

Scarsdale Sentinel

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Scarsdale Village Board Approves Budget



BY NANCY COVENY

The Scarsdale Village Board of Trustees unanimously passed the 2025-26 budget at its April 22, meeting. The village tax rate will increase 2.39 percent, an annual increase of approximately \$203.25 per household. The \$72 million budget includes funds for capital improvements, such as road paving, stormwater management and upgrades to computer safety technology. Improvements to

recreation areas Winston Field and the Crossway Complex include six new pickleball courts, improved parking and the installation of artificial turf. The water fund will have a 3.1 percent rate increase, effective June 1, 2025.

"A modest tax increase is necessary to continue to provide high quality services," noted Deputy Mayor Dara Grunberg. "We are focusing on long-term planning for the Scarsdale pool complex

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Scarsdale Celebrates Civic Spirit at 2025 Bowl Dinner

Scarsdale's tradition of honoring volunteerism and community service shined brightly at the 2025 Scarsdale Bowl Dinner, held on April 24th at the Mamaroneck Beach and Yacht Club. Chaired by Cynthia and Marc Samwick (former Mayor of Scarsdale), the evening gathered community members, volunteers, and distinguished guests to celebrate what makes Scarsdale extraordinary — the people who give their time, energy, and heart to enrich the village.

The event welcomed several elected officials, including Congressman George Latimer (D-NY), New York State Senator Shelley B. Mayer, New York State Assemblymember Amy Paulin, and Westchester County Legislator Ben Boykin, along with Scarsdale's Village Mayor and Trustees.

The evening began with a warm welcome from the Samwicks, followed by



Andrew Sereysky and Jill Serling

a beautiful performance from "The Joy of Singing." Anne Lyons, President of the Scarsdale Foundation, spoke about the Foundation's nearly century-long commitment to supporting the community through scholarships, grants, and service awards.

The 2025 Spotlight Award was presented to the Scarsdale Adult School

for its dedication to fostering lifelong learning. Accepting the award was Executive Director Jill Serling, who highlighted the school's enduring mission to connect the community through education and enrichment.

The highlight of the evening was the presentation of the prestigious Scarsdale Bowl to Andrew Sereysky, a beloved figure in Scarsdale known for his decades of volunteerism, leadership, and neighborly

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From Despair to Hope: Conquering Peripheral Neuropathy

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

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

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

Frankie M. of Rye testified to this: “I remember my husband driving me to my consultation and I saw a woman running just outside our neighborhood. I was so envious- I

just kept thinking ‘I would give anything just to walk again.’ My primary care doctor told me my troubles with pain and balance were just symptoms of old age and gave me a prescription. I was so depressed.”

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

“Almost all of our patients come to us with a story similar to Frankie’s. They’ve been everywhere else. They’ve been told there’s no hope. They’ve been told it’s ‘just part of getting older,’” shares Jeinny, a Patient Care Technician at White Plains Acupuncture. “It just breaks my heart, but I know how much we can help people like Frankie, so I’m always so happy when they walk through our door.”

Peripheral neuropathy is a result of damage to the nerves, often caused by (and always compounded by) a lack of blood flow in the hands and feet. This lack of blood flow results in a lack of nutrients, and the nerves begin to degenerate and die. This causes pain and other sensations ranging from

uncomfortable to debilitating. Because neuropathy is a degenerative condition, once those nerves begin to deteriorate they will continue to do so until they are completely expired, leaving those suffering with crippling balance issues. “In this case, the absence of pain is not necessarily a good thing,” shares Ginnette Diaz. “This usually indicates that your nerves are hanging on by a fragile thread.”

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

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

“I just can’t say enough about White Plains Acupuncture,” Frankie shares through tears of joy. “My husband and I moved here 3 years ago and he’s gone to the beach almost every day. I always stayed home because of the pain and discomfort. But yesterday, I walked on the beach with him! And next week we’re starting dancing lessons. I am truly living life these days.” “According to Frankie’s test

results, she has seen a 74% improvement in pain and functionality, which is on par with a majority of our patients,” shares Jeinny. “But more important than those test results is the joy she’s expressed in being here, and getting to hear about all the amazing things she’s able to do because she feels great!”

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

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

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

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



Junior League of Central Westchester Hosts Successful Casino Royale Event to Fund Community Projects

The Junior League of Central Westchester (JLCW) held its highly anticipated Big Night Out Casino Royale fundraising event on April 4th at the stunning Mansion on Broadway, a beautiful venue that provided the perfect backdrop for a night filled with glamour, excitement, and philanthropy.

The evening kicked off with a warm welcome from JLCW members and supporters, all gathered in anticipation of a fun-filled night of entertainment. The JLCW was honored to have Scarsdale Mayor Justin Arest, Deputy Mayor Dara Gruenberg, Village Manager Alexandra Marshall and Assemblywoman Amy Paulin as honored guests at the event. Attendees were treated to a variety of exciting casino games, including blackjack, poker, roulette, and craps, all in the spirit of raising funds to support the league's ongoing community projects. Whether they were seasoned gamblers or first-time players, everyone enjoyed the thrill of the games, all while supporting an important cause.

One of the highlights of the evening was the silent auction, which featured an



From left to right, Junior League of Central Westchester officers: Mariette Moore (VP for Fund Development), Kassandra Brenton (Casino Royale Committee Chair), Ali Park (President)

array of exclusive and sought-after items, including vacation packages, fine dining experiences, and unique art pieces. The auction was a huge success, with attendees bidding generously on their favorite items, knowing that their contributions

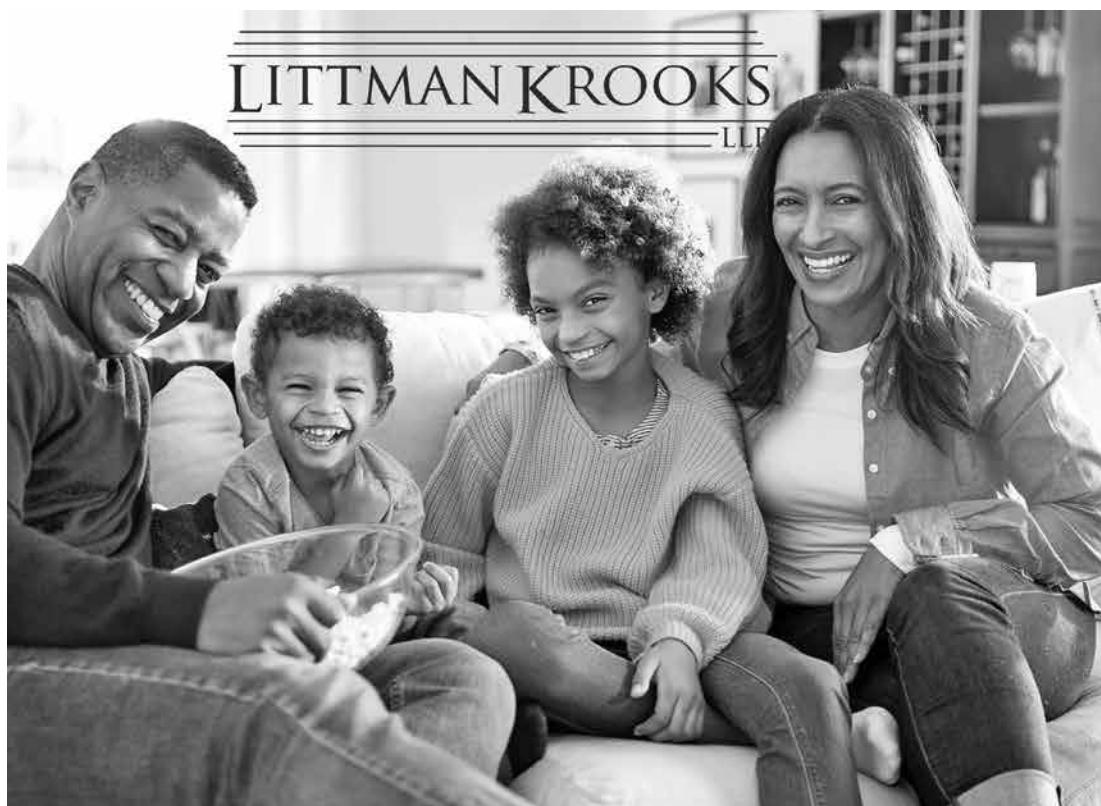
would directly impact the JLCW's ability to fund and execute its community-based initiatives.

The event was not only about raising money—it was also about bringing people together to celebrate the mission of the

Junior League of Central Westchester, which is dedicated to promoting volunteerism, developing the potential of women, and improving communities through effective action and leadership. Thanks to the support of local businesses, individual donors, and the tireless efforts of JLCW members, the Casino Royale event raised significant funds that will go toward supporting the league's numerous community programs aimed at empowering individuals and strengthening the community.

"We are so grateful for the incredible support we received at this year's Casino Royale event," said Ali Park, President of the Junior League of Central Westchester. "The funds raised will allow us to continue our important work in the community and make a lasting impact on the lives of those we serve. A huge thank you to everyone who attended, donated, and made this event a success!"

To learn more about the Junior League of Central Westchester and how you can get involved, visit our website at <https://centralwestchester.jl.org/> or follow us on social media for updates on upcoming events and initiatives.



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League of Women Voters of Scarsdale Statement on the 2025-26 School Budget

The League of Women Voters of Scarsdale (the “League”) thanks the members of the Board of Education (the “School Board”) and District Administration (the “Administration”)¹ for participating in the League’s March 17, 2025 General Membership Meeting and School Budget Information Session and addressing questions on the Draft Proposed 2025-26 Scarsdale School District Budget as of March 10, 2025 (the “Budget”)².

The following statement reflects the consensus of League members at a Consensus Meeting held immediately following the Information Session.

Position -- The League supports the Proposed 2025-26 Scarsdale School District Budget with the comments made below, and recommends that, barring any significant revisions inconsistent with our comments before its adoption by the School Board, the community vote “YES” to approve the final proposed Budget on May 20, 2025, at Scarsdale Middle School.

The League offers its comments and recommendations regarding certain budgetary items as well as the budget process, with the hope that these will be considered as the 2025-26 Budget is revised and finalized and in planning future budgets.

Budget Overview and Noteworthy Features -- The proposed Budget is \$191,504,833, with a budget-to-budget increase of 3.55% and a tax levy growth of 3.40%. The estimated tax rate increase for Scarsdale homeowners will be 1.77%, and the estimated tax rate decrease for Mamaroneck residents will be -0.23%. This budget is exactly at the tax cap.³

General Comments -- The League acknowledges, with appreciation, the substantial time and effort that goes into developing the proposed Budget and thanks the Administration and School Board for

their additional effort spent preparing for the League’s March 17, 2025, Information Session and for responding recently to our questions posed at the November 18, 2024, budget forum⁴. On March 10, 2025, the League also submitted an Information Session Agenda re Proposed School Budget FY 2025-26, which consisted of a number of questions related to the Budget⁵. The League held a consensus meeting immediately following the Information Session.

The League notes that when formulating this consensus statement, it can consider only information it has received up until the time it holds its consensus meeting and regrets that it did not have written responses to the LWVS Information Session Agenda to facilitate discussion. However, the League appreciates that the Administration continues to include League budget questions and Administration responses on the District website as a public resource.

Budget Proposals and Tax Cap -- The League supports budgeting to a student-centered program and not to the state-imposed tax cap. After the Administration disclosed its organically and authentically-developed first draft of the budget on February 3, 2025, it cut approximately \$2 million (through reduced expenses and additional revenues) to arrive at the current Budget, which is at the tax cap. The League appreciates the District’s concern that, after having passed a budget over the tax levy limit last year, the community may not support a budget over the tax cap two years in a row. The League also appreciates the District’s efforts to prioritize those expenditures that have the greatest impact on students in the current Budget.

Use of Fund Balance and Health Care
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In Memoriam, Merrell Mays Clark, 90

Merrell Mays Clark, 90, passed away peacefully, surrounded by his beloved family in Scarsdale on April 4, 2025.

Merrell Mays Clark was born in Clifton Springs, New York on February 8, 1935, to Rev. Arthur T. Clark and Ruthanna (Anderson) Clark. Merrell spent much of his youth in Evanston, Illinois, then graduated from high school in Rock Island, Illinois. Merrell was the youngest of three siblings. Hartley, his older brother, and Joanna, his older sister, were both strong influences in his life and he often expressed his love for them. Merrell was the son of a Presbyterian minister, and his spirituality was paramount to his outlook on life.

Merrell graduated from Yale University in 1957 with a bachelor’s degree in English. He met his future wife, and love of his life, Lynne Butcher, at a conference on religion in 1956 and it was love at first sight. They got engaged two weeks later and were married on June 14, 1957, immediately following graduation.

Merrell then completed a Master of Arts in Religion at Yale Divinity School in 1959. He participated in numerous student groups during his time there and he remained dedicated to the Yale community throughout his life, as he served as President & Chair of the Yale Westchester Alumni Association for 15 years, developed mentorship opportunities for other alumni, interviewed Westchester area applicants, and maintained lifelong friendships with classmates and fellow alumni of all ages.

After his studies, he pursued a career in marketing and consulting. He served as VP Management Supervisor at SSC&B Advertising for 10 years, and then as Principal at Knight, Gladieux and Smith Advertising before shifting his focus to the non-profit world where he could tap into his heart of service. He served as president for the Institutes for Religion and Health, and Vice President for the Edna McConnell Clark Foundation. He later served in a variety of consultant roles at various foundations.

He formed two of his own companies: The Clark Company, providing marketing and accounting services, and Elderworks, a non-profit dedicated to utilizing the gifts and talents of the elderly in the workforce

and in the community at large. He later poured himself into supporting and assisting his wife Lynne, a major residential realtor in Westchester county, as accountant, marketing advisor and sales support.

Merrell was deeply invested in his Scarsdale community and served on the board of numerous local organizations, including Scarsdale Forum, Scarsdale Community Center, Scarsdale Adult School, Westchester Arts Council, United Way of Scarsdale-Edgemont, Greenacres Association, and Scarsdale Foundation.

Merrell was an extraordinary musician. He played piano by sight and by ear and took any occasion to gather people around the piano to sing. Music and song followed him everywhere and flowed from him effortlessly. He loved singing in the choir at Hitchcock Presbyterian Church in Scarsdale where he was an active and devoted member for 62 years.

He served Hitchcock Presbyterian Church in many ways. He led a successful men’s group for many years, he was instrumental in the building of the chapel, the columbarium, and the Memorial Wall, as well as establishing the Memorial Fund. He and his wife led the centennial celebration, and he filled the pulpit many times. He served in the leadership of the church as both Deacon and Elder.

Merrell Mays Clark is survived by his wife Lynne Clark, his daughters, Lisa Clark Jenks (Steve Jenks), Aimee Clark Peterson (Matthew Peterson) and Catherine Merrell Clark (Antonio Seda); his grandchildren, Sarah Jenks Brajtburg (Jonathan Brajtburg), William Pearson Jenks, Catherine Jenks Berro (Travis Berro), Aimee Lynne Peterson, Charles Graham Peterson, Cole Clark Peterson, Camille Rosin Seda, Eloise Merrell Seda and Oliver Clark Seda; his great grandchildren, Marshall, Annabelle & Hazel Brajtburg and Rangeley Berro.

In Lieu of flowers, donations may be made online to: Hitchcock Presbyterian Church Community Music Fund in Memory of Merrell Clark. Checks can be made directly to Hitchcock Presbyterian Church. Memo: Community Music Fund in Memory of Merrell Clark and mailed to Hitchcock Presbyterian Church, 6 Greenacres Ave., Scarsdale NY 10583.



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League of Women Voters of Scarsdale Statement on the 2025-26 School Budget

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Reserves -- The League notes that both fund balance and health care reserves have declined for the last five budget cycles, while health claims have simultaneously risen. The League has serious concerns about the continued unsustainable use of and reliance upon the fund balance to offset the following year's tax levy. As the League has previously stated, the relatively low level of the fund balance could negatively impact the District's credit rating, create cash flow challenges, and leave the District unable to address unanticipated expenses.

The League commends the District for discussing publicly the benefits and costs of a self-insured versus a fully-funded health care plan, for explaining why the self-insured plan is still the best option for the District, and for providing a claim projection analysis from the District's healthcare consultant. The League appreciates the District's public explanation of its regularly scheduled internal review process, via the Health Advisory Committee, to determine if the self-insured plan remains the best financial decision for the District.

The League, however, is seriously concerned about the District's trend of depleting its health care reserves, and believes that it reflects, in part, the District's underestimation of the increase in health care expenses happening throughout the region, not just in Scarsdale. The League questions whether the District has accurately projected future health care costs, and accordingly, whether it has budgeted sufficiently to cover spikes in such expenses.

Long Range Financial Plan -- The League commends the District for developing a Long Range Financial Plan and looks forward to seeing how the District uses it to plan for challenges and find solutions to a variety of issues facing the District, including those related to revenue shortfalls, excess expenses, the tax cap, program changes and expansions, unexpected events, and high inflation, in a financially sound way.

Program Drivers and Curriculum -- The League commends the Administration for identifying scheduling efficiencies, and for finding ways to make personnel reductions that do not impact the student experience⁶.

The League further commends the Administration for having an open discussion about the elementary class size policy this budget season and notes the Administration's ultimate decision to maintain the current class size practice. For future budgets, the League encourag-

es the Administration to explore the pros and cons, both budgetary and educational, of maintaining versus exceeding the elementary class size practice.

The League appreciates the extensive course offerings at the high school and encourages the Administration regularly to review the electives to meet students' interests and add or delete electives as applicable. The League encourages the District to be more transparent about how such decisions are made, including having a public discussion of student enrollment threshold, allocation of staffing, and financial responsibility for taking a class that is included in the high school course catalog. The League encourages the District to review the curricula and programming of comparable districts to ensure that the District is following best practices in its own programs and opportunities.

Athletics -- The League commends the Administration for publicly discussing the issue of sanctioned versus non-sanctioned sports and for being transparent about what sports programs it funds and why.

Special Education -- The League has consistently stressed the importance of supporting special education students in Scarsdale throughout the significant rise in the number of classified students over the past 10 years. The League commends the District for: (1) funding the addition of two special education positions so that it can continue to expand the existing continuum of special education services as students served under those models age up through the middle school and high school; (2) the District's continued efforts to keep special education students in District, recognizing both the educational and budgetary benefits of doing so; and (3) the District's initiative and efforts to enroll paying out-of-District students in available spots in our special education programs to help offset program costs.

DEIB -- The League commends the District for continuing to focus on issues of belonging and inclusion in the curriculum, even though the District no longer works with a consultant, and encourages the District to ensure that belonging and inclusion remain areas of consideration across the Scarsdale schools.

Plant and Capital Improvements -- The League commends the District for partnering with the Village in a holistic review of the District's fields (including the needs of the high school teams), and for developing a longer range cohesive plan to improve the fields and their usage. The League encourages the District

to engage in a public discussion about how equitably to update all the elementary school playgrounds.

The League urges the District to keep aging facilities in mind as it budgets for the future. The League reiterates that, given that several of our schools were built over a century ago, thoughtful, proactive facilities planning and capital improvement are of utmost importance to ensure that District buildings and grounds support and enhance student learning, and are safe, sustainable, and flexible enough to support 21st-century innovation and future programs. The League encourages the District to continue discussions with the Village about storm water management.

Transportation -- The League commends the District for its timely and thorough plan to convert to an electric fleet as required by New York State mandate, for its transparent discussion of the various options for doing so, and for moving the plan forward by entering into an agreement with Highland Electric Fleet.

Future Bond -- The League commends the District for maintaining its practice of inviting all relevant stakeholders to be involved in the process of determining and developing the projects to be included in a future bond. The League looks forward to hearing updates about the bond and the work of the Bond Facilities Committee.

Budget Process/Community Engagement -- The League commends the Administration for providing a budgeting process that prioritized open communication, clarity, and transparency. This transparency allows the community to better understand the District's rationales and helps ensure a greater degree of confidence that the final budget represents the best balance between ad-

vancing the program and gaining taxpayer support.

The League thanks the School Board for creating opportunities for public input into the budget at various points in the development process and strongly encourages the School Board to continue to work to be proactive and transparent to ensure community trust in the School Board process.

The League thanks all members of the Administration and School Board for consideration of this statement. The League looks forward to the release of the final Budget iteration resulting from having considered community comments.

¹Hereinafter, the term "District" is intended to reference both the School Board and the Administration.

²Present at the March 17, 2025 LWVS Information Session: from the Administration, Dr. Drew Patrick, Mr. Andrew Lennon, Dr. Edgar McIntosh, Mr. Eric Rauschenbach, Ms. Meghan Troy, Ms. Jeannie Crowley, and Mr. William Yang; and from the School Board, Ms. Suzie Hahn, Mr. James Dugan, Ms. Amber Yusuf, and Ms. Leah Dembitzer.

³2025-26 Proposed Budget for the Fiscal Year Commencing July 1, 2025 as presented on March 10, 2025.

⁴LWVS School Budget Questions from the November 18, 2024 Budget Forum and District Responses

⁵LWVS Information Session Agenda re Proposed School Budget FY 2025-26

⁶The proposed Budget reflects a 7.5 FTE net decrease in the professional staff District-wide from the 2024-25 actual budget. This includes the addition of:

- 1.0 FTE Special Education (SMS 8:1:2)
- 1.0 FTE Special Education (SHS 12:1)
- 1.0 Contingency Position

It also includes the following reductions:

- 1.0 contingency position
- 1.0 Elementary (enrollment)
- 1.0 Elementary Coordinator (attrition)
- 0.4 K-12 Art (schedule efficiencies)
- 0.6 Secondary World Language (attrition)
- 0.5 HS Math
- 1.0 HS Technology Support (attrition)
- 2.0 Teaching (attrition - TBD)

Winter Parking Restrictions Lifted

Scarsdale's seasonal overnight parking restrictions are no longer in effect. As of April 1, residents and visitors may once again park on public streets and in Village-owned lots and garages between 2 AM and 6 AM. The restriction, in place annually from December 1 through March 31, helps facilitate snow removal and winter street maintenance.

New Office Space Designed by 7B Design at The Ronald McDonald House



Photo Credit: Nick Carter Photography

The Ronald McDonald House of the Greater Hudson Valley unveiled a beautifully transformed office space designed and executed by 7B Design, with support from leading brands and the design community. The project was made possible through a partnership facilitated by Do Some Good, a communications firm that builds impactful collaborations between non-profits and brands.

In a remarkable display of community collaboration, Judith Heimowitz, founder of Scarsdale-based residential interior design firm 7B Design, led the transformation of an underutilized exercise room into a serene, functional office for staff. Leveraging her extensive industry network, Judith brought together marquee furnishing brands like California Closets, Stark Carpet, Arteriors Home, Kanter's Carpet & Home, and Precision

Build Solutions to create a space that blends beauty and purpose. This new office reflects both the Ronald McDonald House's mission and 7B Design's core values.

7B Design is known for its expertise in modern luxury that enhances everyday living. While Judith specializes in high-end residential projects, her passion for design extends beyond private spaces. "I always take on a philanthropic or pro bono project. There are countless ways that design expertise can be an asset to those in need," Judith shared. "The Ronald McDonald House staff works so hard to create a comfortable environment for their guests while they're dealing with life's most difficult challenge. Having the opportunity to contribute to a place that does so much good is something I'll always be proud of."

Scarsdale Village Board Approves Budget

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and playing fields that will thoughtfully reflect our commitment to the future of Scarsdale."

The board also approved a contract extension with the State Department of Transportation for municipal snow and ice removal through 2029. The village provides snow and ice removal on state roads and is reimbursed by the state.

Spring activities begin in Scarsdale, said Mayor Justin Arest. Destination Scarsdale, organized by the Scarsdale Business Alliance, will sponsor weekly activities that take place with the Scarsdale Farmers Market. Upcoming events include celebrations for Mother's Day on May 11 and Beauty and Wellness Day on May 18. Westchester Parks Foundation's Bicycle Sundays also began on May 4. A

13-mile loop of the Bronx River Parkway is closed to traffic for bicycling and walking. Destination Scarsdale runs through November 23.

Scarsdale was named Tree City USA for the 42nd year, and village officials will plant a white oak in De Lima Park on Arbor Day. A Tree City USA is recognized for its commitment to using trees in a municipal environment to enhance quality of life for residents.

County Executive Ken Jenkins and U.S. Representative George Latimer addressed the board. Both noted the uncertainty of federal funding levels this year and its possible impact on the village budget, but Jenkins said, "We will work together as partners to weather the storm."

From Classroom to Riverbank: Dive into Ecology this Summer!



BY CHRISTINA EDSALL, DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION, SARAH LAWRENCE COLLEGE CENTER FOR THE URBAN RIVER AT BECZAK

School's almost out, but learning doesn't have to stop. Scientists and researchers from Sarah Lawrence College's Center for the Urban River at Beczak (CURB) invite high school upperclassmen and college students to its Hudson River Ecology course. The weeklong course will emphasize experiential learning within environmental sciences. Students who participate in the course can earn one Environmental Science credit through Sarah Lawrence College, which is transferrable to other colleges and universities.

Located on the banks of the Hudson River in Yonkers, CURB is the first academic research facility beyond the Sarah Lawrence College campus. CURB's mission is to promote environmental literacy and stewardship of the Hudson River and urban waterways through education, research, and community engagement, with a focus on Yonkers youth development, environmental justice, and inclusivity. The facility offers a range of features, including a welcoming waterfront lawn, an easily accessible tidal marsh, a beach for river exploration, and a fully equipped field station lab. CURB is also one of the few organizations in the tri-state area to offer fish net seining to the public. For over 15 years, researchers have been collecting water quality and biodiversity data, all of which is submitted to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, the United States Geological Survey, and the National Estuarine Research Reserve.

What should students expect during this intensive week-long course? Morning sessions are in person at the facility, with asynchronous online work in the afternoon. Each day, there will be a general theme to the science content discussed,

then practices will be locally applied through field and lab work. The Hudson River provides a bountiful outdoor classroom to explore the key ecological concepts of the course, which range from aquatic systems, habitats, populations, human impacts, pollution, and restoration. Students will participate in outdoor collection methods such as sediment surveying, water quality measurements, bacteria monitoring, plankton collection, and plant and fish identification.

But it's not all about the science content—this course emphasizes teamwork and peer collaboration. It provides a valuable opportunity to connect with other like-minded students, collaborate on group data collection, and build a sense of community. Through interactive activities and shared problem-solving, students will strengthen their understanding of the material but also learn from the perspectives and experiences of their peers.

In today's fast-paced world, offering short, impactful educational experiences is an effective way to engage learners looking to expand their knowledge. This format caters to individuals with other summer plans and allows them to gain valuable insights without the commitment of a semester-long course.

So, for those who have ever wondered what it's like to be an ecologist or are interested in environmental science, the Hudson River Ecology course offers a unique opportunity to dive in! Participants will spend time outdoors, engage in hands-on learning, and may even spark a lifelong passion for science. Who knows, this summer could mark the beginning of an exciting new adventure in both their education and future career!

Course dates: July 21–25, 9:30 AM–1 PM
More information and registration at slc.edu/hudson
Registration closes July 7.

Bunny Hive Comes to Scarsdale!



The Bunny Hive recently celebrated their grand opening in Scarsdale. Pictured left to right in the photo: Marcie Berman-Goldstein, SBA, Alex Marshall, Mayor's office, Samantha Reemer, SBA, Matthew Fakhoury, Justin Arest, Mayor, Village of Scarsdale, Sahaj Fakhoury, owner of The Bunny Hive and her son.

For more information email scarsdale@thebunnyhive.com.

Assemblywoman Amy Paulin Joins the New York State Assembly Asian Pacific American Task Force

New York State Assemblywoman and Health Committee Chair Amy Paulin (D-Westchester) is proud to announce her appointment to the New York State Assembly Asian Pacific American Task Force. Representing a district where 11.17% of the population is Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI), Assemblywoman Paulin is committed to advocating for the needs and priorities of the AAPI community in her district and across the state. "I am honored to join the New York State Assembly Asian Pacific American Task Force and stand alongside my colleagues in advocating for the needs of AAPI New Yorkers," said Assemblywoman Paulin. "The AAPI community is a vital part of my district and our state, and I look forward to working on legislation and budget initiatives that will support their well-being and success."

New York's AAPI Task Force was established in 2017 to address critical issues affecting the AAPI community, including healthcare disparities, economic development, mental health awareness, and combating hate crimes. The task force serves as a platform for legislators to engage with advocacy organizations and community leaders to ensure that AAPI voices are heard in state government.

"Joining this task force allows me to bring forward policies and legislation that reflect the priorities of the AAPI residents in my district," Assemblywoman Paulin added. "From addressing healthcare inequities to ensuring proper representation in government, it's an essential step towards equity and inclusion."



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Scarsdale Celebrates Civic Spirit at 2025 Bowl Dinner

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spirit. A tribute video and a poem presented by the Greenacres Neighborhood Association honored Andrew's contributions, describing him as "the heart that beats for Scarsdale."

The celebration closed with a lively raffle, dessert, and heartfelt thanks to the community. As Cynthia Samwick said in her closing remarks, "We are a vil-

lage in a park, but more importantly, we are a village of people who show up—a community that gives, gathers, and grows together."

The Scarsdale Bowl Dinner once again reminded all who attended of the extraordinary spirit that defines this special village.



2025 Scarsdale Bowl Committee:

Cynthia and Marc Samwick

Penny Bauersfeld

Amy Cooper

Randi Culang

Isabel Finegold

Elise Flagg

Lori Kaplan

Tracy Lazarus

Daniela Retelny

Toby Milstein Schulman

Alli Seiden

Stephanie Stern

Ryan Spicer

Claudia Uribe-Galeano

Julie Zhu



Cynthia and Marc Samwick and Jill Serling



Cynthia and Marc Samwick and Andrew Sereysky

Swearing-In Ceremony Welcomes New and Returning Officials

On Monday, April 7, newly elected Village Trustees David Goldschmidt and Jason Kofman were officially sworn in to begin their first terms on the Village Board. Mayor Justin Arest and Deputy Mayor Dara Gruenberg were also sworn in, each beginning their second term of service. Trustees Goldschmidt and Kofman participated in their first Board meeting the following evening.



Upcoming Events at the Scarsdale Public Library

Art Workshop: Styles from Around the World — Asian Heritage

Wednesday, May 7, 10:30 am

In honor of Asian American and Pacific Islanders Heritage Month, Kōren Beck of Edgemont Art Barn will teach a workshop on the work and styles of contemporary artists with East Asian heritage. Come paint in a relaxed and supportive environment. Try something new, pick up some helpful tips, or discover a style you've never considered. All levels are welcome.

Supplies will be provided, but participants are encouraged to bring their own sketchbooks and other supplies if they want more variety in media.

VIRTUAL: Navigating the Stock Market — Asset Allocation and Risk

Monday, May 12, 12 Noon

In light of recent stock market volatility and geopolitical uncertainty, it is especially important that investors make informed choices about their portfolios. Join Harry Mamaysky, Professor of Professional Practice at Columbia Business School and partner at Quant-Street Capital, for a virtual presentation where he will discuss how recent market developments—such as tariff threats and potential deregulation—might impact your portfolio decisions and tolerance for risk. The talk will focus on the recent performance of U.S. versus international markets and on how these markets might behave in the future. There will be time for questions and answers at the end of the presentation. This presentation is for informational purposes only. Please consult with your own financial advisors before making any decisions about your portfolio allocation. bit.ly/3Y2G57D



Scarsdale Writers' Center Open Mic with Barbara Josselsohn

Tuesday, May 13, 7 PM

Calling all writers and lovers of the

written word! Come be part of the first ever Scarsdale Writers Center Open Mic Night – a cozy, cabaret-style evening where words take center stage. Whether you're a poet, novelist, essayist, or simply have a story to tell, we'd love to hear you read a 3-5 minute excerpt of your work. This is the perfect opportunity to test out new material, engage with fellow writers, and experience the magic of live storytelling. Or simply be part of the audience, and enjoy a glass of wine and light refreshments as you settle into a space filled with creativity and connection. bit.ly/4ji9hzW

The Library Hidden Inside the New York Botanical Garden

Monday, May 19, 2 PM

Spring is in full bloom - and so is the work of the New York Botanical Garden! Join Kristine Paulus, Head of Acquisitions and Technical Services for the LuEsther T. Mertz Library at NYBG, for a fascinating look behind the scenes at what it is like to curate one of the premier collections of botanical literature in the world. Paulus will discuss how the Mertz Library collections support the work of the New York Botanical Garden, including scientific research, horticultural displays, public exhibitions, botanical artists, inquiries from home gardeners, and more. bit.ly/4jzdoZF

The Frick Collection — A Virtual Visit

Tuesday, May 20, 6 PM

Join us in the Scott Room for a virtual visit to The Frick Collection. We'll be joined by educator Vincent Tolentino for an introduction to the museum's history and holdings in celebration of the museum's reopening. Together we will take a look at what has changed after many months of renovations, and we will explore key works in the collection.

The Frick Collection's historic buildings at 1 East 70th Street on Fifth Avenue reopened on April 17, 2025, with major improvements and amenities, including the opening of the mansion's second floor to the public for the first time. bit.ly/4lyrI51

VIRTUAL: For High-School Juniors: Creating a Compelling College Application This Summer

Wednesday, May 21, 6 PM

Ron Feuchs and Jackie Tepper, partners at Stand Out For College, LLC, will present a detailed and strategic overview of

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Scarsdale School Board Nominating Committee Nominates Three Candidates to the School Board

The 2025 School Board Nominating Committee (“SBNC” or the “Committee”) has selected Suzie Hahn, Colleen Brown, and Laura Ying Liu for the 2025 non-partisan slate for election to the Scarsdale Board of Education. The Committee chose Suzie, Colleen, and Laura from a pool of dedicated candidates after a thorough vetting process. If elected during the school board election on May 20, 2025, Laura will assume her role as a first-term school board member and Colleen and Suzie, who currently serve as members of the Board of Education, will return for their second term effective July 1, 2025.

The Candidates

The SBNC enthusiastically endorses Suzie, Colleen, and Laura for election to the School Board. These three qualified candidates will bring different perspectives and draw on complementary backgrounds and experiences to serve our community. What they have in common is a deep commitment to maintaining the excellence of the Scarsdale schools and serving different constituents. Upon notification of being slated, all three candidates expressed gratitude to the SBNC members and co-chairs for their diligence and hard work during this slating process and, voiced that if elected in May, each looks forward to serving our incredible community and working collaboratively with the other Board of Education members and Scarsdale School District Administration to support our students and move our schools forward.



Suzie Hahn

As a Scarsdale resident for over 14 years, it is evident from her long and continuous list of accomplishments since her oldest child started Kindergarten that Suzie does not shy away from opportunities to contribute to our District. As her

two children have grown, so has Suzie’s engagement with the community. Suzie has worn a plethora of hats in various volunteering efforts over her PTA/PTC tenure including annual activities, like book fairs and evening events, all the way up to the highly demanding daily roles of Webmaster, After School Clubs Chair and President of the QR PTA. If your family has joined the PTA at your child’s school, if you utilize the online PTA school directories, if you ever visit a PTA website for one of the Scarsdale schools or if you receive eblasts from your child’s school, you have benefited from the diligent work of Suzie Hahn who introduced Membership Toolkit to our District back in 2018 as PTC Directory Chair. Suzie has been a champion for this unifying technology platform that aggregated these various parts of the PTA efforts into a centralized system. She served as PT Council Treasurer for two years, overseeing all aspects of training and guiding all the Scarsdale unit PTAs in matters of its fiduciary responsibilities.

These endeavours all led to Suzie’s most recent volunteer commitment, her May 2022 election to the Scarsdale Board of Education. She has diligently served our community over her first three-year term, spending numerous hours each week getting up to speed on any issues that will be addressed during School Board meetings and is always being thoughtful in the points she raises and the questions she poses. She took on officer roles within that term, serving first as Vice President and currently President of the BOE. From watching Suzie on the Board of Education, both as a member and as an officer, it is apparent how she makes sure everyone is heard, discusses issues respectfully, and works toward decisions that are best for the community. Over and over again, Suzie has demonstrated her fervent commitment to the wellbeing of the children of our district throughout her time in Scarsdale and will continue to be an effective member of our Board of Education.

Suzie has served on many boards and committees at the local level including the League of Women Voters of Scarsdale as School Portfolio Chair, and board trustee at the Hoff-Barthelson Music School, as well as at the District level including the 2018 bond for Building/Facilities and Code of Conduct review. At the regional level Suzie serves on the Westchester-Putnam School Board Association Board of Directors where she

currently serves as treasurer. All of this uniquely positions her with first-hand knowledge and experience that would be instrumental in the effective operations of the Scarsdale Board of Education. Suzie’s professional experience as a managing director at D.E. Shaw further bolsters her credentials as a returning Board of Education member, providing her financial acumen for the critical board tasks of budget evaluation and debt service on behalf of the community and engagement in collective bargaining agreements. It is clear from her track record that Suzie is willing to step up and take on more tasks for the community with a continued interest in her commitment to continuing with a second term as a Scarsdale Board of Education Trustee.



Colleen Brown

In her 10 years residing in Scarsdale with her husband and their two children, Colleen Brown has volunteered extensively in the community, holding many leadership roles culminating in her most recent service of her first three-year term as Scarsdale Board of Education Trustee. She is an active and concerned citizen devoted to the community, bringing much experience as a current board member as well as being respected by those she has worked to establish relationships with throughout the years. At the PTA level, she was very involved in the schools in pivotal roles like the Co-Chair of the “Learning From our Differences Program”, QRS PTA Executive Council Member, PTC Executive Member and last but not least, President of the QRS PTA. She has worked extensively with the many stakeholders in the community including parents, teachers, PTA leaders in other schools, QRS administration, District administration and the School Board. In all of these roles Colleen was a steadfast and a strong leader. She succeeds in her roles by being an excellent listener, a great collaborator, a creative problem solver who is able to

bring out the best in all of those around her. She is uniformly lauded as a valuable board member with in-depth knowledge of the school system, District Administration and BOE while also demonstrating that she is eager to learn more, especially around areas she is unfamiliar with, by engaging in meaningful discussions and information-seeking to best reflect the community interests.

Prior to moving to Scarsdale, Colleen worked for 10 years at the Leman Manhattan Preparatory School which is currently a private K-12 school in lower Manhattan. When Colleen started at the school in 2006, it was a brand-new school built from scratch serving the K-5 student population. She initially was hired as the Director of Wellness, Nutrition and Food Service to develop the wellness curriculum as the school took a holistic approach to child education and was a classroom teacher in this area for four years. She was also a classroom teacher for Science grades 5-8. After a number of years Colleen moved into administrative roles and was the 6th Grade Dean, the Interim Assistant Head of the Middle School and lastly the Assistant Head of the Upper School. The school served a diverse population from many different areas and countries and had to create a strong support system particularly for the students who boarded at the school. Colleen oversaw the implementation of the international baccalaureate diploma program as the high school transitioned away from the standard high school diploma to a diploma recognized in many countries.

Colleen throughout her professional and personal life has been passionate about education, the welfare of children and contributing to the community that she is a part of. She would continue to bring to the School Board her dedication and professionalism, enthusiastically embracing the challenges ahead of her and contributing the important perspective to board activities as a parent and as a former educator / school administrator.



Laura Ying Liu

Laura has been a resident of Scarsdale *continued on page 11*

Scarsdale School Board Nominating Committee Nominates Three Candidates to the School Board

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for 15 years where she and her husband chose to raise their three children. Being raised in China herself, she carefully considered what community to establish roots in, determining that Scarsdale was the right home for their young family. Over the years, Laura's volunteerism has covered a broad range of roles, undaunted by language or cultural barriers. She has tirelessly contributed to PTA work, often in leadership positions, from the elementary to the high school level. Laura put her finance background to good use and closely followed the school budget process for years, eventually serving as PTC Budget Study Co-Chair in the 2021-2022 school year. She is familiar with the many components and issues impacting the school budget, from personnel and programs to facilities and financial levers such as reserves, as well as the transparent and inclusive budget development process in which community needs and feedback are integrated. In addition, her service on the Library Board, first as Finance Officer and later as President, gave her experience overseeing the Library's annual operating budget, capital improvement projects, collective bargaining contracts, and other municipal finance issues. These are all skills highly relevant for a Scarsdale Board of Education Trustee.

Laura has always sought opportunities to expand her knowledge and experience throughout her educational, professional and volunteer endeavours. Moving to New York to matriculate in a masters program in chemistry followed by an MBA, she then launched herself into the corporate world at Time Inc. serving in both business and financial roles. Her passion for fully understanding complex issues and implementing solutions is clear in everything she is involved in, from Scouting of America to the Scarsdale Chinese Association to various PTA/PTC committees to the Scarsdale Library Board, with her focus always on both serving the community while challenging herself to grow. Laura has always put tremendous effort into helping to build a strong Scarsdale community where families from all cultures and backgrounds can feel a strong sense of inclusion and belonging. Laura has spearheaded many diversity initiatives over the years, ranging from school events that enrich student experiences to parent-facing events

that bring diverse groups together. She understands that all families, including immigrant families, have unique perspectives, needs, and strengths.

Laura's educational and professional background have shaped her fact-based, analytical approach to problem-solving which, along with her thoughtful and deliberate style when addressing complex issues, make her an ideal Board of Education member for Scarsdale. She is described as a hard worker, good listener, well organized, collaborative, open-minded and thoughtful by those that have worked with her in various capacities, both large and small. These attributes, paired with the deep and broad knowledge she has of our community based on her years of volunteering and her professional background in finance, position her to be a welcome addition to the School Board.

The Committee -- The SBNC is a non-partisan committee comprised of 24 voting members (with representatives from each of the five elementary districts) who serve for a three year term, and is chaired by a non-voting member. Over the course of Sunday meetings from January through March, this year's committee conducted extensive candidate outreach to encourage interested community members to apply, listened to applicant presentations, questioned them, conducted detailed due diligence on all applicants, and considered potential candidates' qualifications and characteristics. Pursuant to the SBNC Resolution, committee deliberations concerning candidates are confidential and the SBNC selects candidates "solely on their qualifications to serve the community" and not on their campaigning abilities or positions on specific issues. All discussions, deliberations, and references shared in Committee are kept confidential. Informed and engaged residents willing to serve on the SBNC and the School Board, along with voter participation, help to ensure the highest quality school board leadership.

Voters in the School District are encouraged to vote on Tuesday, May 20, 2025 in the Scarsdale Middle School Gym. In addition to voting for three School Board seats, District voters will also be voting on a proposed School District Budget for the 2025-26 school year. For more information on the SBNC, visit our website at <http://scarsdale.bnc.org>.

Upcoming Events at the Scarsdale Public Library

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what students should focus on to make their college applications compelling. They will cover the college application process, including current admissions trends, writing the personal statement essay and supplemental essays, teacher recommendations, and how students can position themselves to increase their chances for admission.

They will discuss how a student's abilities to express their insights, experiences, and personal growth through their application essays are more important than ever before.

They will review application strategies including the advantages and disadvantages of early decision, early action, and regular decision, as well as what factors students should consider in deciding whether or not to submit their standardized test scores (SAT or ACT) for test-optional colleges and universities. They will also discuss the different ways that students can be admitted to a particular school. They will examine the holistic admissions review process, what admissions officers consider important when they review applicants, and how students can position themselves to develop a compelling narrative to increase their chances for admission.

They will also discuss the importance of community service, how it can provide an opportunity for personal growth and an opportunity to showcase a student's character. Admissions officers place great emphasis on a student's character and how the student has been able to give back and help others. bit.ly/3YxS5hs

Author Talk: The Upside of OCD with Michael Alcée, PhD

Thursday, May 22, 3 PM

Join Dr. Michael Alcée to learn more about Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder (OCD) as he discusses his new book, *The Upside of OCD*.

Many OCD sufferers fail to improve using standard therapy treatments. However, clinical psychologist Michael Alcée, PhD, contends it is not the patients who are failing the treatment, but the treatment that is failing the patients. Using vivid case examples, practical exercises, personal anecdotes, and inspiring stories, *The Upside of OCD* illuminates the creative powers that allow OCD sufferers to see the world with unique depth, feeling, and intensity, while inspiring them to embrace their strengths and harness their capacity for greater joy and connection. bit.ly/4jcSCoB

Scarsdale Police Blotter

April 3, 2025, 9:21 am: Patrol responded to a Garth Road business to take a report of receipt of counterfeit American currency.

April 3, 2025, 7:15 pm: A Drake Road resident reported to police that packages were stolen from her front porch.

April 12, 2025, 12:45 pm: Patrol conducted a traffic stop at the corner of Harcourt Road and Church Lane. The vehicle's license plates were found to be registered to a different vehicle. The driver was issued a summons for Operating a Motor Vehicle with Improper Plates and Operating an Unregistered Motor Vehicle and the vehicle was towed.

Governor Hochul Announces Start of \$86.7 Million Pavement Improvement and Bridge Rehabilitation Project on I-95 in Westchester County

Governor Kathy Hochul announced the start of a \$86.7 million pavement improvement project on a nearly five-mile stretch of the New England Thruway (I-95) in Westchester County. Spanning between Pelham Manor and Mamaroneck, the project also includes the rehabilitation of 12 bridges within this heavily traveled corridor that's used by approximately 120,000 vehicles a day.

"The New England Thruway is one of the busiest highways in Westchester County and this project will ensure that it remains safe and dependable for years to come," Governor Hochul said. "Strengthening our infrastructure across the State remains a top priority and this modernization will make critical safety improvements to I-95, providing a better driving experience for the millions of travelers who rely on this critical route."

New York State Thruway Authority Executive Director Frank G. Hoare said, "We are continuing our ongoing investment in Interstate 95, one of the most critical highway arteries in the Northeast. For the past several years, we have rehabilitated the highway from the Bronx into Westchester County. This project will continue this vital work for another five miles in Westchester by upgrading the roadway and its surrounding infrastructure for our neighboring communities, and the motorists that travel this commuter and commercial corridor."

The I-95 project will begin with pavement repairs, meaning crews will remove and replace the most deteriorated portions on a nearly five-mile stretch of roadway (milepost 4.0 to 8.8) in both the northbound and southbound direction. Covering close to 30 total lane miles, the repairs will improve the roadway's structural integrity and extend its service life, reducing the need to make temporary repairs. After the concrete pavement and joints are repaired, a two-course asphalt overlay will be installed to provide a smoother ride for motor-

ists. The work covers the highway just south of exit 15 (New Rochelle - The Pelhams - US Route 1) to exit 18A (Mamaroneck - Fenimore Road). In addition, 12 interchange ramps will be repaired and repaved.

The other major component of the project is work on bridges above or below I-95. Crews will rehabilitate six bridges, including the Centre Avenue bridge in New Rochelle, the Chatsworth Avenue bridge in Larchmont and the bridge over the highway that serves Metro-North Railroad's Larchmont station. Six other bridges on I-95 will be resurfaced.

Additional safety improvements will include new guiderail and lights, additional reflective line striping, new pavement markings and curb replacement.

Paving operations and the majority of work will take place overnight to reduce impacts to motorists. Motorists may encounter lane closures on I-95 along with traffic shifts and stoppages during construction. All work is expected to be completed by the end of 2026. DeFoe Corp. of Mount Vernon, is the project contractor. Photos of one area of the Thruway where contractors will begin work are available here.

A separate ongoing \$61.8 million pavement improvement project on I-95 in the Bronx and southern Westchester is scheduled to be completed this summer. It covers the area from milepost 0.0 to 4.0 and includes the rehabilitation of 11 bridges and makes significant improvements to two pedestrian bridges in the Bronx.

State Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins said, "This \$86.7 million investment in the New England Thruway is part of the historic momentum we've built through the CHIPS program and other transformative infrastructure initiatives across New York State. Rehabilitating these bridges and improving pavement along I-95 will enhance safety, ease travel, and support our local economy. I'd like to thank Governor Hochul for sup-

porting these long-overdue upgrades as we continue delivering real results for Westchester County and the infrastructure our communities rely on every day."

State Senator Shelley B. Mayer said, "Thank you, Governor Kathy Hochul and the Thruway Authority for beginning this important project to upgrade the I-95 corridor. This stretch of road truly needs upgrading and improvement, and I am confident that my constituents will see a notable improvement in road safety and comfort."

State Senator Nathalia Fernandez said, "This project will make daily travel safer and smoother for the thousands who rely on I-95 each day. Scheduling construction overnight is a smart, considerate approach that minimizes disruption for nearby families and businesses. It's encouraging to see the state take action on improvements our community has been waiting for. Thank you to Governor Hochul and the Thruway Authority for moving this work forward."

Assemblymember Amy Paulin said, "This significant investment in the New England Thruway is a tremendous win for the residents of my district—including those in Pelham and New Rochelle who frequently use Exit 15—and for all of Westchester County. The improvements to road surfaces, bridges, and interchanges will enhance safety, reduce wear and tear on vehicles, and improve the daily commute for thousands. I'm especially pleased that the work will be done primarily overnight, minimizing disruptions for our residents and businesses. Projects like this show government at its best—responsive, effective, and working for the people of New York. I thank Governor Hochul and the New York State Thruway Authority for their continued commitment to investing in our infrastructure and ensuring our communities are supported by safe, modern transportation networks."

The Governor Thomas E. Dewey Thruway, built in the early 1950s, is one of the oldest components of the National Interstate Highway System and one of the longest toll roads in the nation. The Thruway Authority does not receive any dedicated federal, state or local tax dollars and is paid for by those who drive the Thruway, including one-third of drivers from out of state.

In 2024, the Thruway Authority processed more than 400 million transactions and motorists drove 8.2 billion miles on the Thruway. The Authority's approved 2025 Budget invests a total of \$477.3 million in dedicated funding for capital projects across the Thruway system beginning in 2025, an increase of more than \$33 million compared to the approved 2024 budget. The increased investment will lead to work on approximately 61 percent of the Thruway's more than 2,800 pavement lane miles as well as the replacement or rehabilitation of 20 percent of the Thruway's 817 bridges.

The Thruway is one of the safest roadways in the country with a fatality rate far below the nationwide index. The Thruway Authority's top priority is the safety of our employees and customers. In 2024, two Thruway Authority employees died and another was seriously injured in separate incidents while working on the Thruway. The lives of Thruway Authority employees, roadway workers and emergency personnel depend on all of those who travel the highway. Motorists should stay alert and pay attention while driving, slow down in work zones and move over when they see a vehicle on the side of the road. The State's Move Over Law, which was expanded in March 2024, requires drivers to slow down and move over for all vehicles stopped along the roadway. Safety is a shared responsibility.

For more information, follow the Thruway on Facebook, X and Instagram, or visit the Thruway website.

scarsdalesentinel.com

Finding the Right Elder Law Attorney



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

As we age, the legal challenges we face often become more complex and specialized. Matters like long-term care planning, Medicaid eligibility, estate planning, guardianship, and elder abuse aren't always within the wheelhouse of a general practice attorney. That's where elder law attorneys come in. Elder law attorneys focus on the unique legal needs of older adults and their families. If you're beginning the search for one, it helps to approach the process thoughtfully and systematically.

The first step is understanding what elder law attorneys actually do. Our work encompasses a wide range of services, from drafting wills and trusts to navigating the intricacies of Medicaid planning and long-term care. We also handle guardianship proceedings, advocate for elder rights, address elder abuse, and help clients manage healthcare and end-of-life decision-making. Because the

field is so broad, not all elder law attorneys handle every aspect. Identifying the specific issues you're dealing with will help you find an attorney with the right experience.

Once you know what you need, start asking for referrals. Word-of-mouth is one of the most reliable ways to find a trustworthy professional. Family, friends, or neighbors who have worked with an elder law attorney can often recommend someone they found helpful. Financial advisors, social workers, or your family attorney might also have solid leads. Local senior centers and nonprofit aging organizations can be another source of referrals.

Beyond personal recommendations, online directories are a useful tool. The National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys (NAELA) maintains a searchable database of qualified attorneys, making it easier to find someone who specializes in your area of concern. General legal directories such as Avvo or Martindale-Hubbell provide client reviews, peer ratings, and background information, which can help you narrow down your options.

One helpful credential to look for is Certified Elder Law Attorney (CELA), a designation awarded by the National Elder Law Foundation (NELF). CELA certification is a mark of excellence in the field. Attorneys must meet rigorous standards to earn this credential, including significant experience in elder

law, continuing legal education, a peer review process, and passing a comprehensive exam. Choosing a CELA gives you added assurance that the attorney has a deep understanding of the legal needs of older adults and is recognized by their peers for their expertise.

Once you've identified a few potential attorneys, take a closer look at their qualifications and experience. Ideally, you want someone who has practiced elder law for several years and dedicates a significant portion of their work to it. Membership in professional organizations like NAELA and credentials like CELA can indicate a commitment to continuing education and ethical practice. It's also a good idea to verify that the attorney is licensed and in good standing with your state's bar association.

Many elder law attorneys offer an initial consultation, often for a fee, which provides the opportunity to review the details of your case and determine whether the attorney is a good fit for your needs. During this meeting, you should feel free to ask about the attorney's experience with cases like yours, their approach to planning, and their fee structure. Some attorneys charge a flat rate, while others bill hourly or work on retainer. Make sure the billing process is transparent and that you understand exactly what services are included.

Don't be afraid to ask detailed questions. You might ask how long the

attorney has practiced elder law, what percentage of their work is focused on it, whether they've handled similar cases, and how they communicate with clients. The answers will help you assess whether they have the expertise and approach that suits your needs. Just as important as credentials is how comfortable you feel working with them. Elder law issues are often deeply personal, involving health, finances, and family dynamics, so trust and rapport are key. The elder law attorney you choose should be someone who not only understands the legal landscape but is also sensitive to the emotional and practical aspects of aging.

Finding the right elder law attorney may take a little time and research, but it's worth the effort. With the right legal guidance, you can navigate aging-related legal challenges with greater confidence and peace of mind.

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: Soft Shell Crab Season Has Arrived

The season for fresh soft-shell crab runs through September and there are legions who crave this delicacy simply sautéed or deep fried with some lemon and butter. Nothing like a crispy soft-shell crab sandwich with the proper condiments. They first show up from Florida and the Gulf Coast at area markets followed by the popular bounty from Chesapeake. As the season wears on more venues will be serving them. Here's where to seek them out locally.

Artie's Steak & Seafood, 394 City Island Ave., City Island, Bronx (718-885-9885) Jumbo soft shell crabs are on the blackboard as a special. Great with one of their craft beers. www.artiescityisland.com Sea Shore, 591 City Island Ave., City Island, Bronx (718-885-0300) Jeffrey Weiner and his veteran crew serve soft shells in a variety of styles. Check out all the dining areas. Daily happy hours. www.seashorerestaurant.com

Dubrovnik, 721 Main Street, New Rochelle (914-637-3777) This restaurant, the first to specialize in Croatian/Adriatic cuisine in the metro area, excels in fish and seafood so you won't go wrong here. Indoor, al fresco, takeout & delivery. www.dubrovnikny.com

Trattoria Vivolo, 301 Halstead Ave., Harrison (914-835-6199) Chef/proprietor Dean Vivolo will be serving soft shell crabs out of his vintage diner any style in addition to this popular regional Italian dishes. www.trattoriavivolo.com

Eastchester Fish Gourmet, 837 White Plains Road, Scarsdale (914-725-3450) A



Jumbo Sautéed Soft Shell Crab at Kee Oyster House

Westchester favorite for many years. Don't forget Go Fish, next door. www.eastchesterfish.com

Cosenza's Fish Market, 2354 Arthur Ave., Bronx (718-364-8510) It's right in the heart of Little Italy, a full-fledged fish market with counters set up as an Oyster Bar & Clam Bar. Take your pick.

Randazzo's Seafood, 2327 Arthur Ave., Bronx (718-367-4339) Started three generations ago by a Sicilian family of fishermen, this market has soft shells in stock all season. Current hours: 7 AM to 6 PM www.randazzoseafood.com

Bread & Brine, 119 Main Street, Hastings-On-Hudson (914-479-5243) The place bustles inside and out, and 'summers in Maine' is the theme. Soft shells are a seasonal treat. www.breadandbrinehoh.com

Kee Oyster House, 128 E. Post Road, White Plains (914-437-8535), Owner Ekren & Elvi offer a daily raw bar. The blackboard lists the daily catch and will soon include Soft Shell Crab. And they are pristine. www.keeoysterhouse.com

Dive Oyster House, 1201 Pleasantville Road, Briarcliff Manor (914-236-3911) In the coming weeks, owner Kenny Neziraj will offer Soft Shell Crab as a daily specialty. Happy Hours. www.diveoysterhouse.com

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

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Antique, unique military items want by long-time collector. Items such as helmets, medals, uniforms, swords, and any items especially up to World War II and earlier. High cash payment offered. Appraisals also done. Please call 914-980-8678.

WANTED: PEDIATRIC NURSE

Project Community in Pelham, is searching for a Pediatric nurse to manage Project CHILDD (projectcommunity.us) - a monthly program of art, music, and yoga for children and teens with developmental disabilities. Meetings take place on Sunday 2 - 4 pm, September through May and are staffed by community volunteers and teen mentors. Contact administrator@projectcommunity.us for complete job description.

JUNK REMOVAL AND CLEAN OUTS

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

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Yonkers - First floor apartment with living room, dining room, kitchen, 2 bedrooms, bath, and porch. New A/Cs and kitchen appliances. For information, please call 914-843-8030.

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House sitting with no pets, pickup mail, house checks, grocery delivery. Call or text Pete at 914-826-5710.

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Family Care refers live-in and live-out companions allowing to be in the comfort of your own home. We specialize in referring Filipino companions. All candidates are fluent in English, background checks and excellent references. For our personalized services, call Marie at 212-961-6993.

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Certified HHA, mature, reliable, compassionate & hardworking lady w/10+ yrs exp. with Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, diabetes, poststroke care etc., Seeks FT job as Caregiver. Excellent References. Call 914-602-7318.

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Calendar of Events



LWVS Annual Meeting and Luncheon

Friday, May 9, 10:30 AM - 2 PM

Scarsdale Golf Club

1 Club Way, Hartsdale

U.S. Representative George Latimer will be the keynote speaker at the Annual Meeting of the League of Women Voters of Scarsdale. The luncheon and speaker part of the program begins at noon. Early bird tickets are \$60, student tickets are \$30. To purchase tickets, go to <https://lwvs.org/events-and-speakers/>.



Register to March in the Memorial Day Parade

The Village of Scarsdale invites local organizations to participate in this year's Memorial Day Parade on Monday, May 26, 2025. The event will begin with a ceremony at 10 AM at Chase Park, with participant assembly starting at 9 AM. The parade will follow a one-mile route through the Village, concluding back at Chase Park around 11:30 AM. Organizations interested in marching must register online by Monday, May 12, 2025, at scarsdale.gov/memorialday. For more information, contact the Manager's Office at 914-722-1110.



Animals from Around the World:

Discovering the World of Marsupials, Tortoises, Farm Animals and Reptiles

Weinberg Nature Center

455 Mamaroneck Road

Scarsdale

MAY 10, from 2pm - 3pm

Join in on the open green for an animal extravaganza, petting farm animals and a kangaroo! Also, reptiles! Family-friendly, best for 3+For more information, contact WNC Director Sam Weinstock at sweinstock@scarsdale.gov.



PINKSTER JUBILEE

AT PHILIPSE MANOR HALL STATE HISTORIC SITE IN YONKERS, NY

SATURDAY
MAY 10TH
11AM - 5 PM

FAMILY

CULTURE

SPRING

Philipse Manor Hall State Historic Site and the Friends of Philipse Manor Hall are pleased to host their third **Annual Pinkster Jubilee**, in-person at Philipse Manor Hall State Historic Site (29 Warburton Ave. Yonkers) on Saturday, May 10, 2025 from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Celebrate African culture in America and New York's unique history with the Afro-Dutch holiday of Pinkster, a festival of spring, family, culture, and resistance. Join us for live music, dance, games, crafts, vendors, history, and more. This program is free and open to everyone. Learn more at Philipse Manor Hall's Virtual Wing at www.philipsemanorhall.com.

The Artists of New Rochelle:

A Historic Homes Tour

May 4 at 1pm

Step inside several historic homes and see and learn about many more as we tour New Rochelle, once known as the Artists Colony! American icon Norman Rockwell; Frederic Remington of Western Art acclaim; the "Gibson Girl" creator Charles Dana Gibson who portrayed society's new, independent woman—these talents and many more made New Rochelle their home en masse beginning in the early 20th century. This tour will highlight the special places connected with the Artists Colony and its playwrights, authors, performers, and visual artists, including their historic Tudor, Colonial, and Mediterranean Revival houses! Join us for this unique experience to see historic homes, inside and out, and immerse yourself in culture and history. Offered one time only! Space is limited. This is a guided bus tour. We will be boarding the bus in New Rochelle. Location details coming soon! <https://histoury.org/historical-tour-calendar-and-tickets/> (212) 683-1961

Attention: All 7th Graders!

Join the Salt Marsh Ecology After-School Program—a FREE, hands-on adventure where you'll explore, compete, and protect your local environment like a real scientist! Led by four passionate MHS juniors from the OCRA initiative, this program will have you: Conducting real

environmental research; Participating in exciting, competitive activities (with prizes!); and Making a difference in your community. Tuesdays & Thursdays | 3:30-4:45 PM. Hommocks Conservation Area (behind Hommocks Middle School).

May 1, 6, 8, 13, 15. Express your interest now by filling out the form at https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfHnM3fSj0pe87Ub_wiT-Teg1H9mNA7xU_7Q9bbKjJ_8Zj7jQ/viewform

57th Annual Salute to Seniors

Westchester County Center

Thursday, May 8, 2025, from 9:30 am to 1:30 pm. Attendees will have an opportunity to connect with companies and organizations such as recreational groups, residential and health care facilities, government offices, wellness activities, hospitals, assisted living centers, financial providers, social service resources, and more. In addition to exhibitors, there will be demonstrations, workshops, and live entertainment to enjoy. Exhibitor and sponsorship opportunities are available online at <https://westchesterpartnership.org/salute-to-seniors/>. For additional information, contact Angelique Morelli at (914)218-3968 or via email at AngeliqueM@EventsRemember.com.

Comedy From Scratch

May 10 and 24 at 8pm, doors open at 7pm
The Idea Kitchen, 1940 Palmer Ave., Larchmont
Performances held every second and fourth Saturday of the month, making it the only single-venue Westchester comedy club with

multiple shows each month. Admission is \$25 in advance and \$30 day of the show. The show is BYOB (and bring your own food, which may be eaten at tables prior to the show). Seating is General Admission. Ages 16+ are welcome to attend, but some material will definitely be considered for adults (parents may bring younger teens who love stand-up comedy material similar to George Carlin and Sarah Silverman). The Idea Kitchen is wheelchair accessible (anyone with physical impairments who needs assistance should advise when purchasing tickets.) Performers on the May 10th line-up include producer Ben Asher, along with Matt Koff (writer for The Daily Show on Comedy Central) and Victor Varnado (Jimmy Kimmell Live). The May 24th show features Shaun Murphy (Comedy Cellar: new stand-up special "Neal"). For tickets, go to ComedyFromScratch.com

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Friday, May 9, 10:30 AM - 2 PM

Scarsdale Golf Club

1 Club Way, Hartsdale

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23rd Annual Golf Invitational

Hospice of Westchester

June 3, 10am: Registration and brunch/lunch, 12:30pm: Shotgun start with scramble format and 4:30pm: Cocktail reception, dinner and awards Westchester Hills Golf Club, 401 Ridgeway, White Plains

Proceeds from the event will benefit HOW's mission and commitment to providing compassionate end-of-life care. This year's Golf Invitational will honor Joseph Pepe and Pepe Auto Group for their many years of philanthropic support of Hospice of Westchester. Pepe Cadillac has served as the Hole-in-One Sponsor of the Golf Invitational for many years, adding to the overall success of the event. Individual and foursome registrations, journal ads, and sponsorships are now available. For more information, contact Holly Benedict, 914-682-1484, ext. 122 or hbenedit@hospiceofwestchester.org. For additional information, visit www.hospiceofwestchester.org. For the latest news and updates, find HOW on Facebook.

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