*

### Harrison High School Debate Team Posts Another Strong Season

*Debaters Ranked at Top Three Spots in NY State, #2 Nationally*



The Harrison High School Debate Team finished the season with five tournament wins and eight runner-up finishes. The team accumulated 16 qualifying bids to the Tournament of Champions, placed in the top five at Nationals, placed 2nd at the New York State Championship, and reached elimination rounds at nearly every tournament of the year, including the TOC, Harvard, Emory, and Princeton, where team members placed 2nd and 3rd. The National Speech and Debate Association ranked Andrew Gaffin 2nd nationally in Lincoln-Douglas Debate; Flynn Williams is ranked 11th nationally, and is the top-ranking junior this season, while Adeena Naeem is ranked 16th nationally. In New York state, Andrew is ranked #1, Flynn is ranked #2, Adeena is ranked #3, and Atharv Gandhi is ranked #6.

# 38 Officers Graduate from Westchester County Police Academy

Thirty-eight recruits – including eight from the Westchester County Police – graduated last month from the Westchester County Police Academy. They are headed off to work at 11 departments in Westchester and one in Putnam.

The new officers, who completed 22 weeks of training at the police academy in Valhalla, received their diplomas before a packed house at the SUNY Purchase Recital Hall.

County Executive Ken Jenkins and Public Safety Commissioner Terrance Raynor presented the graduates of the 161st Session of Basic Recruit School with their diplomas and congratulated them for mastering the physical and academic demands of the Academy.

“These recruits were required to bring their best effort to the Academy every day. Nothing less would be accepted. Their presence at this graduation ceremony is proof they kept their end of the bargain,” Jenkins said.

The county executive also thanked the family members in attendance for the love and support they have provided, and will continue to provide, to the region’s newest police officers.

“I know you are proud of these new officers. And I know there will be times you will worry about them. My dad was a police officer and I am familiar with those emotions, and more, when a loved one serves in law enforcement,” he said.



Raynor urged the graduates to treat all members of the public with fairness and respect in the performance of their duties.

“Most of the people you encounter will never remember your rank, your assignment, or how many arrests you made. What they will remember is how you treated them. They will remember whether you listened, whether you showed compassion. They will remember whether you treated them with dignity and respect. Never underestimate the impact of a simple act of professionalism and kindness,” he told the graduates.

Local graduates and their departments are:

Westchester County: Mehdi Abirou, Javier De La Cruz, Hugo Ortiz, Terrance Raynor, Shane Repp, Anthony Riccobono, Sean Trenholm, Julia Tucciarone.

Eastchester: Charles Anastos,

Harrison: Marco Angarano, Guy Arcuri, Giovanni Campo, Thomas Ciafone, Aulon Hasanramaj, Sean Walther.

Mamaroneck Village: Max Leifert.

Mount Vernon: Matthew Jackson.

New Rochelle: David Barreto, Michael Birone, Zackary Cole, Lawrence Lin, Silvia Magallon, Michael Pippo.

Scarsdale: Ashley Farewell, Michael Quintana.

Tuckahoe: Isabella Troiano.

White Plains: Latifah Castleberry, Deckcoda Sinclair, Nicholas Yerks.



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# Senator Shelley Mayer Recognizes Educators Across the 37th Senate District with Outstanding Educator Awards

State Senator Shelley Mayer, Chair of the Senate Education Committee, honored 18 exceptional educators from across the 37th Senate District with her 2026 Outstanding Educator Award at a ceremony held on June 15 at Scarsdale High School. The award recognizes educators who have demonstrated an extraordinary commitment to their students, schools, and communities through their leadership, innovation, and dedication to education. Each honoree was nominated by their school principal or superintendent.



Rye Neck School, Rye Neck School District; Noreen Garvey, Special Education Teacher at Westchester Hills School 29, Yonkers Public Schools; Jennifer Gherardi, 5th Grade Math Teacher at William E. Cottle School, Tuckahoe Union Free School District; Toby Gillen, High School French Teacher at Bronxville High School, Bronxville Union Free School District; Richard Harman, High School Math Teacher at Yonkers Montessori Academy, Yonkers Public Schools; Jessica Haag, High School English Teacher at Eastchester High School, Eastchester Union Free School District; Dina Hofstetter, High School Art Teacher at Scarsdale High School, Scarsdale Union Free School District; Oren Iosepovici, High School Guidance Counselor at Scarsdale High School, Scarsdale Union Free School District; Joseph Liberti, Social Studies Civic Education Teacher at Mamaroneck High School, Mamaroneck Union Free School District; Carrie Valle, Grades 2-5 Special Education Teacher at Anne Hutchinson School, Eastchester Union Free School District.

During the ceremony, Senator Mayer led a roundtable discussion, providing an opportunity to learn more about their work, the innovative approaches that distinguish them, and the meaningful impact they are making in their schools and communities. Educators shared their experiences and ways they are helping strengthen the communities they serve. Senator Mayer then awarded each educator with a proclamation recognizing their impact. Senator Mayer honored:

Lisa Azria, Special Education Life Skills Teacher at Bronxville High School, Bronxville Union Free School District; Melanie Bradish, 5th Grade Teacher at Church Street Elementary School, White Plains Public Schools; Karen Caine, 6th Grade English Language Arts Teacher at Hommocks Middle School, Mamaroneck Union Free School District; Andrew Colasuonno, Assistant Principal of Student Services and Director of Athletics at Tuckahoe Middle School, Tuckahoe Union Free School District; Julie Cupertino, Grades 3 and 4 Special Education Teacher at School 5, Yonkers Public Schools; Amanda D'Addona, Grade 9 and 10 Social Studies Teacher at Rye Neck High School, Rye Neck School District; Amy Estersohn, High School English Teacher at White Plains High School, White Plains Public Schools; Kimberly Fleming, Grades 3-5 Music Teacher at F.E. Bellows Elementary School at

Senator Shelley Mayer said, "I am proud to present the 2026 Outstanding Educator Awards to 18 exceptional educators from across the 37th Senate District. These teachers, counselors, and school professionals represent the very best of public education in New York. As Chair of the Senate Education Committee, I am continually inspired by the extraordinary work happening in our schools. It was a privilege to hear directly from these educators about their experiences, their classroom innovations, and the impact they have every day on their students' lives.

"Thank you to Superintendent Dr. Drew Patrick, Principal Kenneth Bonamo, and the entire Scarsdale High School community for graciously hosting this celebration and helping us honor these outstanding educators."

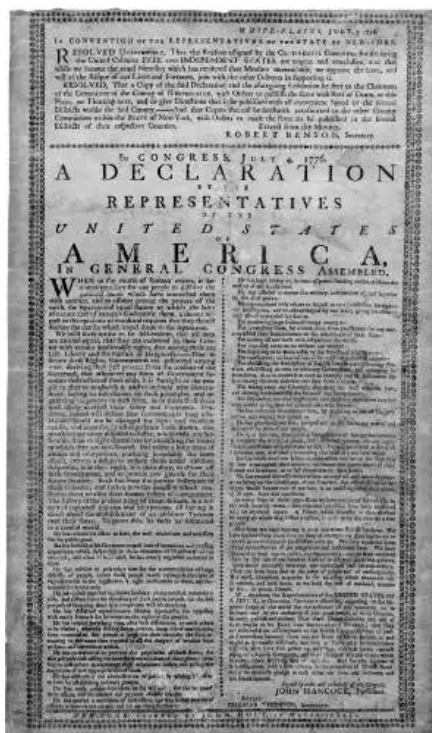
# Rare 18th-Century Edition of The Declaration of Independence to be Displayed in Recognition of Nation's 250th Anniversary

The Neuberger Museum of Art, SUNY Purchase will partner with Westchester County Government and County Executive Kenneth W. Jenkins to present The Declaration Distributed: Westchester County's Holt Broadside of 1776, a special exhibition centered around New York State's historic adoption and distribution of the Declaration of Independence.

The exhibit, which opens July 4, will feature Westchester County Government's Holt Broadside edition of the Declaration of Independence, believed to be the document that was read in White Plains shortly after the Declaration of Independence was signed.

The Declaration Distributed will mark the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States and highlight Westchester County's critical role in that founding. It will offer visitors a rare opportunity to view the document that helped bring the Declaration's words to New York in 1776.

"We often talk about the founding of this nation as something that happened somewhere else, in Philadelphia, Boston or Washington, but this exhibition is a powerful reminder that Westchester County was part of that story from the very beginning. The Holt Broadside is not simply an old document preserved in an archive. It is evidence that the words of the Declaration of Independence were carried here, read here and shared here as the American Revolution unfolded in real time. Westchester Coun-



ty has proudly safeguarded this extraordinary artifact for generations, and as we approach the nation's 250th anniversary, we are honored to partner with the Neuberger Museum of Art, SUNY Purchase, to share it with the public. This exhibition highlights not only the importance of preserving history, but also the important role Westchester County played in the founding of our nation and the ongoing story of American democracy," said Kenneth W. Jenkins, Westchester County Executive.

"We are deeply grateful to Westchester County for choosing the Neuberger Museum at SUNY Purchase to exhibit this powerful and historic document. As a public campus, we are excited to welcome our students and the wider community of Westchester to visit and learn more about this document and the Revolutionary era history that surrounds us," said Michael E. Steiper, PhD, president of Purchase College.

"We are honored to be able to display the Holt Broadside at the Neuberger Museum of Art, and to share with our community a powerful artifact of American history, while recognizing the deep local roots that tie Purchase and Westchester County to the story of independence," said Tracy Fitzpatrick, PhD, director of the Neuberger Museum of Art.

The Holt Broadside is one of the earliest state printed editions of the Declaration of Independence. Printed by John Holt

*continued on page 5*

## Rye High School Inducts New Members of National Honor Society



A group of 168 students from Rye High School were inducted as the newest members of National Honor Society during a celebration in the school's Performing Arts Center on May 19.

The students – members of the Class of 2027 – were selected for membership based on the National Honor Society's four pillars: scholarship, service, leadership and character. Led by National Honor Society adviser Alex Paley, the ceremony included opening remarks, student and faculty reflections, a candle induction ceremony, the recitation of the National Honor Society pledge and presentation of certificates.

During the candle induction ceremony, students reflected on the meaning and importance of each pillar before lighting candles representing scholarship, service, leadership and character. Caroline Tighe lit the Candle of Scholarship, Jonathan Rotondo lit the Candle of Service, Anisa Machano lit the Candle of Leadership and Griffin Lewis lit the Candle of Character.

School administrators, board of education members, faculty advisers, family members and friends gathered to recognize the accomplishments and dedication of the inductees.

Congratulations to all newly inducted members of Rye High School National Honor Society for exemplifying the values of scholarship, leadership, service and character throughout the Rye Community.

## Maria Regina High School Celebrates Winners of 3rd Annual Science Fair and Symposium



Maria Regina, the renowned all-female Catholic high school, celebrated the winners of the school's recent, record-breaking 3rd Annual Science Fair and Symposium.

The honorees were among a total of 310 academically top-performing Maria Regina freshmen, sophomores, and juniors—representing an all-new high of 90% student participation—who showcased their critical thinking, creativity, effective communication, and independent learning during the two-day session held at the school's Hartsdale campus.

"In the first two years of the Science Fair and Symposium, we were so impressed that more than half of the student body enthusiastically pursued the challenge when it was offered to them by the Science Department," explained Principal Maria Carozza-McCaffrey (Class of '99), adding: "But that did not prepare us for this year's dramatic spike in student participation, underscoring the escalating interest Maria Regina students have in pursuing studies in STEM and other sciences which have historically been underrepresented by women. We are on the way to 100% student participation,

## Rare 18th-Century Edition of *The Declaration of Independence* to be Displayed in Recognition of Nation's 250th Anniversary

*continued from page 4*

in New York City and dated July 9, 1776, the document reflects the rapid spread of the Declaration throughout the colonies during the earliest days of the American Revolution. The Westchester County edition is believed to have been the one that was publicly read in White Plains on July 11, 1776 on the steps of the Court House. The Holt Broadside was preserved for generations by the White Plains Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution before being donated to Westchester County in the mid-20th century. Following conservation and restoration efforts, the historic document was permanently transferred to the Westchester County Archives in 1991 by County Executive Andrew P. O'Rourke. Today, the Holt Broadside stands as one of Westchester County's most significant Revolutionary-era artifacts connecting the County directly to the founding of the United States and the enduring ideals of liberty, democracy and self-governance.

The story told in *The Declaration Distributed: Westchester County's Holt Broadside of 1776* is the story of a revo-

lution in progress and a revolution unfinished. It is the story of the ways in which those revolutionary ideas spread through New York State by way of the Holt Broadside.

The exhibition focuses on the document, its printer and the role of printing during the Revolution, the first reader of the document in New York State who lived on the land where Purchase College now stands, its whereabouts over the last 250 years, and current preservation efforts so that it will be with us for another 250 years.

*The Declaration Distributed: Westchester County's Holt Broadside of 1776* at the Neuberger Museum of Art, SUNY Purchase, is made possible by Westchester County Government. Support for the project has been provided by the Friends of the Neuberger Museum of Art.

Learn more about Westchester County by visiting [www.westchestercountyny.gov](http://www.westchestercountyny.gov).

Visit [purchase.edu/neuberger](http://purchase.edu/neuberger), Facebook: @neubergermuseumofart, and Instagram: @neubergermuseum.

starting next year."

And, once again, "the judges had their work cut out for themselves, given the uniformly high degree of college-level scientific inquiry and dedication to addressing real-world topics our incredibly bright, young women proudly demonstrated," said Reena Varma (P'17), Science Department chairperson and one of the judges who was tasked with assessing the students' research projects and selecting the winners.

The other judges included members of the administration and acclaimed science and math departments: Principal Carozza-McCaffrey; Karen Lizzo (Class of '90), Math Department chairperson; John Graviano, former Maria Regina Science Department Chairperson and faculty member; Valerie Reidy, former Maria Regina Principal and President; Jesse Vandemerlen, Lauren Smatt, Alicia Roche (Class of '14) and Michael Mazzuca, Science teachers and Shelagh Amann, Technology teacher.

The winning students were lauded for their research projects addressing a wide range of topics in electrical engineering, environmental sciences, telecommunications, biomedicine, health, nutrition, and rail transportation, among others. Local honorees included:

**9th Grade:** 1st place: Selah Johnson, White Plains -- *Does removing trash from a pond increase fish activity and the number of fish coming up to the surface?*; 3rd place: (tie): Madalyn Vanbrakle, New Rochelle -- *How does Weight Affect a Maglev (magnetic levitation) Train's ability to Levitate?*; Jillian Pellegrino, Yonkers -- *Vitamin C concentration in orange juice*

**Grade 10:** 2nd place: Gabriella Rivera, White Plains -- *How does different pH effect the color of red cabbage?*; 3rd place: Sofia Fernandes, White Plains -- *How does the difference of ph in liquids affect the corrosion of metal?*

**Top AP Research-Chemistry:** Top Research: Lillian Hinsliff, Scarsdale -- *Research: The Medical Implications of Red Hair*

Maria Regina High School is a Catholic school where young women are encouraged to achieve academic excellence, empowered to be compassionate leaders, and enriched with the Spirit to live a life of Charity, Truth, and Service to others.

# What's Happening at the Harrison Public Library



## Crochet & Knit: Teach-Each-Other Meet-Up for Beginners

Thursday, July 2, 1:00pm - 3:00pm  
Halperin Building - Conference Room  
Join a friendly, peer-led crochet and knitting meet-up where everyone learns from each other. Bring your own supplies and feel free to share your current project, tips, and ideas - beginners and experienced crafters are all welcome. This event will also take

place on: Thursday, July 16.



## The Game Maker's Quest

Tuesday, July 7, 3:30pm - 4:30pm  
Halperin Building - Community Room  
Registration required on website. In The Board Game Builders Lab, you are the lead designer. You'll invent the rules, sculpt the pieces, and build a world that fits right inside a box. You'll take a blank board and turn it into a masterpiece. We'll learn about "Game Flow" to make sure no one gets stuck in a boring loop and everyone stays in the action.

## Hamilton Karaoke and Trivia Night - Celebrate America's 250th Anniversary!!

Wednesday, July 8, 6:00pm - 8:00pm  
Halperin Building - Community Room  
All Ages Welcome. What is the best way to celebrate the 250th anniversary of our nation? By singing, of course!! Hamilton the Musical beautifully encapsulates the founding of our country, and celebrates the collaboration of our founding fathers and allies, including, you guessed it, Alexander Hamilton! Whether you've seen the musical or not, we ask you to join us - the lyrics will be on the screen and we will have trivia on the musical as well as the American Revolution interspersed throughout. Light refreshments will be served.

## Boots & Beats: Country Line Dancing

Tuesday, July 14, 2:00pm - 3:00pm  
Halperin Building - Community Room  
Back by popular demand! Join Adam Cherko for a fun hour of country line dancing on Tuesday afternoons at 2 pm. No experience needed. Dress comfortably and bring water. Cowboy hat and boots optional!) Summer session: July 14, July 28, August 11, August 25, September 8, September 22.



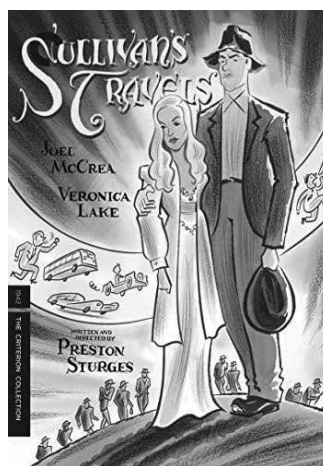
## Family Craft: Rock Decorating!

Thursday, July 30, 3:30pm - 4:15pm  
Learning Center  
\*Ages 5 to 7. Please Note: Tickets will be given on a first come first serve basis, starting 30 minutes before at the conference room door. 12 families including parents and siblings will be able to attend.\* We are decorating rocks with Paint pens! This event will also take place on: Thursday, August 13



## Bicentennial Lanterns for Kids

Friday, July 31, 3:30pm - 4:30pm  
Halperin Building - Conference Room, Learning Center  
Registration required on the website. Ages 5-10. Celebrate America by creating a patriotic, eye-catching lantern! Using mason jars, tissue paper, and tea lights, we'll make a colorful festive craft perfect for summer décor.



## Sullivan's Travels - Celebrate America's 250th Anniversary through film

Monday, August 3, 1:00pm - 3:00pm  
Halperin Building - Community Room  
In this classic set during the Great Depression, Joel McCrea plays John L. Sullivan, a famous Hollywood director who lives as a tramp to gain real experience for his forthcoming film. Part of America's 250 Anniversary programming.

To register for events or see the full calendar, visit [www.harrisonpl.org](http://www.harrisonpl.org)



## Family Craft: Patriotic Wind Chimes

Thursday, July 2, 3:30pm - 4:15pm  
Learning Center  
\*Ages 5 to 7. Please Note: Tickets will be given on a first come first serve basis, starting 30 minutes before at the conference room door. 12 families including parents and siblings will be able to attend.\* To celebrate 4th of July we are going to make patriotic wind chimes! This event will also take place on: Thursday, July 16, Thursday, July 30, and August 13.

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## Osborn School Students Celebrate Flag Day with Senior Living Residents



Fourth and fifth grade students from Osborn School brought music and patriotism to the residents of the Osborn Senior Living Community on June 12, performing a selection of patriotic songs as part of the annual Flag Day celebration. The intergenerational program has been a cherished tradition for many years.

During their visit, the students – members of the Melody Makers – performed “America the Beautiful,” “God Bless America,” “My Country ‘tis of Thee” and “The Star-Spangled Banner.”

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Tricia Murray, who attended the celebration, shared the history of Flag Day, tracing its origins to June 14, 1885. On that day, a young Wisconsin teacher named Bernard Cigrand gathered his students in a one-room schoolhouse to celebrate what he called the birthday of the American flag. He encouraged his students to reflect on the meaning of the flag and its importance to the nation.

“That simple classroom lesson grew into a national tradition that we continue to celebrate today,” Dr. Murray said. “This year’s celebration is especially meaningful as our nation begins commemorating America’s 250th anniversary. For two and a half centuries, the American flag has served as a symbol of our shared history, our freedoms, our resilience and our hope for the future.”

Dr. Murray also acknowledged the generations represented in this audience and encouraged everyone to reflect on what the flag means to them.

“Many of you have lived through moments that have shaped our nation and our community,” she said. “Our students have the privilege of learning from your experiences and carrying those lessons forward. Events like this remind us that the story of our country is passed from one generation to the next.”

## Milton School Students Give Back During Service Week

Milton School students participated in a variety of activities during Service Week, learning firsthand about the importance of giving back and making a positive impact in their community. The students collected food to benefit Meals



on Mainstreet, created adopt-a-dog signs for a local shelter, assembled toiletry kits for a local soup kitchen and hygiene kits for children, and decorated onesies and bibs for babies in need.

“These experiences reinforce the values of teamwork, empathy, communication and problem-solving while helping students practice the social-emotional skills that are part of their everyday learning,” parent Elizabeth Patterson said.

The initiative was designed to help students understand that they are valuable members of a larger community and that, regardless of their age, they can make a positive impact. They also learned that serving their community not only makes a difference in someone else’s day, but it builds a sense of purpose and connection.

“We hope the Service Week projects left students with a greater appreciation for the experiences and needs of others, a stronger sense of gratitude and the confidence that their actions matter,” parent Susan Frazier said. “Most importantly, we hope they recognized that even small acts of kindness can make a meaningful difference in their community.”

## Harrison High School String Ensemble Earns Fourth Consecutive Gold Rating at NYSSMA Festival



For the fourth consecutive year, the Harrison High School Strings Ensemble earned a Gold Rating at the New York State School Music Association (NYSSMA) Major Ensemble Festival, continuing a tradition of musical excellence. Performing one of the most challenging classifications in the NYSSMA rating system, the ensemble demonstrated exceptional artistry, and skill. A voluntary extracurricular group open to students in grades 9-12, the Strings Ensemble practices weekly outside the school day. Earning a Gold Rating reflects not only the students’ talent and hard work, but also the strong culture of commitment, collaboration, and high standards that has become a hallmark of the ensemble under the extraordinary leadership of Mr. Bastone. Congratulations to the members of the Strings Ensemble on this outstanding accomplishment and for representing Harrison with excellence and pride.

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continued from page 1



Metro Award winner Nicholas Pelliccio brings creativity and precision to the set-building process.

tion of a Musical, Outstanding Performance by a Chorus, Outstanding Performance of a Production Number, Outstanding Vocal Performance by a Female Performer, Outstanding Performance by a Student Critic, Outstanding Achievement in Lighting Design, Outstanding Achievement in Scenic Design, Outstanding Achievement in Hair and Makeup Design, Outstanding Achievement in Lobby Display.

The production of *Les Misérables* at Harrison High School was an extraordinary accomplishment. The caliber of the performances was remarkable, and students demonstrated exceptional commitment, skill, and camaraderie both onstage and behind the scenes. The Metro Awards recognition reflects the talent, dedication, and collaborative spirit of the Harrison High School theater community. Performers, musicians, technicians, designers, directors, and faculty mentors, collectively embraced the challenge of bringing one of musical theater's most demanding productions to life. Their success is a testament to the strength of Harrison's performing arts program and the commitment, creativity, and excellence that define the Harrison High School community.

## Author Presents New Biography *The Aviator and the Showman* at the Harrison Public Library

*She crossed the Atlantic alone, broke every record they set for her, and then vanished without a trace. Before all that, she was your neighbor.*

Drive down Locust Avenue and you will pass a street called Amelia Earhart Lane. Most people don't slow down. They should.

Amelia Earhart - aviator, record-breaker, the most photographed woman of her era - lived in Harrison. Not visited. Not passed through. Lived here, on an estate along Locust Avenue, in the years when she was becoming the most famous woman in the world.

There is a monument to her at Station Park. It was dedicated in 1932, the year she became the first woman - and only the second person ever - to fly solo and nonstop across the Atlantic Ocean. Here is the detail that stops people cold: it is the only monument ever made in her honor during her lifetime. The only one. It is in Harrison.

If your life contains sex, violent death, and mystery, people will always be interested. As Laurie Gwen Shapiro - author of the new biography *The Aviator and the Showman* - puts it: if it has two of those things, you're tabloid fodder. If it has all three, you're



continued on page 12

## Congratulations Class of 2026

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### Class of 2026 College Acceptances

Auburn University (4)	Fairfield University	Mercy University	Santa Clara University (5)	University of Massachusetts Amherst
Babson College	Florida International University	Miami University (5)	Siena University (2)	University of Massachusetts Boston
Bates College	Fordham University (5)	Michigan State University	Skidmore College (4)	University of Miami (3)
Baylor University (2)	Franklin & Marshall College (6)	Middlebury College	Southern Methodist University (7)	University of Mount Saint Vincent
Binghamton University (5)	The George Washington University	Monmouth University	Spelman College	University of New Hampshire
Boston College (5)	Georgetown University (5)	Moravian University	St. Lawrence University	University of New Haven
Brock University	Georgia Institute of Technology	Mount Holyoke College	Stanford University	University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Brown University	Gettysburg College (3)	Muhlenberg College	Stonehill College (3)	University of Notre Dame (2)
Bucknell University (12)	Hamilton College	North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University (2)	Stony Brook University (4)	University of Oklahoma
Case Western Reserve University	High Point University (2)	Northeastern University (4)	Syracuse University (3)	University of Pittsburgh
The Catholic University of America	Hobart and William Smith Colleges (2)	Northwestern University	Temple University (5)	University of Rhode Island
Clark University	Hofstra University	The Ohio State University (4)	Texas Christian University (9)	University of Richmond (3)
Clemson University (7)	Howard University (2)	Pace University	Towson University	University of San Diego
Colby College (4)	Indiana University Indianapolis	Pennsylvania State University, Altoona	Trinity College	University of Scranton
Colgate University (3)	Indiana University Bloomington (13)	Pennsylvania State University, Harrisburg	Tufts University	University of South Carolina
College of Charleston (9)	Iona University (2)	Pennsylvania State University, University Park (7)	Union College (2)	University of Southern California (2)
College of the Holy Cross (7)	Jacksonville University	Princeton University	The University of Alabama (2)	University of St Andrews (2)
Connecticut College	James Madison University (2)	Providence College (11)	University at Albany, SUNY	University of Tampa
The Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art	Johns Hopkins University	Quinnipiac University (3)	University of California, Santa Barbara	University of Tennessee (5)
Dartmouth College	Lafayette College (6)	Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute	University of Colorado Boulder (2)	University of Vermont (2)
Denison University (2)	Lehigh University	Rider University	University of Connecticut (11)	University of Virginia (4)
Dickinson College (2)	Louisiana State University	Rollins College	University of Connecticut, Stamford (2)	University of Wisconsin (5)
Drew University	Loyola Marymount University	Rutgers University	University of Delaware (2)	Villanova University (4)
Elmira College	Loyola University Maryland (4)	Sacred Heart University	University of Denver (2)	Virginia Tech (2)
Elon University (11)	Marist University (3)	Saint Joseph's University (2)	University of Florida	Wake Forest University (3)
Emerson College	Marquette University		University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign	
	Massachusetts Institute of Technology		University of Maryland (2)	

# Westchester Parks Foundation Celebrates 2nd Annual “Happy Art for Westchester Parks” Showcase

Westchester Parks Foundation (WPF), in collaboration with Marla Beth Designs, hosted the second annual Happy Art for Westchester Parks showcase on Monday, June 1 at North Street Tavern at Maple Moor in White Plains. The evening was emceed by Richard Giacovas, FOX 5 NY anchor, and sponsored by 914 Collective Media and Hudson River Music Festival. The event featured local artists whose work was selected through a community-wide campaign this past spring celebrating the beauty and importance of Westchester County Parks and the importance of preserving and supporting these shared public spaces.

Five winning artists were recognized during the reception, with each piece inspired by one of the County’s 50+ parks and accompanied by personal stories reflecting meaningful connections to the region’s treasured green spaces. Featured winners included:

- Sandra Schustack of West Harrison — Muscoot Farm
- Jessica Maricevic of Rye — Playland
- Steve Rossi of Yonkers — Rye Marshlands
- Karen Martinez of Yonkers — Cranberry Lake
- Soma Vajpayee of Scarsdale — Bronx River Parkway

“Happy Art for Westchester Parks continues to showcase the deep personal connection so many residents have with our parks,” said Joe Stout, Executive Director of Westchester Parks Foundation. “The artwork was stunning. This contest highlights how parks inspire creativity, bring communities together, and create lasting memories for people of all ages.”



Sandra Schustack of West Harrison — Muscoot Farm



Steve Rossi of Yonkers — Rye Marshlands

Winning artworks will be featured at Westchester Parks Foundation’s Parks Are Essential Gala on September 16. In celebration of the artists’ work, exclusive notecard sets featuring select pieces will also be created for gala attendees.

For more information on Westchester Parks Foundation, visit [thewpf.org](http://thewpf.org).

*Photos courtesy of Dante Pierre Photography for WPF.*

*Photo Credit: Dante Pierre*

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## Senator Shelley Mayer Hosts Summer Town Hall



Senator Shelley Mayer

Senator Shelley Mayer will host a town hall to discuss the 2026-2027 state budget and recap this year's legislative session. The town hall is free and open to the public, but registration is requested. RSVP: <https://tinyurl.com/2026TownHalls>

Town Hall with Assemblymember Chris Burdick in Harrison on Monday, July 20 at 7 pm at the Harrison Community Center (temporary space), 216 Halstead Avenue, Harrison.



Assemblyman Chris Burdick

Attendees are encouraged to bring donation items for Senator Mayer's Back to School Drive with United Way of Westchester and Putnam Counties.

## Westchester County Office for Women Hosts Empower Hour

The Westchester County Office for Women (OFW) held its June webinar of the Empower Hour series featuring OFW Acting Director Catherine Borgia and guest, Westchester County Director of Faith-Based Initiatives Rev. Kym McNair, MDiv. S.T.M. They spoke about the different roles of spiritual leaders and service providers in supporting Domestic Violence survivors, understanding the effect of power dynamics within the various relationships and the indicators to help assess if a clergy person or religious institution is a safe space for a DV survivor.



OFW Acting Director Catherine Borgia and guest, Westchester County Director of Faith-Based Initiatives Rev. Kym McNair, MDiv. S.T.M.

In acknowledgement of June as Pride Month, they also touched on how those who identify as LGBTQ+ face similar issues when looking for a spiritual sanctuary.

Borgia said: "Thank you so much to Rev. Kym McNair for this thoughtful and interesting discussion about how the faith-based community can partner with service providers to serve those experiencing domestic or intimate partner violence. Faith can be a powerful component in the healing journey, and her compassionate and practical guidance will help victims and those who seek to assist them."

McNair said: "Healing can take a lifetime and conversations like these are important for providing hope, embracing a life free of violence and being a source of peace in the world and in the lives of people who experience violence. This is where we meet survivors at the point of their need and walk with them in their healing journey."

For those interested, the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention is holding "Soul Shop for Black Churches" training for church leadership - both ordained and lay - on Saturday, July 11 at Calvary Baptist Church in White Plains <https://ssbcjuly2026.attendase.com/>

In a partnership with the Westchester County Department of Community Mental Health + NAMI Westchester + AFSP, NAMI Westchester can provide a "Bridges of Hope" presentation program to houses of worship upon request: <https://namiwestchester.org/support-and-education/mental-health-education/faith-net/>.

To reach the Office for Women, please 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.

For resources and to view past Empower Hour webinars, go to <https://women.westchestercounty.ny.gov>. Watch the Webinar Here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GGZFHFdxckk>

## Feeding Westchester's 17th Annual Golden Scoop Competition Packs 19,500 Pounds of Produce and Raises More Than \$46,000



Five Westchester-area companies came together on June 5 for Feeding Westchester's 17th Annual Golden Scoop Corporate Packing Competition, packing 19,500 pounds of fresh produce and raising more than \$46,000 and to support neighbors facing hunger across Westchester County.

Held at Feeding Westchester's headquarters in Elmsford, this year's event marked the first Golden Scoop competition to take place in the organization's new Sorting Room. 60 employees representing teams from PKF O'Connor Davies, Empire City Casino by MGM Resorts, Central National Gottesman, NewYork-Presbyterian, and one company that chose to remain anonymous competed to pack the largest amount of food in the shortest amount of time while also raising funds to support Feeding Westchester's mission.

The produce packed during the event will be distributed through Feeding Westchester's Mobile Pantry Program, helping increase access to fresh fruits and vegetables in underserved communities throughout the county.

When the final boxes were packed and donations tallied, PKF O'Connor Davies claimed both the coveted Golden Scoop Trophy and the title of Top Fundraising Team. Empire City Casino by MGM Resorts earned second place in the contest. While the competition was spirited, the focus remained firmly on the shared goal of helping local families access nutritious food.

"It was wonderful to see our corporate partners come together for the first Golden Scoop to be hosted in our new Sorting Room," said Kristine Borok, President and CEO of Feeding Westchester. "The competition was fierce but rooted in outstanding sportsmanship with all participants sharing a common goal. The 10 tons of produce they packed means fresh fruit and vegetables for working families across our community doing everything they can to make ends meet."

Now in its 17th year, Golden Scoop has become one of Feeding Westchester's signature corporate engagement events, combining volunteerism, team building, fundraising, and community impact. Together, this year's participants demonstrated how local businesses can play a meaningful role in the fight against hunger while strengthening connections among employees and the communities they serve.

Feeding Westchester serves Westchester County, providing food to a hunger-relief network of 175 partners. With a mission to nourish our neighbors in the fight against hunger, the organization sources and distributes good, nutritious food and other resources to wherever it is needed most.

In fiscal year 2025, Feeding Westchester provided more than 21 million pounds of food equivalent to more than 17 million meals through soup kitchens, food pantries, schools, shelters, residential programs, and mobile distributions. That served an average of 235,000 neighbor visits - including visits from children, single parents, veterans, working families, and seniors - every month. The nonprofit, a 4-star Charity Navigator organization, is committed to creating a community where all people have access to the food they need today, and the fundamental resources to build a better tomorrow.

Feeding Westchester is located at 200 Clearbrook Road, Elmsford, NY 10523. For more information, or to donate, visit [feedingwestchester.org](http://feedingwestchester.org).

# Westchester County Awarded \$1 Million Federal Grant to Strengthen Domestic Violence High-Risk Response and Victim Services

Westchester County has been awarded a \$1 million federal grant to strengthen the County's coordinated response to high-risk domestic violence cases, expand victim support services, improve offender accountability and enhance partnerships between law enforcement, advocates and service providers. The funding will support the County's Domestic Violence High Risk Team (DVHRT), a multidisciplinary initiative focused on identifying and responding to domestic violence situations that present the greatest risk of serious injury or homicide.

Westchester County Executive Ken Jenkins said: "Domestic violence thrives in silence and isolation. This funding allows Westchester County and our partners to continue building a system that intervenes earlier, responds faster and provides meaningful support to victims and survivors when they need it most. Through collaboration between law enforcement, victim advocates, healthcare providers and community organizations, we are working to save lives and strengthen protections for some of our most vulnerable residents."

Westchester County Office for Women Acting Director Catherine Borgia said: "Westchester's Domestic Violence High Risk Team has transformed

the way victims of intimate partner violence are supported in crisis. By bringing together law enforcement, victim service providers, healthcare professionals and community partners, we have built a coordinated response that puts victim safety at the center of every decision. This model has strengthened collaboration across agencies, improved outcomes for survivors and is now being recognized as a best practice throughout New York State. We are incredibly proud of what this partnership has accomplished and the lives it continues to impact every day."

To date, the DVHRT, with the help of every law enforcement agency in Westchester County, has identified and served over 7,600 victims of intimate partner violence identified as high risk. In addition, the DVHRT Training Team has trained over 5,000 members of law enforcement in the use of the danger assessment tool and the best practices for interviewing victims in a trauma-informed and victim-centered way. Thanks to the support of the Westchester County Department of Public Safety leadership, the DVHRT is also on the curriculum for the police recruit training academy, the Police Supervisor's School and the annual in-service training schedule.

Westchester County Commissioner of Probation Rocco Pozzi said: "County Executive Jenkins has consistently supported the Department of Probation's efforts to deliver innovative programming and critical services to victims and families across Westchester County. We are grateful for that support, which, when supplemented by this grant award, will help expand our collaborative work with the Office for Women and our community partners to better serve victims of domestic violence."

Westchester County Commissioner of Public Safety Terrance Raynor said: "Every person deserves to feel safe, especially in their own home. The Department of Public Safety remains committed to working closely with all our partner agencies to ensure that victims of domestic violence receive appropriate support when incidents occur. The Westchester County Police has rigorous protocols in place that guide our Patrol officers when they respond to domestic violence incidents and guide our detectives for follow-up investigation."

The DVHRT provides intensive safety planning and vital resources while working with law enforcement and Probation for enhanced offender accountability through specialized training. It began as

a five-town pilot program and has now expanded countywide. In 2024, DVHRT became New York State's model for coordinated community response to domestic violence. DVHRT is led by Project Director David Ryan.

Ryan said: "We are deeply grateful for the support from the County Executive and Board of Legislators and for the continued financial support and investment in strengthening our domestic violence high-risk response efforts in Westchester County. This grant will continue to enhance our ability to protect victims, improve collaboration among partner agencies, and provide life-saving interventions for individuals and families facing extreme risk and high levels of violence in the home. Together, we are building a safer and more responsive community for those in crisis."

For this renewal grant, the Office for Women has partnered with the Department of Probation. Other core DVHRT partners include the Department of Public Safety, District Attorney's Office, Hope's Door, My Sisters' Place, Putnam/Northern Westchester Women's Resource Center, Pace Women's Justice Center, Legal Services of the Hudson Valley and Westchester Medical Center, who operates the 24/7 High Risk Hotline (LAPLine).

## Downtown Summer Sizzle Concert Series Returns to New Rochelle

The City of New Rochelle announces the return of the annual Downtown Summer Sizzle concert series. The public summer concert series, now in its fourth year, brings world-class musicians to the New Rochelle stage for free performances open to residents and visitors alike. Concert goers can also enjoy refreshing drinks and delicious bites from a diverse selection of nearby restaurants plus special themed events throughout the summer.

"The Downtown Summer Sizzle concert series is one of the truest examples of New Rochelle's spirit on display," said Mayor Yadira Ramos-Herbert. "Watching friends and neighbors flow into Ruby Dee Park with blankets and chairs in hand, as kids frolic on the park green and world-class musicians entertain everyone gathered is an annual tradition that I'm excited that we get to continue. It's programming that not only brings smiles to faces, but also brings people from our community and beyond to Downtown New Rochelle to enjoy our local businesses, culture and some of the best of what our City has to offer."

The Downtown Summer Sizzle concert series runs weekly through August 29. Now in its fourth year, the City of New Rochelle and PMG 97 have once again teamed up to present an exciting lineup of nationally touring headliners and award-winning artists, bringing a dynamic mix of genres and star power to the stage.

Making his New Rochelle debut, American Idol finalist Jovin Webb joins the Downtown Summer Sizzle stage this season.

Steve Brown brings the spirit of Bon Jovi to New Rochelle with his tribute band



Always Jov Tribute Band

Always Jovi.

The King of Mambo, Tito Puente Jr., returns to the Summer Sizzle stage for the event's final act of the season.

"Creating programming that the community looks forward to is one of the responsibilities of my role that brings me great joy," said City Manager Wilfredo Melendez. "Heading into a busy summer, we're excited for the Downtown Summer Sizzle concert series to bring another year of incredible performances, family-friendly entertainment and experiences to be remembered for years to come."

Music lovers can also look forward to specialty signature programming including Jazz Extravaganza, Reggae Bash, and Gospel Night, and for the first time ever, the series will come to the Bandshell at Hudson Park in celebration of America's 250th anniversary.

In recognition of this historic occasion, the series will temporarily pause its programming at Ruby Dee Park for one week as the City hosts the spectacular July 4th "Spark the Sound" celebration commemorating 250 years of American independence. The evening will come alive with the sounds of Southern Rock and the timeless classics of the Great American Songbook, creating an unforgettable tribute to our nation's heritage and celebrating America 250 in New Rochelle.

A full calendar of events and planned performances can be found here: [www.summernr.com](http://www.summernr.com).

Follow along on social media @NewRochelleNY for real-time event updates and highlights.

# The BRIDGE School at Rye Brook Honors Graduates with Guest Speaker Westchester County Legislator Nancy Barr

On Wednesday June 17, Cerebral Palsy of Westchester's BRIDGE School at Rye Brook, a NYS Department of Education-approved special education center serving students with disabilities, ages 5 to 21, held its graduation ceremony. The school's two graduates, in formal cap and gown attire, were surrounded by their peers from the BRIDGE School, as well as staff, family, and friends for this special day. Hosted by Principal Patricia Caruso, the ceremony included music and poetry performances by the BRIDGE School Chorus, CPW's Vocal Groove Ensemble, and resident poet Ollie Lowery. Greg Kemp, psychologist from the Pleasantville School District was on hand to sup-

port our two graduates: Luke W Hobbert and Yency Rodriguez Santana. The commencement address was given by Iris Gomez, the mother of a past BRIDGE School student, Joyce Gomez, who also spoke a few words using her eye-gaze software. Guest Speakers included Westchester County Legislator Nancy Barr, and NYS Senator Shelley Mayer (via video), who spoke on behalf of Westchester County and the State of New York, congratulating the graduates, and wishing them luck in all their future endeavors. Celebrations continued with a luncheon with DJ and dancing.

For more information, visit <https://cpwestchester.org/school-program/>



Left to Right: Stephanie Russo, CPW COO; Patricia Caruso, BRIDGE School Principal; Freddie Rivera, BRIDGE School Teacher Aide; Parents and Graduate Yency Rodriguez Santana, Westchester County Legislator Nancy Barr; Parents and Graduate Luke W Hobbert; Greg Kemp, Pleasantville School District Psychologist. (Photo by Honora Banks)

# Cancer Support Team Raises More Than \$300,000 at Mamaroneck Fundraiser

BY BILL DOESCHER

Cancer Support Team (CST) of Purchase raised more than \$300,000 at its recent fundraising event at Hampshire Country Club while honoring two individuals whose lives and service have made a lasting impact on the organization and the cancer community.

CST Executive Director Tania Weiss confirmed the fundraising total from the evening, which drew



more than 200 supporters from across Westchester County and beyond.

Honored during the event were Rupert Walters, a dedicated CST board member for more than 40 years and former Board Chair, and Dr. T. Peter Kingham of Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, an internationally recognized cancer surgeon and researcher. Walters received the Barbara Melmed Memorial Award, while Dr. Kingham received the Wald-Lee Vision Award.

The evening carried special meaning for both honorees. Walters' late son, Adrian Walters, and Dr. Kingham were childhood friends who grew up together in the Larchmont/Mamaroneck area. Adrian passed away from cancer in 2010 at the age of 37, making the recognition especially poignant for both families.

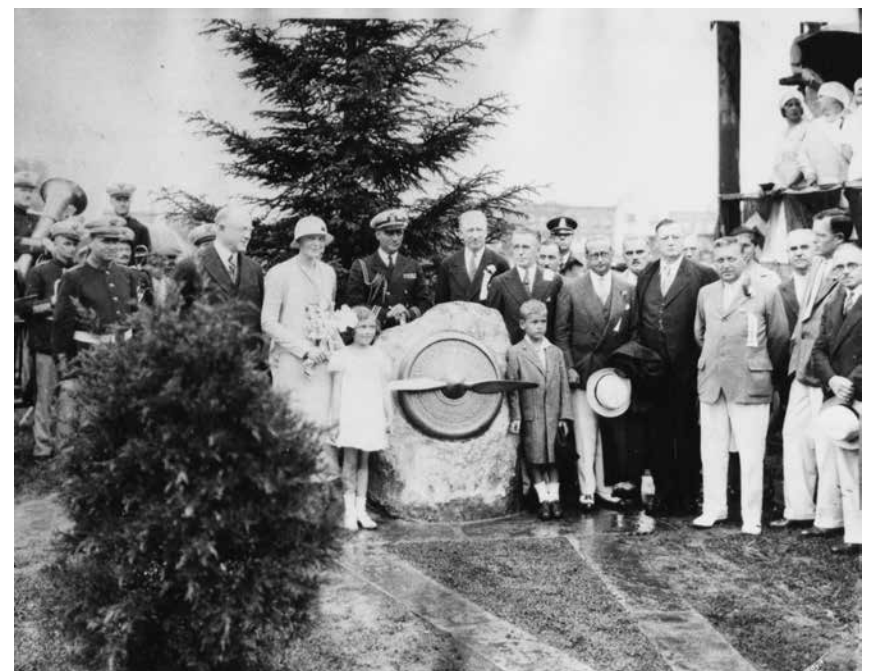
Walters' connection to Cancer Support Team dates back to the organization's early years. In 1986, CST co-founder Gayle Lee approached him with a simple request: "CST needs a businessman on the Board." Walters joined as Treasurer and remained deeply involved with the organization for decades, serving most recently as Board Chair from 2023 to 2025. His guiding philosophy throughout his life and service has been: "Make things better."

Dr. Kingham earned his undergraduate degree from Yale University and his medical degree from SUNY Stony Brook. He completed his general surgery residency at New York University and has served since 2015 as Director of the Global Cancer Research and Training Program at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center. Promoted to Professor in 2022, Dr. Kingham's work focuses on improving cancer care in low- and middle-income countries. He serves as co-principal investigator on multiple prospective studies in Nigeria and has authored more than 420 peer-reviewed publications and 18 book chapters.

The evening also highlighted the broad community support behind Cancer Support Team's mission. Westchester County Legislators Nancy Barr and Anant Nambiar were on hand to offer proclamations to both honorees. Guests throughout the evening spoke passionately about CST's work supporting individuals and families facing cancer. Cancer Support Team provides free professional support services to anyone affected by cancer in Westchester County.

Author Presents New Biography *The Aviator and the Showman* at the Harrison Public Library

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Amelia Earhart.

She set altitude records, speed records, distance records. She flew alone across the Pacific. She became the face of a new kind of American woman — fearless, self-invented, unwilling to be contained.

Shapiro's book traces the partnership between Earhart and Putnam - the aviator and the showman - and the complicated machinery of fame that made Amelia a legend. It is a biography, but it reads like a thriller about ambition, image, and the price of becoming an icon.

Shapiro will be at the Harrison Public Library on Monday, July 28 at 7 p.m. for a free public program as the Library's 2026 Summer Reading Ambassador. The event is part of HPL's Summer Reading Program, themed "Unearth a Story" — and for Harrison, this summer, the story has been here all along.

Registration is at [www.harrisonpl.org](http://www.harrisonpl.org). And when you drive down Locust Avenue on your way home, slow down at Amelia Earhart Lane. Now you know what it means.

Harrison Public Library Summer Reading Program: June 1–August 7 [www.harrisonpl.org](http://www.harrisonpl.org)

Photo credit: Westchester County Archive

# Before You Ask AI for Estate Planning Advice: Understand the Risks

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

Artificial intelligence (AI) has quickly become a popular tool for answering questions about everything from travel planning to home repairs. It is not surprising that many people are now turning to AI platforms for guidance on wills, trusts, powers of attorney, and other estate planning matters. While AI can be a useful starting point for learning basic concepts, relying on it for estate planning advice can create significant and costly mistakes.

Estate planning is not simply about filling out forms. It involves understanding complex legal rules, family dynamics, tax considerations, and state-specific laws. An AI program cannot fully evaluate a person's unique circumstances, and even when it provides information that sounds authoritative, that information may be incomplete, outdated, or simply wrong.

One common problem is that AI often provides generalized answers that do not account for state law. Estate planning laws vary considerably from one state to another. For example, the requirements for

executing a valid will differ across jurisdictions. Some states require witnesses, some recognize handwritten wills under certain circumstances, and others do not. An individual who follows AI-generated instructions based on another state's laws may end up with documents that are invalid or vulnerable to challenge.

Consider the case of a widow who asks an AI program whether she can simply add her daughter as a joint owner on all of her accounts to avoid probate. The AI may explain that joint ownership can transfer assets automatically upon death. While technically true, the answer may overlook important consequences. Adding a child as a joint owner can expose assets to that child's creditors, divorce proceedings, or cause unintended tax consequence. It may also create family disputes if other children were intended to share equally in the estate. A qualified estate planning attorney would identify these risks and explore alternatives.

Another danger is the false sense of certainty that AI can create. Many AI responses are written in a confident tone, even when the information is inaccurate. Estate planning often involves exceptions, special rules, and fact-specific analysis. For example, a parent of a child with dis-

abilities may ask AI whether leaving assets directly to the child is appropriate. An AI system may suggest a simple bequest in a will. However, such a gift could jeopardize the child's eligibility for important government benefits such as Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or Medicaid. In many situations, a properly drafted supplemental needs trust may be necessary to preserve those benefits. A seemingly small mistake could have devastating financial consequences.

Tax issues present another area of concern. While federal estate tax exemptions currently protect most families from federal estate tax liability, many people assume that means taxes are irrelevant. AI-generated advice may fail to address state estate taxes, inheritance taxes, income tax consequences, capital gains issues, or generation-skipping transfer tax concerns. A poorly planned transfer could result in unnecessary taxes that significantly reduce what beneficiaries ultimately receive.

AI also struggles to evaluate family dynamics and personal goals. Estate planning is not merely a legal exercise; it is a process of understanding what matters most to an individual and their family. For example, a blended family may require careful planning to balance the interests of a surviving

spouse and children from a prior marriage. An AI tool may suggest a simple will that leaves everything to the spouse, without recognizing the risk that the children could ultimately be disinherited. Human judgment and thoughtful counseling are often essential to achieving a client's objectives.

Errors in beneficiary designations provide another example. Many assets, including retirement accounts and life insurance policies, pass according to beneficiary designations rather than a will. Someone relying on AI may spend considerable time drafting documents while overlooking outdated beneficiary forms. As a result, assets could pass to an ex-spouse, deceased beneficiary, or unintended recipient. An experienced estate planning attorney typically reviews the entire estate plan to identify these issues.

Privacy is another consideration. Many people share sensitive personal and financial information when seeking estate planning guidance. Depending on the platform being used, that information may not be protected by attorney-client privilege. Conversations with AI systems do not receive the same legal confidentiality protections that apply when communicating with an attorney.

None of this means AI has no place in estate planning. It can be a useful educational tool for learning terminology, understanding general concepts, and preparing questions to discuss with an attorney. However, it should not be viewed as a substitute for individualized legal advice.

Estate planning decisions can affect a family for generations. A document that appears correct on its face may contain flaws that are not discovered until after a person's death or incapacity, when it is too late to make corrections. The cost of fixing those mistakes often far exceeds the cost of obtaining professional guidance in the first place.

When it comes to protecting your loved ones, preserving your assets, and ensuring your wishes are carried out, AI can help you become informed. It should not be the final authority. Estate planning remains an area where personalized legal advice, professional judgment, and careful attention to individual circumstances are indispensable.

*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). Krooks may be reached at (914-684-2100) or by visiting the firm's website at [www.littmankrooks.com](http://www.littmankrooks.com).*

## Table Hopping with Morris Gut: Winging It!

Like finger foods? Here is a short list of spots where good plump chicken wings fly out of the kitchen in a variety of flavors...

### BEECHMONT TAVERN, NEW ROCHELLE

I like vintage pubs and taverns. They have so many stories to tell. They are a living history of the communities they serve often filled with nostalgia and memorabilia. Also enjoy a good pour from the bar, hearty finger foods, wings, big juicy burgers and fries. Recently got back to the Beechmont, across from IONA University. It has been around since 1928, they say, and proprietor Rob Hayes, a former IONA student, has had it since 2018. He has been upgrading the premises and has added more TVs for your sporting enjoyment. And the wings coming out of this kitchen are legendary. [www.beechmont-tavern.com](http://www.beechmont-tavern.com)

### JACK'S BAR & RESTAURANT, EASTCHESTER

Always finding more ways to enjoy Jack's. I sometimes like to sit at the wood-fired pizza station along the bar and watch Hermosinda, their intrepid and talented 'pizzaioli' do her work. The pizzas coming out of that oven are wonderful and rival

anyone in Westchester. I also discovered Jack's wood-fired chicken wings, roasted in that oven right in front of you. They are meaty, moist and super flavorful. Of course, their regular menu of elevated tavern specialties is also available. [www.jackseastchester.com](http://www.jackseastchester.com)

### TUCK'D AWAY, TUCKAHOE

Michael Cuozzo operates a friendly tavern on Yonkers Ave. that offers delightful comfort foods and reasonably priced Happy Hours. Tuck'd Away Wings fly out of the kitchen here in a variety of styles: Buffalo-style, BBQ, spicy peanut, Thai chili, Tequila lime, teriyaki, honey chipotle, sweet jerk, garlic parmesan, or plain fried. There are salads, burgers and assorted main courses. Special promo days throughout the week. [www.tuckedaway90.com](http://www.tuckedaway90.com)

### THE CANDELITE INN, SCARSDALE

The ongoing debate about who serves the 'best chicken wings' rages in all corners of the Hudson Valley to say the least, but when it comes to taste and popularity, the long-running Candlelight Inn operating since 1955 out of a vintage free standing red wood tavern on Central Park Ave.



in Scarsdale, always shows up among the finalists. I can see where their legendary status comes from. The wings are served attached, the flats and drumsticks spread out with all the fixings on the side. Easy to pull apart, dip in the sauce, and chomp away. Plump, meaty and crisp. [www.candlelightwings.com](http://www.candlelightwings.com)

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

# Rye High School Seniors Commit to Playing Sports in College

An outstanding group of 33 student-athletes from Rye High School committed to continue their athletic journeys at the collegiate level during a special letter of intent signing ceremony. Surrounded by administrators, teachers, family and teammates, the students were recognized for their dedication to athletics and academics.

"These commitments are a testament to all of the hard work they've put into their craft as well as the families, friends and coaches who have supported them every step of the way," Principal Andrew Hara said. "A huge shoutout to our award-winning Athletic Director Susan Reid who has steadily grown Rye athletics into the incredible program that it is across all sports."

Congratulations to the following students:

- Nicholas Bucalo – Holy Cross – Rowing.
- Lex Cox – University of Chicago – Soccer.
- Ryan Crozier – MIT – Rowing.
- Charlie Garnett – University of Chicago – Football.
- Lieve Geelen – Tulane University – Swimming.
- Hunter Gillies – University of Mary Washington – Rugby.
- Phoebe Greto – Denison University – Basketball.
- Henry Groves – Middlebury College – Tennis.
- Coco Guven – Barnard College of Columbia University – Fencing.
- Chloe Holden – Hamilton College – Field Hockey.
- Mia Howson – University of Vermont – Lacrosse.
- Alexandra Huen – Boston University – Synchronized Skating.
- Nolan Hutson – Le Moyne College – Baseball.
- Tessa Labovitz – Emory University – Soccer.
- Jack Levine – Cornell University – Lacrosse.
- Issy Mann – Washington & Lee University – Field Hockey.
- Carson Miller – Harvard University – Lacrosse.
- Gabriela Moreno Chavez – U.C. Berkeley – Rowing.
- Clare Nemsick – Bucknell University – Soccer and Lacrosse.
- Jackson Pineault – Radford University – Baseball.
- Nicholas Sellar – Tufts University – Rowing.
- Milo Shirakawa – Bard College – Basketball.
- Henry Shoemaker – Harvard University – Football.
- Carsten Steinmann – Fairfield University – Rugby.
- Ben Stigliano – Fairfield University – Rugby.
- Nigel Strazzini – Harvard University – Lacrosse.
- Sam Surak – Cornell University – Rugby.
- Paige Tepedino – University of Southern California – Lacrosse.
- Annie Toulouse – Georgetown University – Lacrosse.
- Ben Truman – Middlebury College – Cross-Country and Track and Field.
- Beau Whaling – Duke University – Lacrosse.
- Owen Wismer – University of St. Andrews – Soccer.
- Alex Wood – Washington & Lee University – Lacrosse.

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# Harrison Herald

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www.scarsdalesentinel.com
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www.westchester-women.com

# Calendar of Events



## NYS Senate's Free Summer Reading Program "Unearth A Story"

Through Friday, August 21

Summer is the perfect time for children to explore new worlds, spark their imaginations, and strengthen their reading skills. The New York State Senate's free summer reading program, "Unearth A Story," encourages children of all ages to read for fun and discovery all summer long. To partici-

partate, register at <https://www.nysenate.gov/nyread>. Students who submit their completed reading form by August 21, 2026 will receive an official certificate recognizing their dedication and achievement.

## ARTSWESTCHESTER FAMILY ARTS BASH SATURDAYS

### ArtsWestchester Family Arts Bash

Saturday, July 11, noon to 2pm

ArtsWestchester, 31 Mamaroneck Ave., White Plains in the Peckham Gallery

Learn, play and grow with ArtsWestchester! Kids ages 5-12 are invited to explore ArtsWestchester's gallery with fun, hands-on activities, offered once a month while an exhibition is on view. Ju-

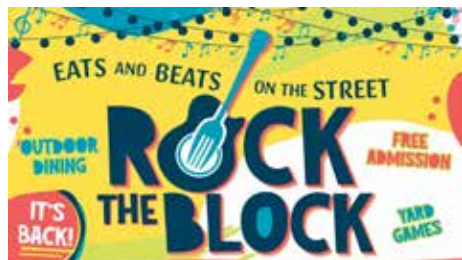
ly's activities are: Puffy Paint Ice Cream: Celebrate the summer with this fun activity that combines color and texture for a colorful three-dimensional look, and Watercolor Ocean Creatures: Use watercolors on unconventional canvases to make a unique ocean creature. Visit [artsw.org](http://artsw.org) to register for free.

### Hispanic Heritage Festival at Kensico Dam Plaza

Sunday, July 12, noon to 6pm

Kensico Dam Plaza, 1 Bronx River Parkway, Valhalla

This high-energy, family-friendly celebration honors the rich and diverse traditions of Hispanic communities from around the globe – and everyone is invited to join the fiesta.



### Free Summer Concert Series "Rock the Block"

Downtown White Plains: Wednesdays: July 15, and August 19

Now in its third consecutive year, the series features concerts on the third Wednesday of each month through August, bringing the community together and supporting local businesses. Visit [www.wpbid.com/rocktheblock](http://www.wpbid.com/rocktheblock)

### Free Concert in the Park Featuring Naturally 7

Wednesday, July 15

Come hear the group that Quincy Jones called "The Best A Capella Group in the World." Free and open to the public. Food trucks on site; beer, wine, and hard seltzers available. Free parking at Harbor Island Park after 4:30 p.m. on concert days. Wednesday, July 15, 7 p.m. at Lanza Field in Harbor Island Park, 90 West Boston Post Rd. (at intersection of Mamaroneck Ave.), Mamaroneck.



### New York State United – 2026 World Cup Watch Experience

Sunday, July 19

Be a part of the excitement at the accessible, family-friendly New York State World Cup community viewing event taking place at Kensico Dam Plaza. Watch a live match broadcast on giant screens, test your skills with interactive soccer and fan experiences, snap a unique photo, and enjoy free giveaways and entertainment plus delicious local food and beverages. This is a free event! Doors open at noon. Family-friendly activities take place from noon - 3 p.m., and the match kicks off at 3 p.m. Kensico Dam Plaza, 1 Bronx River Parkway, Valhalla.



### Harrison Recreation Celebrates America's 250th

Wednesday, July 1

Celebrate the 250th anniversary of our nation in downtown Harrison with special edition fireworks, live music, and live entertainment! Ice cream and food trucks will be on site. Beginning at 7 p.m., Oakland Ave.,

downtown Harrison.

**Celebrate America's 250th birthday at Playland Park** with a full day of classic rides, family fun and one of Westchester's most anticipated summer traditions, Fourth of July fireworks at Playland. Fireworks begins at 9 p.m. Visitors are encouraged to purchase ride wristbands and parking in advance of the holiday for a seamless entry and more time to enjoy the park. Both are available to purchase at [playlandpark.org](http://playlandpark.org). The excitement continues all summer long, with Playland's popular Friday Night Fireworks, which begin Friday, July 10 and continue weekly through Sept. 4. Firework displays begin at 9 p.m. For Playland's full schedule, hours, tickets and season passes, visit [playlandpark.org](http://playlandpark.org). Playland Amusement Park is at 1 Playland Parkway, Rye.



### Caramoor Center for Music and the Arts American Roots, Jazz, and Global Music

Through August 1

Part of Caramoor's 2026 Summer Season of over thirty performances, these concerts underscore the musical diversity Caramoor embraces in its programming, highlighting the creativity of artists across genres. Caramoor, once the estate of music and art lovers Walter and Lucie Rosen, is one of

the region's most distinctive destinations for live performance, cultural engagement, and exploration. The Summer Season immerses the entire estate in music, with performances happening in five distinct settings – the Venetian Theater, Spanish Courtyard, Friends Field, Sunken Garden, and the Music Room. These include: July 3 at 7:30pm – Louis Armstrong Hot Five Centennial Celebration; July 9 at 7:30pm – Ricardo Lemvo & Makina Loca; July 11 at 7:30pm – Patty Griffin; July 18 at 7:30pm – Punch Brothers; July 23 at 7:30pm – Yuja Wang, piano and People of Earth; July 25 from 12:30 to 9pm – Caramoor Jazz Festival; July 31 at 7:30pm – Ruckus: The Edinburgh Rollick; and August 1 at 7:30pm – Bruce Hornsby & The Noisemakers. For more information on Dining at Caramoor and to pre-order picnics, visit [caramoor.org/visit-us/amenities](http://caramoor.org/visit-us/amenities). For Caramoor's complete schedule: [caramoor.org/events](http://caramoor.org/events). Concert tickets are available for purchase online at [caramoor.org](http://caramoor.org); by phone at 914.232.1252 Tuesdays through Fridays from 10am-4pm; and on site from the Box Office two hours before each performance. Caramoor is located at 149 Girdle Ridge Road, Katonah.



Visitors of all ages are invited to explore the beauty and diversity of the plant world through A Plant Story: From Fern to Flower, a new exhibit now on view at Lasdon Public Gardens' Glass House Conservatory. This immersive exhibit features a curated collection of botanical photography paired with easy-to-follow interpretive displays that showcase the fascinating variety of plant life — from ancient ferns and vibrant flowering species to towering trees. Guests can discover how plants grow, adapt and thrive while surrounded by living specimens inside the conservatory's peaceful environment. Designed for plant enthusiasts and casual visitors alike, the exhibit encourages guests to wander at their own pace, learn something new and enjoy a quiet moment immersed in nature. Admission to the exhibit is free. A Plant Story: From Fern to Flower is open

to the public through August 31. Hours are daily from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Lasdon Public Gardens is located at 2610 NY Route 35 in Katonah.

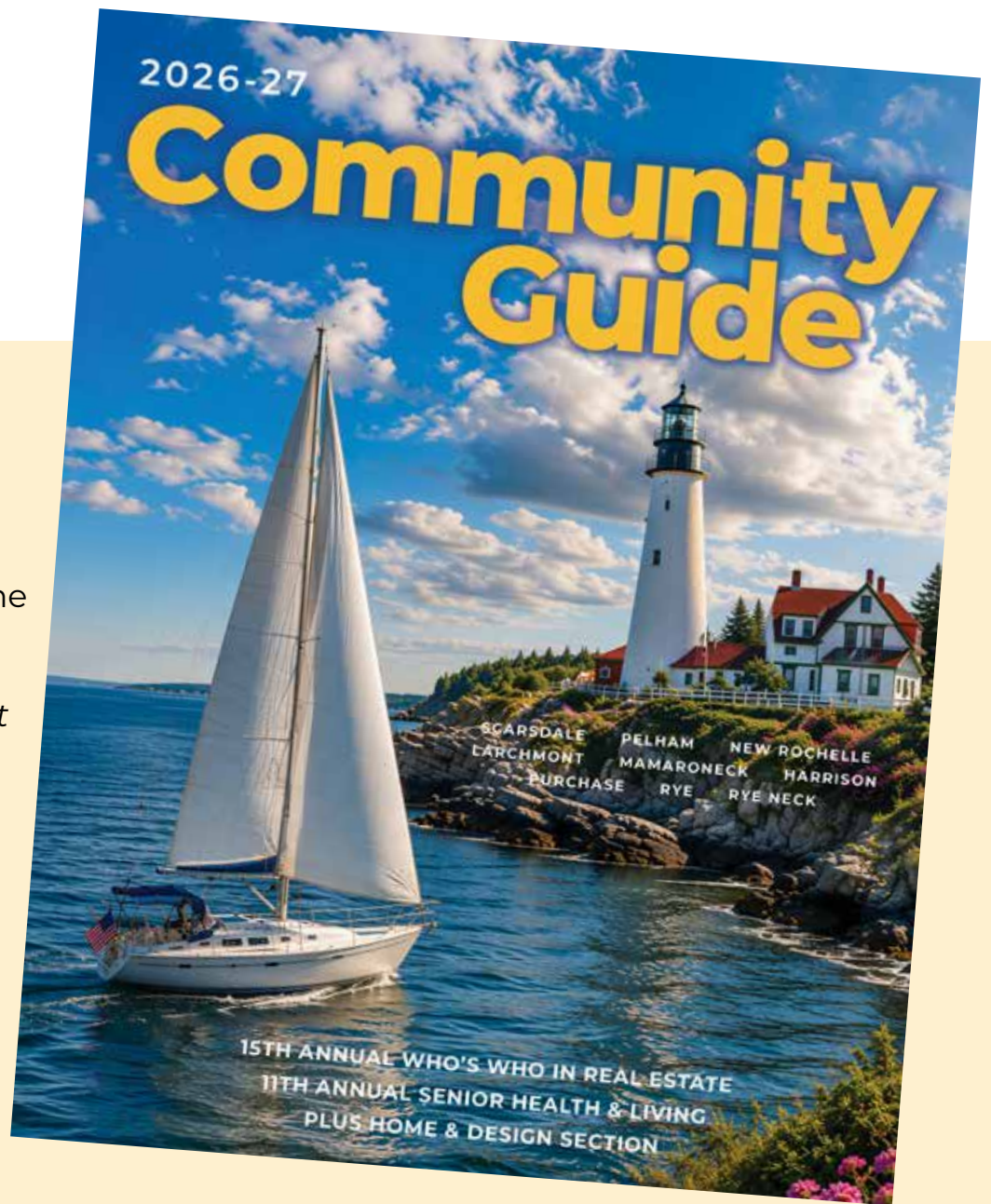


## The Ultimate Guide for Your Community!

The Annual Community Guide is mailed in the October issues of the *Scarsdale Sentinel*, *Harrison Herald*, *Larchmont Ledger*, *New Rochelle Review*, and *The Pelham Post*

**ALL ADS/MATERIAL  
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### FEATURES

#### 15th Annual Who's Who in Real Estate

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  - 11th Annual Senior Living & Lifestyle Section
  - School & Student Activities

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