

Scarsdale Sentinel



nonember 2025 - vol. 21 - issue 11 scarsdalesentinel.com **Your Holiday Guide has Arrived!**

Weaver Street Sidewalk Extension Breaks Ground

The Town of Mamaroneck is excited to announce that construction of the Weaver Street (Route 125) Sidewalk Extension is underway. This marks a major milestone in a project nearly a decade in the making, to be funded in part with New York State Department of Transportation grants.

When complete, the Weaver Street Sidewalk Extension will enable students, families, and visitors to walk safely between Murray Avenue School, neighborhoods, and the reservoir/Sheldrake Environmental Center, encouraging an active lifestyle and reducing the need for vehicles, therefore, reducing greenhouse gas emissions.



(Left to right) Resident Lisa Rubin Neuthaler and son, JJ, Town Councilman Jeffery King, Town Supervisor Jaine Elkind Eney, Town Engineer Robert Wasp, Town Councilwoman Robin Nichinsky, Town Councilwoman Sabrina Fiddelman, Deputy Town Engineer Carol Murray.

“This project reflects our community’s commitment to pedestrian safety and sustainable transportation,” said Town Supervisor Jaine Elkind Eney. “We are grateful to NYSDOT and to our residents for their support and patience as we bring this long-anticipated improvement to life.”

Weather permitting, the construction is expected to be completed in early 2026.

Scarsdale Board of Trustees Appoints New Assistant Village Manager

BY STEPHEN E. LIPKEN

The Scarsdale Board of Trustees named Ruby Tower to the position of Assistant Village Manager at its October 14 meeting. Tower was formerly an administrative intern for the Town of Rye.

In other business, the Board approved a Resolution to extend metered parking from 11 PM to 12 AM and earmarked funds to build three new tennis courts at Crossway Field.

The leaf collection program ends Friday, December 5, Village Manager Alexandra H. Marshall remarked. “Leaves should be raked to the area of the curb and property line, not in the street. If you have any questions about the leaf collection program, please contact Department of Public Works (DPW) at 914-722-1150.”

When Scarsdale Mayor Justin K. Arest convened the meeting, he said that

October brings “reflection and celebration for our community,” and the village avoided a storm that was expected to be much worse. Arest thanked the Department of Public Works (DPW) and First Responders for always being ready.

Noting the observance of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur by their Jewish neighbors, Arest stated, “I want to extend wishes for a sweet and meaningful New Year and may this Season bring health, peace and strength to all who observe.”

Arest also noted that October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month. “Early detection saves lives and community support matters. I encourage residents to wear pink, support research and stand with friends and loved ones who are fighting or remembering.

“October is Domestic Violence Month, a reminder that safety and dignity



Village Manager Alexandra H. Marshall

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IRL (In Real Life) Expands Across Westchester to Help Families Reclaim Childhood from Screens

IRL (In Real Life), a rapidly growing parent-led nonprofit founded in 2023, is leading a grassroots movement to help families bring back the magic of real childhood — playing, exploring, building independence, laughing, and connecting without screens in the way.

What began as a small initiative in Rye has grown into a network of active chapters in Larchmont-Mamaroneck, Rye Neck, Rye, Scarsdale, and Nyack — all united by one mission: to help parents delay smartphones, reduce screen dependence, and strengthen real-world community connections-without feeling isolated or left behind.

“We’re building a movement that reminds families that kids can grow, thrive, and connect in so many meaningful ways beyond their screens,” said Stefanie Lob, IRL Larchmont-Mamaroneck Chapter Lead. “When parents come together and take collective action, they feel supported and empowered to help shift the cultural norm.”

Delaying Smartphones, Building Confidence

Inspired by *The Anxious Generation*



by Jonathan Haidt and driven by growing concerns about the mental health impact of smartphones and social media, IRL helps parents take action in their local communities. Through pledges, events, and partnerships, the organization is creating a visible network of support, so families no longer feel alone in delaying smartphones.

In just a few weeks, nearly 1,000 Westchester parents pledged to delay smartphones for their kids in 2025–2026 — and that number continues to climb.

Hands-On Solutions: The IRL Alternative Device Fair

To help families find safer communication options, IRL is hosting its Second Annual Alternative Device Fair at St. Thomas Church in Mamaroneck. The event brings together parents, kids, and leading brands like Bark, Gabb, Troomi, Light-phone, Pinwheel, and Dumb Wireless for a fun, hands-on showcase of kid-friendly devices that limit internet and social media access.

Last year’s fair drew more than 400

families searching for their child’s first phone. This year promises to be even bigger — offering a welcoming, judgment-free space to explore options that fit each family’s needs.

Events That Bring Families Together

Beyond devices, IRL builds community through screen-smart events, expert panels, and parent workshops. In partnership with organizations like the Rye Youth Council and Larchmont-Mamaroneck Community Counseling Center (LMCCC), IRL hosts talks and film screenings, including last year’s *Childhood 2.0* featuring childhood online safety expert Titania Jordan, which drew more than 160 local parents.

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Scarsdale School Board Seeks Public Input on School Bond Referendum

The Scarsdale Board of Education has embarked on a planning process for a potential bond referendum in 2026. The board is considering spending about \$40 million for projects at a tax neutral level due to debt service falling off in the 2027-2028 school year. The District has engaged with BBS Architects and Arris Contracting Company to develop a long range capital plan. A Capital Projects Steering Committee (CPSC) formed in March, 2025, will work toward a recommendation to the Board of Education of a scope of work consistent with the Strategic Plan.

Representatives from the CPSC, BBS Architects and Engineers, and Administration presented an initial proposed scope of work to the Board of Education for a potential bond referendum in spring 2026. The proposed scope includes work on Building Conditions/Infrastructure, Air Conditioning, Field Improvements, and New Construction/Renovation projects totaling \$95.6 million. Discussion will continue over the coming months about this work scope, with opportunities for community input.

A public feedback session in November has been scheduled in addition to the already scheduled Board of Education meeting.

- Thursday, November 6 at 7 PM. Public Feedback Session via Zoom: This session will start with an update based around prior feedback, and will include a Q and A opportunity. <https://scarsdaleschools-org.zoom.us/j/9015738089?omn=93093642174#-success>
- Monday, November 17 at 6 PM. Board of Education Meeting: Report out of additional feedback and other project updates.

Scarsdale Board of Trustees Appoints New Assistant Village Manager

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must extend into every home. Raising awareness and supporting survivors is an important responsibility that belongs to all of us. October is Fire Prevention Month. I urge residents to check smoke alarms, review escape plans and thank the professionals who keep us safe.

“Monday, October 20, many of our friends and neighbors will celebrate Diwali, the Festival of Lights. We wish them joy, peace and prosperity as they gather with family and friends.”

“Tuesday, November 4 is Election Day. I encourage every resident to make a plan to vote. Information about early voting times and locations as well as polling information can be found on our website, scarsdale.gov.

“Finally, on a personal note, I would like to express my gratitude for the safe return of our hostages from Gaza. I pray for the return of the remaining hostages who were murdered in captivity as well as the possibility of lasting peace.”

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Edgemont School Board Expands Communications Committee

The Edgemont Board of Education has expanded its standing Communications Committee and broadened the committee’s scope in response to the community’s desire for more proactive, consistent communication. This school year, the committee will be co-chaired by Superintendent Dr. Kenneth Hamilton and Trustee Elyse Paidas, with Trustees Heather Stern and Ami Song and student board members Maya Barmecha and Juliet Sayer also serving.

During the summer, the school board invited residents to apply, and six community members representing a cross-section of Edgemont were selected to serve as full committee members:

- Barbara Gronquist
- Dr. Yaliu He
- Dylan Pyne
- Emily Waldman
- Andrea White
- Laura Wilker

The committee held its first meeting on September 11, where members reviewed goals, established norms, and outlined plans for ongoing updates to the community. To balance broad input with steady progress, the committee has been organized into three working groups:

- Digital Communications (Chair: Trustee Elyse Paidas): Focused on the district website, app, social media, and email systems.
- Content & Channel (Chair: Trustee Heather Stern): Ensuring communications are streamlined, timely, and reflective of the entire community.
- Family & Community Engagement (Chair: Trustee Ami Song): Strengthening outreach across all segments of the community, especially around key initiatives like the budget and bond.

The Edgemont Community Council is grateful to all who volunteered to serve. Community members are also encouraged to share feedback directly with the Board of Education at BOE@edgemont.org.

Westchester Passes “Gio’s Law” to Save Lives in Allergy Emergencies

Families across Westchester will soon have greater peace of mind knowing that first responders will be ready to act quickly during life-threatening allergy emergencies.

The Westchester County Board of Legislators unanimously passed the Giovanni Cipriano Act, a new law requiring the County’s Commissioner of Public Safety to take steps to equip all eligible County police officers with epinephrine auto-injectors (EpiPens), which can stop severe allergic reactions.

Named for a 14-year-old New Yorker who died after unknowingly eating peanuts in trail mix, “Gio’s Law” is designed to save lives by ensuring County officers—often the first to arrive when someone calls 911—are prepared to act quickly in cases of anaphylaxis.

After a local family affected by severe food allergies brought the law to the attention of Board Chairman Vedat Gashi, he spearheaded a bipartisan bill, which is co-sponsored by every Legislator on the Board.

This local action was made possible by “Gio’s Law,” New York Public Health Law 3000-c, which authorizes counties to pass legislation allowing certain emergen-

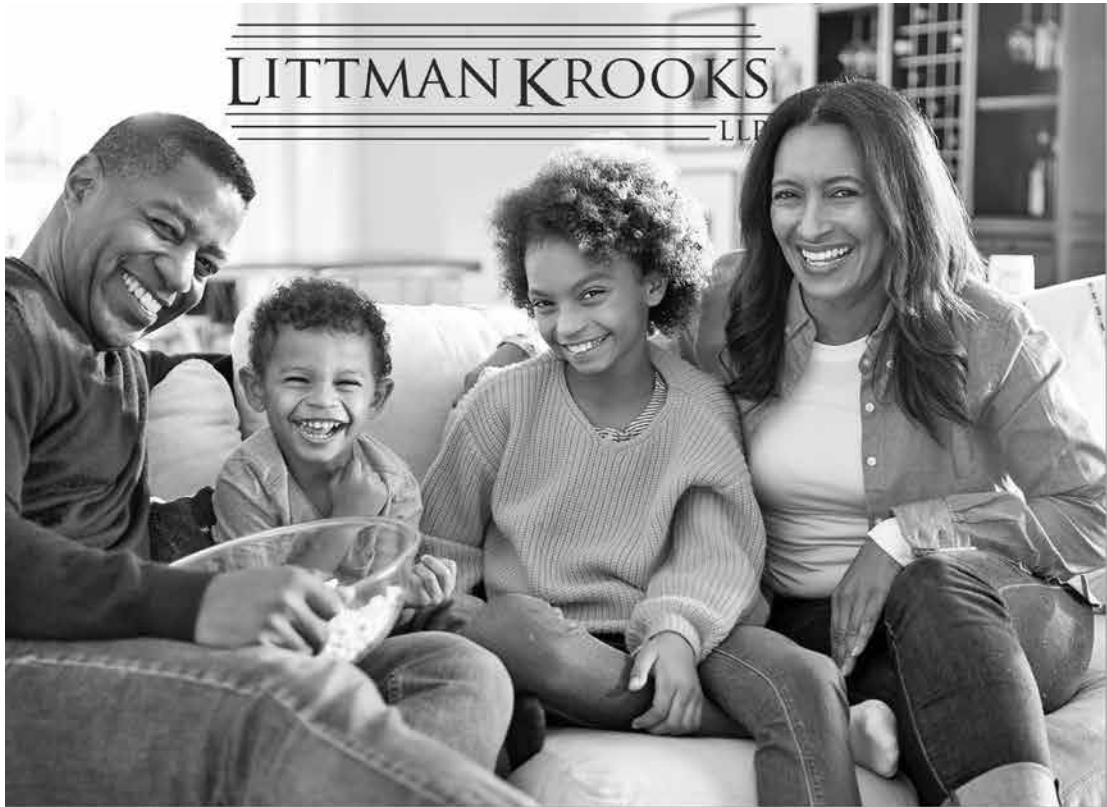
cy responders, including law enforcement officers, to carry and administer epinephrine following appropriate training.

By adopting this measure, Westchester is making full use of the state’s framework to bring faster access to lifesaving treatment for residents. With its passage, Westchester becomes just the second of New York State’s 62 counties to enact this legislation.

Board Chairman Vedat Gashi (D-New Castle, Ossining, Somers, Yorktown) said, “When a constituent reached out asking us to help families struggling with potentially life-threatening allergic reactions, I knew Westchester needed to do everything it could. Too many families, including my own, live with the daily fear of a severe allergic reaction, and this law will help ensure that first responders are ready to save lives. I’m proud that the entire Board voted to make this common-sense step a reality.”

Majority Whip Terry Clements (D-New Rochelle, Pelham, Pelham Manor), Chair of the Board’s Public Safety Committee, said, “This is a simple, life-saving measure. Giving our officers epinephrine auto-injectors means they

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Westchester County Board of Legislators Invests in Youth Employment, Mental Health Services, and Historic Preservation

The Westchester County Board of Legislators approved measures to create summer work experience for young adults, expand employment services for people with mental illness, and acquire a Revolutionary War landmark at its meeting on Monday, September 29.

Board Chairman Vedat Gashi (D-New Castle, Ossining, Somers, Yorktown) said, “The Board’s actions Monday night show we’re thinking about every member of our community—from young people building their first job skills to adults seeking employment support to families looking for places to connect with our history. The County is investing in opportunities that matter to the people of Westchester.”

Summer Program to Help Young Adults Build Career Skills and Earn Income

The Board approved agreements with eight municipalities to provide a six-week summer work experience program for youth ages 16-24 from income-eligible families. The program offers participants more than just a paycheck—they’ll develop workplace skills, build professional networks, and gain valuable contacts that will serve them throughout their careers. Fully funded by a \$150,000 grant from New York Presbyterian Hospital, the program incurs no direct cost to county taxpayers. The Westchester County Youth Bureau will coordinate with local youth bureaus in Mount Vernon, New Rochelle, Peekskill, Yonkers, White Plains, Ossining, Port Chester, and Greenburgh.

Minority Whip James Nolan (R-Yonkers, Eastchester, Bronxville), Chair of the Board’s Veterans, Seniors and Youth Committee, agreed and said, “I’m proud to support expanded summer employment and training opportunities for our youth here in Yonkers. Our young people are the most valuable resource we have. Programs like this not only provide early job experience and mentorship, but also help build confidence, responsibility, and community engagement. Investing in youth is investing in the future of Westchester.”

Mental Health Employment Services Expanded

The Board also approved expanded support for adults with serious mental illness to find and maintain jobs. The initiative includes job coaching, rapid placement assistance, and connections to community employers. New York State is providing an additional \$244,858, increasing total funding to \$1.39 million through 2026. Westchester

Medical Center administers these services, helping participants build independence and achieve financial stability.

Legislator Nancy E. Barr (D-Harrison, Port Chester, Rye Brook), Chair of the Board’s Human Services Committee, said, “Finding and holding a job is an important milestone for most adults, providing both a livelihood and a sense of self-worth. But for adults affected by serious mental illness, this can be very challenging. I am pleased that we are now able to increase funding to support these job seekers with money from the NYS Department of Mental Health. Helping these individuals find and maintain appropriate employment is a win-win, and we are fortunate to be able to partner with WCHCC to administer this program.”

Preserving Revolutionary War Heritage

In addition, Westchester residents will soon be able to experience a rare piece of living history at the historic Ward House in Tuckahoe, following the Board’s approval to acquire the property. The \$2.55 million bond authorization will purchase the Revolutionary War-era property on White Plains Road for \$980,000 and fund renovations to make the site welcoming and accessible to the public. This investment ensures that an authentic glimpse into 18th-century life becomes a community asset for generations to come.

Built more than 270 years ago, the Ward House served as home to Stephen Ward, Eastchester’s Town Supervisor in the 1700s, and played a significant role during the Revolutionary War. After British General William Tryon burned the structure, Ward’s son Jonathan restored it—preserving a tangible connection to the County’s colonial past.

Legislator Judah Holstein (D-Eastchester, New Rochelle, Tuckahoe) said, “I am immensely pleased and proud that we have approved the purchase of the Ward House in Tuckahoe, ensuring that this important Revolutionary War landmark will be preserved. This investment safeguards a rare piece of our colonial history and makes it possible for future generations to connect with the story of our nation’s founding right here in Westchester and in District 10. My sincere thanks go to all who made this possible—my colleagues on the County Board, the County Executive, the staff in our Planning and Parks Departments, the Village of Tuckahoe, the property owner, the Friends of the Ward House, and everyone who came together to achieve this milestone.”

Westchester Residents Are Urged to Claim More Than \$453 Million in Lost Money

Westchester County Executive Ken Jenkins and New York State Comptroller Thomas P. DiNapoli are urging residents to check if they have lost money owed to them. Westchester County residents, businesses, nonprofits, religious institutions and others have about \$453 million waiting to be claimed.

Every day the State Comptroller returns more than \$2 million to New Yorkers, and recently reconnected nearly \$12,000 in unclaimed funds to local organizations, including \$5,781 for the White Plains City School District, \$3,695 for the Business Council of Westchester, \$2,175 for My Sisters Place and \$330 for the Plumbers and Steamfitters Local 21.

County Executive Ken Jenkins said: “Too often, people don’t realize they’re owed money—and the truth is, you could be one of them. Westchester residents work hard

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IRL (In Real Life) Expands Across Westchester to Help Families Reclaim Childhood from Screens

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This fall, IRL and LMCCC are teaming up for “The Great Parental Reset: Defending Your Values and Restoring Your Authority in the Digital Age” — an event designed for parents of preschool and elementary-aged children. The workshop will help families understand how screen time impacts development, clarify their family values, and build the confidence to set healthy tech boundaries.

Creating Safe Screenless Spaces

In addition to events and workshops working to inform families about a balanced tech approach, IRL members are working to create screen-free spaces where children can play and spend time together. Stefanie Lob, the IRL Larchmont-Mamaroneck Chapter Lead is re-launching local spaces like The Cove LM, designed specifically for Larchmont

Mamaroneck middle schoolers, The Cove offers a welcoming environment where kids can unplug, socialize face-to-face, and find real-life community.

Join the Movement

IRL invites families everywhere to be part of this positive cultural shift. Parents can:

- Attend local events and fairs to explore kid-safe devices.
- Join workshops and panels for practical parenting tools.
- Volunteer or start a local chapter to support other families.
- Spread the word to friends, schools, and communities.

Every small action — from a device-free playdate to a family walk — helps show kids that life offline can be full of joy, connection, and meaning.

Learn more at www.weareirl.org.

Scarsdale Student Nominated for Heart of a Giant Award

Scarsdale High School student Gia Asen was nominated for the 2025 USA Football Heart of a Giant Award, presented by Hospital for Special Surgery (HSS) and the New York Giants. The award recognizes high school students who demonstrate an unparalleled work ethic and passion for the game of football.

Asen, a junior at Scarsdale High School, is a dual-sport athlete who has excelled as both a flag football and soccer standout. On the football field, she earned All-Section and All-League honors, playing both offense and defense during her team’s undefeated run to the state championship. Her season was cut short after being hospitalized with a rare blood clot, but she showed remarkable resilience by stepping into a leadership role as team manager, keeping statistics and motivating teammates from the sidelines.

In soccer, Asen serves as a captain and has been recognized with All-Section and All-League honors, while also competing at a high level in club soccer, where she has participated in national and regional Girls Academy Talent ID programs.

Off the field, she gives back through volunteer work with Lifting Up Westchester, where she has spent summers supporting children in need and encouraging peers to join her in service.



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Westchester County Funds Arts Program for Special Needs Students

Westchester County Board of Legislators Minority Whip James Nolan (R-Yonkers, Eastchester, Bronxville) delivered \$15,000 in County funding to the Yonkers-based Westchester School for Special Children to support in-school art and dance classes. Heartsong, Inc., a therapeutic, educational, and rehabilitative creative arts non-profit in White Plains will oversee the classes. Heartsong aims to enhance the functioning level and life quality of individuals with special needs in an atmosphere of joy and support.

Legislator Nolan said, “I am honored to have been able to deliver this grant for this wonderful institution. They have been a pillar in our community for decades, providing vital education, therapy, and support to children and families who need it most. I will always stand with our schools and advocate for the resources they deserve. This funding is about making sure every child, regardless of ability, has the chance to succeed. Our children are our future, and it’s our responsibility to give them every tool possible to reach their potential.”

The Westchester School for Special Children is an educational center for children with special needs. The school provides an interdisciplinary educational program in a supportive environment to help children with



disabilities develop skills they need to function productively and independently in various settings. County funding will pay for services delivered to students in all 17 classrooms at the Yonkers campus and 11 classrooms at the North Salem campus.

Leonard Spano, Executive Director of the school, said, “The Westchester School for Special Children is deeply grateful to Legislator James Nolan for securing vital funding to support our programs and services. This investment will allow us to enhance our classrooms, expand resources for our teachers and staff, and most importantly, ensure that our students receive the individualized attention and care they need to succeed. For decades, our school has worked to provide children with special needs a safe, nurturing, and empowering environment, and Legislator Nolan’s commitment helps us strengthen that mission. We thank him for his leadership, his advocacy, and his recognition of the

importance of investing in children with unique challenges and extraordinary potential.”

NBC filmed scenes for Episode 5 of the TV show *The Fall and Rise of Reggie Dinkins* starring Tracy Morgan and Daniel Radcliffe at Sportech, 124 South Ridge Street, Rye Brook, last month. The show will air on Paramount+ in November and December, and is produced by Tina Fey.



Westchester Passes “Gio’s Law” to Save Lives in Allergy Emergencies

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can act fast and protect residents when it matters most.”

Legislator Nancy E. Barr (D-Harrison, Port Chester, Rye Brook), Chair of the Board’s Human Services Committee, said, “For an individual experiencing a life-threatening allergic reaction, the quick administration of epinephrine is a matter of life and death, so training and supplying our County public safety officers with epinephrine auto-injectors is sure to save lives. I hope that the passage of this law at the County level will encourage all of Westchester’s cities, towns and villages to adopt a similar law in their local municipality if they have not already done so.”

Jared Saiontz, a Horace Greeley High School student who proposed the law to Chairman Gashi, said, “I am one

of the 32 million Americans who live with life-threatening food allergies. The Giovanni Cipriano Act will be life-saving because it ensures that first responders have the tools—both training and epinephrine—to help save a life during an anaphylactic reaction.”

Chappaqua resident Stacey Saiontz, said, “I am so proud of my son, Jared, who was born with 26 anaphylactic allergies, for proposing this important legislation to Vedat Gashi, who listened and took action! The Giovanni Cipriano Act, named after our friend Georgina’s son, who sadly lost his life to an anaphylactic reaction, will provide Westchester County public safety officers with the tools they need to respond to an anaphylactic reaction when minutes can be the difference between life and death.”



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Upcoming Events at the Scarsdale Public Library

Demystifying Medicare & Healthcare Coverage for Seniors
Monday, November 3, 5 PM
In this engaging interactive session, you will learn about the various parts of Medicare and the costs associated with medical and drug insurance provided by the government and private companies. <https://www.scarsdalelibrary.org/event/demystifying-medicare-and-health-care-coverage-seniors-julie-woodward-129077>

Thursdays Together - Accessible Games and Activities
Thursdays, November 6 and 20 at 10:30 AM
Come to the library for some welcoming, focused time meant to give day habilitation groups, people living in congregate housing, and all others who might receive special care at home an opportunity for social interaction and fun games and activities. For those ages 18 and up. [https://www.scarsdalelibrary.org/events/upcoming?keywords=accessible%20together&age_groups\[23\]=23](https://www.scarsdalelibrary.org/events/upcoming?keywords=accessible%20together&age_groups[23]=23)

Stress Relief Through Mindfulness & Self-Care
Friday, November 7, 1 PM
Join us for a relaxing afternoon workshop exploring stress management, self-care, and mindfulness practices. This program is designed to nurture the mind, body, and spirit in a calm, supportive community setting. <https://www.scarsdalelibrary.org/event/wellness-and-self-care-123974>

Virtual: How to Make Sense of Today's Financial Markets
Wednesday, November 12, 1 PM
This monthly discussion group offers an opportunity to learn more in a comfortable setting with other women. The topics will vary every month to stay as current as possible. This is open to women of all levels of financial knowledge. <https://www.scarsdalelibrary.org/event/virtual-women-and-money-round-table-how-make-sense-todays-financial-markets-122974>



Art Workshop - Watercolors
Thursday, November 13, 10:30 AM
Join us for a morning of art and fun as

we explore different artistic mediums! Artist Kören Beck will teach a workshop on watercolor technique. From brush strokes to color mixing to composition, come get started with watercolor painting or enhance your skills. <https://www.scarsdalelibrary.org/event/art-workshop-styles-around-world-112492>



Movie Screening & Discussion - Marie Antoinette (1938)
Friday, November 14, 2 PM
Join Marcus Renna in the Scott Room for a screening and discussion of the lavish 1938 historical drama Marie Antoinette. <https://www.scarsdalelibrary.org/event/movie-screening-discussion-94766>



Blues and Folk Guitar Concert with Tal Naccarato
Saturday, November 15, 2 PM
Don't miss the soulful sounds of acoustic guitar as award-winning musician Tal Naccarato offers both original songs and some of the traditional blues repertoire in a concert sure to leave you humming along. <https://www.scarsdalelibrary.org/event/folk-concert-118673>

Finding Home - A Music and Poetry Journey
Sunday, November 16, 2:30 PM
The Scarsdale Public Library and the Hoff-Barthelson Music School invite you to ponder the meaning of home and enjoy an afternoon of poetry and jazz! <https://www.scarsdalelibrary.org/event/poetry-writers-community-129025>

Apple Cidering - Adult Session
Monday, November 17, 6:30 PM
Come to the library to see a traditional apple cider press! You'll have the chance to follow along with a Weinberg Nature Center naturalist to operate the press and taste some fresh apple cider. <https://www.scarsdalelibrary.org/event/apple-cidering-adult-session-131614>



Film Screening & Director Q&A - The Leatherman with Jon Scott Bennett
Tuesday, November 18, 6 PM
Join local filmmaker and historian Jon Scott Bennett for a fascinating look into a true tale from Westchester history! <https://www.scarsdalelibrary.org/event/film-screening-director-qa-leatherman-jon-scott-bennett-124470>



Stepped Away with Reyna Gentin
Wednesday, November 19, 7:30 PM
Join local author Reyna Marder Gentin for the launch of her latest novel, Jessica Harmon Has Stepped Away, in conversation with journalist Jessica Rao. <https://www.scarsdalelibrary.org/event/reyna-gentin-126396>

Westchester Residents Are Urged to Claim More Than \$453 Million in Lost Money

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for every dollar they earn, and we want to make sure they get back what's rightfully theirs. It only takes a minute to check the State Comptroller's website and see if you or a loved one is owed unclaimed funds. Don't leave your money behind."

State Comptroller Thomas P. DiNapoli said: "We're returning more than \$2 million a day to New Yorkers, and my office is working to make it easier than ever to reclaim lost money, including mailing some checks directly to their rightful owners. If you get a check, cash it. There are \$453 million reasons why people living in Westchester should visit our website to search for their names, check for family members and reclaim their money."

Unclaimed funds occur when people lose track of their money or an account and can come from utility deposits, trust

VIRTUAL: Successfully Navigating College Admissions This Fall
Wednesday, November 19, 7:30 PM
This Zoom program is recommended for parents and their high school teens and is a detailed and strategic overview of what students should focus on for a successful college admissions process and how to reduce the stress around it. <https://www.scarsdalelibrary.org/event/virtual-successfully-navigating-college-admissions-fall-129162>



Chinese Movie Matinee - Saturday Fiction (2019)
Saturday, November 22, 2 PM
The film for November is the 2019 historical spy thriller Saturday Fiction. This monthly event is completely free, and refreshments will be provided! This event is cosponsored by the OCA-WHV. <https://www.scarsdalelibrary.org/event/chinese-movie-matinee-saturday-fiction-2019-132830>

funds, old bank accounts, uncashed checks or unused gift cards. These funds never expire, and its quick and easy to check the website <https://www.osc.ny.gov/unclaimed-funds>.

There are currently more than 648,000 accounts with addresses in Westchester County.

In an effort to speed up returns, the State Comptroller's Office of Unclaimed Funds (OUF) began mailing checks for newly reported accounts of \$250 or less to eligible individuals in January. About 73,000 checks have been sent out, valued at \$5.5 million as of August.

Residents who need assistance with the search process can attend an in-person event held by DiNapoli's office or call OUF at (800) 221-9311, Monday to Friday, 8 AM to 5 PM.

Why Safe Deposit Boxes May be Creating More Problems Than Protections



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

For generations, families relied on bank safe deposit boxes to safeguard important documents, jewelry, and sentimental heirlooms. Having a key to a safe deposit box once symbolized prudence and financial responsibility. But in today's world of digital records, cloud storage, and home safes, these boxes are not only outdated but they can create serious legal and practical challenges, especially after a death. Understanding how safe deposit boxes work, and how access is handled when an owner or co-owner dies, can prevent costly delays and emotional frustration for loved ones.

When a person who rents a safe deposit box dies, the box and its contents are typically sealed by the bank. Financial institutions do this to protect themselves from liability and to ensure that only an authorized person, usually the executor or administrator of the estate, can access the contents. The problem is that the executor often cannot be appointed until the Will is submitted to the Surrogate's Court for probate, and the original Will is often inside the box. This circular dilemma can delay probate for weeks or months.

In New York the Estates, Powers and Trusts Law (EPTL) allows limited access to a decedent's safe deposit box for specific purposes, such as retrieving a Will, burial instructions, or a life insurance policy. However, the bank must follow a prescribed procedure and require proper identification and usually a court order before opening the box. The process takes time, particularly if the family is unaware that the box exists or cannot locate the key.

Many people assume that naming a joint owner on a safe deposit box will avoid these problems. Unfortunately, that is not always the case. A "joint tenant" has full access during both parties' lifetimes, but

once one owner dies, banks often restrict access until proof of death and estate documentation are provided.

This happens because the contents of the box may not actually belong to the surviving joint owner, even if their name appears on the box. The legal question becomes one of ownership: were the contents jointly owned, or did the deceased simply grant access for convenience? In some cases, the court appointed executor must provide a full inventory of the contents before removing anything, to prevent misappropriation of estate assets.

Beyond the access issues, safe deposit boxes themselves are quietly disappearing. Many major banks no longer offer them at new branches, and some have stopped renting them altogether. Maintaining secure vaults is expensive and labor-intensive, and today's consumers increasingly prefer digital or in-home alternatives.

Many of the reasons people once used safe deposit boxes, including storing original deeds, stock certificates, savings bonds, or important legal documents, no longer apply. Most records are now maintained electronically or can be easily replaced. What cannot be replaced is your original estate-planning documents which should be kept somewhere immediately accessible to your fiduciaries, not behind a locked door in a bank vault.

Branch consolidations also pose a risk. As banks close or merge, box holders may be notified that their branch is shutting down and must remove their contents by a deadline. If the notice is missed or goes to an old address, the contents can end up in the state's unclaimed property system, creating another layer of complexity for heirs.

For most people, a well-secured home safe offers a more practical and accessible option. Fireproof and waterproof safes rated for at least one hour of fire resistance can protect critical papers and valuables. Originals of your last will and testament, power of attorney, health care proxy and any trusts should be stored there, while your attorney should maintain copies.

It's also wise to maintain a written inventory of what's in the safe, share its location with your executor or trusted family member, and ensure that someone knows the combination or where to find it in

the event of an emergency.

Digital storage is another alternative. Many law firms now provide secure client portals, and reputable online vaults offer encrypted storage for scanned copies of legal documents, insurance policies, and passwords. However, digital storage should supplement, not replace, properly executed original documents.

Safe deposit boxes once represented the height of security and orderliness, but in modern estate administration they often cause the opposite: inaccessibility, delay, and confusion. Families can avoid these complications by understanding how banks handle access at death, re-considering whether a box is necessary, and ensuring that essential documents remain easily accessible

to those who will need them most. By modernizing how you store and safeguard your important papers, you can give your loved ones the true peace of mind that safe deposit boxes were once meant to provide.

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.

Scarsdale Police Blotter

Tuesday, September 16, 2025, 11 AM: Police stopped a vehicle on Post Road and issued summonses to the driver for operating a motor vehicle with a suspended registration, third-degree aggravated unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle and driving a vehicle without insurance.

Wednesday, September 17, 2025, 11:09 AM: A Reynal Crossing resident reported that a battery-powered leaf blower was stolen from his front yard.

Saturday, September 20, 2025, 1:26 AM: Jordana Testa, 25, of Hartsdale, was charged with driving while intoxicated, third-degree aggravated unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle, and driving over the speed limit after radar showed her car going 55 mph in a posted 30 mph speed zone.

Sunday, September 21, 2025, 1:30 AM: Mario Jiminez Noriega, 49, of the Bronx, was charged with driving while intoxicated, third-degree aggravated unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle, and failure to drive in a designated lane after police stopped his 2005 BMW on Heathcote Road.

Wednesday, October 1, 2025, 9:41 AM: An Overhaul Road resident reported that someone opened a business line of credit in her name with American Express.

Wednesday, October 1, 2025, 5:34 PM: After receiving a report that two youths with electric bikes were building an auto cross course with jumps in the vicinity of Duck Pond Road, police told the youths they could not create a dirt ramp and helped them tear it down and replace the dirt.

Wednesday, October 1, 2025, 8:07 PM: A Lockwood Road resident reported that food in her oven was on fire. Police dispatched the Scarsdale Fire Department to the home.

Wednesday, October 1, 2025, 9:48 PM: A 42-year-old Brooklyn man was ticketed for operating a motor vehicle with a suspended registration and operating a motor vehicle without insurance after police stopped his car on Ross Road.

Friday, October 3, 2025, 9:10 PM: A resident of Herkimer Road told police that a directTV account in Colorado was fraudulently opened in her name and she is now being charged \$1,000.

Sunday, October 5, 2025, 5:08 PM: An Innes Road resident reported that she received irate phone calls from her neighbor after she put a lock on a fence door between the two properties to keep her neighbor from walking into her yard. After police talked with both neighbors, the lock was removed and both agreed to stay out of each other's yards.

Wednesday, October 8, 2025, 8 AM: An Ogden Road resident reported their Audi Q7 SUV was stolen from their driveway overnight.

Thursday, October 9, 2025, 12:05 AM: After responding to a report of a blonde man in a striped shirt lying on the ground off Heathcote Road, police found a scarecrow on a front lawn.

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November 2025 Calendar



Paul Jacobs Organ Recital
Sunday, November 9, 3 PM
Hitchcock Presbyterian Church,
This unforgettable afternoon of majestic organ music with Paul Jacobs celebrates the 35th Anniversary of the J. W. Walker Organ. Free admission. For details, email info@hitchcockpresby.org.



Wine Tasting and Silent Auction
Thursday, November 13, 7 PM
Scarsdale Woman's Club, 37 Drake Road
Sample wine and place an order in preparation for the holidays. Bid on a chance to win on a wide range of items from fine jewelry to local dining. For more information, email swc1918@verizon.net.



Victorian Christmas
November 13 through January 4
The Octagon House
Celebrate the holiday season surrounded by the sights and sounds of Christmas in the 1870s. This lyrical, 8-sided home will be filled with elaborate holiday décor featuring wreaths, garlands, and the sparkle of antique ornaments on three grand Christmas trees. Learn more at <https://armourstiner.com/guided-tours/victorian-christmas-at-the-octagon-house/>



The Great Holiday Train Show
Saturday, November 22 to Saturday, January 3
New Castle Historical Society, 100 King Street, Chappaqua
This unique holiday exhibition features LEGO Around the World, the Polar Express and Santa's Holiday Train. Those who are young or young at heart can enjoy a train-themed scavenger hunt, an activity room with crafts and hands-on trains, and even a mini train engine for the perfect photo op! For more information, email info@newcastlehs.org.

Art Reception for Only Human
Saturday, November 8, 3 PM to 5 PM
Harrison Public Library, 2 Bruce Avenue
Wherever he goes, photographer David Greene seeks those transitory slice-of-life moments—in people and nature—that tell a deeper story. Using his camera as a candid observer, he captures life as it happens, whether it's intriguing people he meets on the street, atmospheric travel locations, or moments of emotional complexity that might otherwise go unnoticed. Only Human is on display from November 2 to December 5. For more information, call (914) 523-6835.

Comedy Night Out
Saturday, November 8, 7:30 PM
Jewish Community Center of Mid-Westchester, 999 Wilmot Road, Scarsdale
Enjoy a night of laughter at Comedy Night Out, hosted by comedian Teresa DeGaetano and curated by local Larchmont mom and comedy sensation Alyce Chan of the immensely popular parenting platform MomComNYC! Expect a hilarious evening as Alyce brings her sharp wit and parenting humor to the stage, along with powerhouse comedians Ophira Eisenberg and Ben Rosenfeld! Wine reception begins at 7 PM. Admission is \$54. For more information, go to <https://jccmw.org/event/comedy-night-out/>.

Coffee & Conversations with the Board of Education
Friday, November 14, 10:20 AM
Edgemont Junior/Senior High School, 200 White Oak Lane, Scarsdale
The community is invited to discuss

school-related issues with the Edgemont Board of Education in an information setting. Coffee and refreshments will be served. To suggest a topic for discussion, email communications@edgemont.org.

Holiday Fair
Saturday, November 15, 10 AM to 7 PM
Sunday, November 16, 9 AM to 3 PM
Church of Saint Pius X, 91 Secor Road, Scarsdale
Bring warmth and joy to your home this holiday season with unique art, festive crafts and delicious treats. Free admission. Parking available. For more information, email mammadoc@gmail.com.

Alternative Device Fair
Saturday, November 22, 10 AM to 12:30 PM
Scarsdale Public Library, 54 Olmsted Road
Thinking about your child's first phone or watch? Before defaulting to an iPhone or Apple Watch, explore options designed with kids and parents in mind. Learn about phones and watches that allow calls, texts and location tracking without

social media. This event is sponsored by IRL NY. To learn more email Scarsdale@WeAreIRL.org.

Thanksgiving Market
Sunday, November 23, 10 AM to 2 PM
Stone Barns Center for Food & Agriculture, 630 Bedford Road, Pocantico Hills
Shop for produce, meat, eggs, and cut flowers from the farm to serve on the Thanksgiving table and browse handmade goods from local vendors. A culinary demonstration with peak season ingredients begins at 10:30 AM. For details, email info@stonebarnscenter.org.

Volunteer Firefighters Needed
Greenville Fire Company No. 1 needs volunteers who live or work in Edgemont to assist in interior firefighting, search and rescue operations, and general support. Firefighting training and certification for emergency responders are offered. No firefighting experience is required, and volunteers must be at least 17 years old. For more information, email greenville-fire1@gmail.com or call (914) 723-3430 ext. 6.

Table Hopping with Morris Gut: Osteria Sardegna Premieres in Mamaroneck

I was driving up Halstead Ave. in Mamaroneck when I noticed the lights on at a new spot called Osteria Sardegna. It turns out to be a second coming for veteran restaurateur Vittorio Scarpa and his family who had operated a restaurant featuring the rustic dishes of Sardinia back in 2007 in Larchmont.

He has taken over the space once occupied by Padre Pio. A quick look inside and it is a charmer, filled with the art and artifacts of his native island off the coast of Italy's west coast. Scarpa, who came from a family of cooks, started in the food service business at his family's restaurants in Sardinia and Rome, then came to the States in the 80s and has been involved in the field in Los Angeles and New York City.

The 40-seat dining room is lined with lovely photos and prints of his native Sardinia. According to Scarpa, the roots of Sardinian cuisine come from fresh ingredients, nothing frozen. Sardinians are very proud of their fresh fish from the Mediterranean, roast pig, homemade breads, milk and cheese from goats, sheep and cows, and home-grown fruits, vegetables and herbs, garlic being of primary importance.

The opening menu offers such great starters as Pane Carasau, thin, flat and crispy Sardinian bread with mozzarella cheese, rosemary and olive oil; Bombas alla Sarda, meatballs, SARancini Quattro Formaggi, arborio rice, ricotta cheese, Involtini di Melanzane, eggplant and ricotta, pecorino in tomato sauce; and Calamari Fritti.

Robust pasta specialties include Malloreddus, Sardinian style pasta with beef ragu; and Culingiones, ravioli stuffed with pecorino, ricotta, garlic and basil sauce.

Hearty main courses include Chicken Scarpariello, boneless with sausage, cherry peppers, served with penne, tomato sauce; and Branzino alla Vermentino, sauteed with Sardinian white wine served with sauteed vegetables. Daily specials augment the menu.

Osteria Sardegna Italian Restaurant is located at 501 Halstead Ave., Mamaroneck. 914-315-1580. The restaurant is open Tuesday through Sunday from 3 p.m. to 9 p.m. A bit later on weekends. Closed Mondays. Cozy bar and cocktails. Major credit cards. Proper casual dress. Free parking. Reservations accepted. www.osteriasardegna.com

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

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