

Scarsdale Sentinel



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Westchester Municipal Consortium Secures Lower ConEd Utility Rate Hikes

BY STEPHEN E. LIPKEN

At the November 10 meeting of the Scarsdale Village Board of Trustees, Scarsdale Deputy Mayor Dara B. Gruenberg announced the Westchester Municipal Consortium Con Edison three-year utility rate settlement, reducing rate hikes from 13.4% to 2.8% for electricity and 19% to 2% for gas.

Gruenberg opened the meeting by congratulating Trustee David J. Goldschmidt on the birth of his grandson.

Gruenberg went on to say that the Annual Veterans Day Ceremony will be held at Boniface Circle Park on November 11 with participating local officials, veterans, scouts and community members. “The ceremony will included a flag-raising, wreath-laying and remarks reflecting the meaning of Veterans Day. It will open and close with presentation and retiring of the colors by Scarsdale Fire and Police Honor Guards,” Gruenberg stated.

“The Village’s annual leaf collection will continue until Friday, December 5,” Village Manager Alexandra H. Marshall said. “Leaves are to be raked to the area between the curb and pavement edge of the property line. Please note that the leave piles must be free of branches, twigs or other yard waste. Village Code prohibits depositing leaves in the roadway. If there are any questions about the leaf collection program, please contact Department of Public Works at 914-722-1150.

“Seasonal overnight parking restrictions will take effect on Monday, December 1 through Tuesday, March 31, 2026. Onstreet parking is prohibited from 2 AM to 6 AM, allowing for plowing and salting operations.”

Trustee Jeremy A. Gans opened a Public Hearing regarding proposed Local Law to Amend Chapter 251 of the Village Code concerning processing Site Plan Applications and Referrals. The Public Hearing was adjourned to Tuesday, November 25.

Agenda items included a Resolution to distribute a Notice of Intent to declare Lead Agency for Drainage Improvements Grant Application for Brite Avenue and Fox Meadow Road, presented by Goldschmidt; Resolution designating Wednesday, March 18, 2026 as Village Election Day from 6 AM to 9 PM at Scarsdale Public Library and Memorandum of Understanding with Scarsdale Business Alliance.



Dara B. Gruenberg

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A Milestone Year for the Scarsdale Concours d'Elegance



The 20th Annual Scarsdale Concours d'Elegance rolled into town on October 5, bringing incredible energy, dazzling cars, and proud community spirit to the heart of Scarsdale. From vintage classics to modern supercars, the Village was filled with excitement, conversation, and local pride.

What began two decades ago as an idea from two Scarsdale High School sophomores has grown into one of Scarsdale's most cherished traditions — celebrating creativity, philanthropy, and community connection. The event continues to raise funds for local charities while highlighting the best of what makes Scarsdale so special — our people, our passion, and our purpose.

The Scarsdale Business Alliance extends congratulations to the organizers and thanks all participating businesses, volunteers, and residents for continuing to make this event a hallmark of our Village's community spirit.

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Closing Loophole in Flavored Vape Ban

A proposal that would make it harder for retailers to get around New York State's ban on flavored nicotine vaping products was recently announced at a Westchester County Board of Legislators meeting.

The proposal would mean that if flavored vape products are found in a store, they would be presumed to be for sale—unless the retailer can prove otherwise. While New York banned the sale of flavored vaping products in 2020 to protect young people, some stores have sidestepped this by claiming they're only "storing" the products to sell in other states.



Legislator Jewel Williams Johnson (D- Elmsford, Greenburgh, Tarrytown, White Plains), who is spearheading the proposed legislation, said, "This measure will address how flavored vapes are stored in retail establishments, setting clear conditions so owners must prove any claimed out-of-state internet sales and ensuring these products aren't sitting on-site as an open invitation to youth."

She added, "Our message is simple: If you profit from nicotine, you must keep it away from children—period. This is intended to put public health first, cut through loopholes, and help safeguard the futures of Westchester's young people."

Under the proposal, the Westchester County Department of Health would have stronger tools to enforce the state ban. Retailers could still prove the products are legitimately for out-of-state sales by showing they have the proper setup and follow all other laws.

The proposal has been sent to the Board's Committees on Legislation and Human Services for review.

A Timeless Gift to Scarsdale



Wilson & Son Jewelers presented Scarsdale Village with a gorgeous new clock in a recent special ribbon cutting and plaque ceremony.

This meaningful gift celebrates an incredible milestone — 120 years since the current owners' great-grandfather founded the company at 10 Spencer Place.

Two Edgemont Residents Appointed to Town of Greenburgh Boards

Two Edgemont residents were appointed to serve on Town boards at recent Greenburgh Town Board meetings.

Jennifer Frain, the newest member of the Greenburgh Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, is an 18-year resident of the Old Edgemont neighborhood in Edgemont. Frain has been a dedicated community leader, volunteering through the Edgemont PTA, serving as Executive Director of the Edgemont Recreation Committee since 2014, and serving on the Edgemont Community Council Board of Directors since 2020. She has held multiple leadership roles on the ECC Board, including Chair of the Nominating Committee, Secretary, Treasurer, and Second Vice President. Her long record of service reflects her deep commitment to fostering recreation, connection, and civic participation across the Edgemont community.

Joy Batashoff Thaler, the newest member of the Human Rights Advisory Committee, is a 21-year resident of the Longview neighborhood of Edgemont. She is the founder of The Pod by CocoaCompassion, a social-impact chocolate company and community space in Dobbs Ferry dedicated to fostering creativity, inclusion, and youth engagement. Through her partnership with Community Center Without Walls and the Westchester County Poet Laureate, she helped develop the 2025 Poetry Series — an initiative that empowers young people to use art as a tool for leadership and civic expression.

Edgemont residents who would like to learn more about getting involved with the Edgemont Community Council or a Town of Greenburgh board, committee, commission, or council, can email President@EdgemontECC.org.

Scarsdale Foundation Bowl Committee To Select 2026 Honorees

The 2026 Scarsdale Bowl Committee is looking for nominations for both the 2026 Bowl Award recipient and 2026 Spotlight Award recipient. The Scarsdale Bowl Committee seeks as many deserving candidates for consideration as possible.

The Scarsdale Bowl Committee will hold its first of several meetings dedicated to selecting this year’s honorees on December 7. Nominees for both the Bowl Award and the Spotlight Award are requested on or before December 5.

The Scarsdale Bowl, under the auspices of the Scarsdale Foundation, has been awarded annually since 1944, to an individual (or, in exceptional cases, to a married couple or domestic partners) who have given “unselfishly of their time, energy and effort to the civic welfare of the community.” The founding donors of the Bowl believed that “many who serve generously and voluntarily, without office, honor, or publicity, are those deserving of having their names permanently inscribed on the Scarsdale Bowl.” The Scarsdale Bowl Award is an enormous honor bestowed on a Scarsdale resident in recognition of his or her volunteer public service in the community over the course of some decades. The Bowl itself, with the honorees engraved names, is permanently displayed at the Scarsdale Public Library.

Candidates must be Scarsdale residents who do not currently hold elective office. To access the Bowl Award nominee recommendation form, visit https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1kpqx9xmSvOP-PC14rWbZCELeTZ_drMBysOUU-UonUsG4/edit

In addition, the Scarsdale Foundation will continue the tradition it began in 2023 and present a second award, called the Spotlight, to honor an individual or an organization that has made a significant impact and brought about positive change in one targeted sphere of community engagement.

The Spotlight Award recognizes a Scarsdale resident or institution that has focused on moving the needle in one particular area.

Spotlight Award: Candidates must be Scarsdale residents or institutions, and individuals may not currently hold elective office. To access the Spotlight Award nominee recommendation form, visit <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1UyGx-o8KgRgX3it6zGUFd2AB1Xqzd511itCdOT->

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Upcoming Events at the Scarsdale Public Library

Makerspace Holiday Snowflakes - December 1-19
The Library Makerspace is making personalized snowflakes for the holiday season using the Glowforge laser cutter! Scarsdale Public Library (SPL) patrons can sign up for a customized, acrylic snowflake through the SPL event calendar. Just choose a message and ribbon color and library staff let you know when it's ready. One snowflake per SPL cardholder, available while supplies last. <https://www.scarsdalelibrary.org/event/makerspace-holiday-snowflakes-136667>

From the First Schoolhouse: Scarsdale Historical Society Documentary Screening at Scarsdale High School
Wednesday, December 3, 7 PM
The Scarsdale Historical Society will premiere its newest documentary, in partnership with the Scarsdale Public Library at the Scarsdale High School auditorium. The film traces how the Scarsdale public school district grew from a one-room schoolhouse to a national model of learning and innovation. The screening will be followed by a panel discussion with the filmmakers, local historians, and longtime educators who witnessed the district's transformation firsthand. <https://www.scarsdalelibrary.org/event/first-schoolhouse-scarsdale-historical-society-documentary-screening-136678>

Keys to Older Driving
Friday, December 5, 1 PM
This program is presented by the Department of Seniors Programs and Services Older Driver Coalition, and it offers tools, tips, and techniques that older drivers can use to be on the road as safely as possible for as long as possible. <https://www.scarsdalelibrary.org/event/keys-older-driving-131781>

Chinese Movie Matinee: Sight (2023)
Saturday, December 6, 10 AM
The film for December is the biographical drama Sight, which tells the true story of Ming Wang, a Chinese immigrant to the United States who becomes a renowned eye surgeon. A gently humane and inspirational story that delivers its message of perseverance and compassion with moving conviction. <https://www.scarsdalelibrary.org/event/chinese-movie-matinee-132831>

Virtual: How to Make Sense of Today's Financial Markets
Wednesday, December 10, 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-122975>

Will Success Spoil Rock Hunter?
Friday, December 12, 2 PM
Join Marcus Renna for a screening and discussion of the 1957 satirical comedy about the popular culture of the 1950s, Hollywood hype, and corporate advertising. <https://www.scarsdalelibrary.org/event/movie-screening-discussion-94767>

Author Talk: Mailman by Stephen Starling Grant
Saturday, December 13, 11 AM
Author Stephen Starring Grant shares his exuberant, profound, and hopeful memoir Mailman: My Wild Ride Delivering the Mail in Appalachia and Finally Finding Home. <https://www.scarsdalelibrary.org/>

event/author-talk-mailman-stephen-starling-grant-134024
Painted Glass Gifts for Teens
Saturday, December 13, 1 PM
Teens are invited to create beautiful painted glass tea light candle holders. They will make wonderful gifts for the Holidays. Registration required. <https://www.scarsdalelibrary.org/event/painted-glass-gifts-teens-130098>

Nancy's Book Group—The Magic Kingdom
Wednesday, December 17, 2 PM
Please join us in the Scott Room to discuss The Magic Kingdom by Russell Banks, hosted by David while Nancy is away. Written by one of America's most beloved storytellers, this is a dazzling tapestry of love and faith, memory and imagination that questions what it means to look back and accept one's place in history. <https://www.scarsdalelibrary.org/event/nancys-book-group-127749>

Sounds of the Holiday Season with the Westchester Band

The Scarsdale Public Library and Scarsdale Parks, Recreation and Conservation are delighted to co-present a special holiday concert series featuring the beloved Westchester Band, known for its uplifting performances that bring together generations of music lovers.
Audiences are invited to celebrate the season with an evening of joyful music—both sacred and secular—performed by a talented ensemble of professional, amateur, and student musicians. Under the direction of Alan Hollander, the Westchester Band has been a cherished part of the Village community since 1969, best known for its free “Concerts Under the Stars” each summer.
The holiday concerts will take place on Thursday, December 11 and Thursday, December 18, featuring the same program on both dates. Doors will open to concertgoers at 6:30 PM, following regular library hours.
Unlike regular library programs, this event is ticketed, with admission at \$30 per person. Tickets may be purchased online at scarsdale.gov/catalog. All are welcome to attend. Residency in the Village of Scarsdale is not required. For ticketing questions, contact Susan Oricchio at 914-722-1160 at Scarsdale Parks, Recreation and Conservation.
“We’re thrilled to welcome the Westchester Band to the Library for this festive celebration,” said Beth Bermel, Library Director. “Their music has been part of our community’s story for generations, and this concert is a wonderful opportunity for neighbors, friends, and families to come together and share in the joy of the season.”
To add to the festive atmosphere, seasonal bites, beverages, and lite fare will be available for purchase from the Boleria Brazilian Bakery at the library. Concertgoers are invited to arrive early to enjoy a warm drink or a holiday treat before the music begins.

Scarsdale Foundation Bowl Committee To Select 2026 Honorees

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This year, the Scarsdale Foundation Bowl Dinner will be held on April 23 at Mamaroneck Beach and Yacht Club. The dinner will pay tribute to the honorees while celebrating the spirit and culture of volunteerism in Scarsdale. Funds raised at the dinner will enable the Foundation to continue its mission of quietly but effectively helping local individuals and community organizations through student scholarships and project grants. Most significantly, the Scarsdale Foundation has awarded more than \$1 million in scholarships during the past ten years to Scarsdale's high school graduates in their sophomore, junior and senior years of college.
The 2026 Scarsdale Foundation Bowl Committee members are: Penny Bauers-

feld, Lisa Copeland, Warren Haber, Laura Miller, Toby Milstein Schulman, Nadine Pepin, Alli Seiden, Rob Tepper, Claudie Uribe and Julie Zhu. Pam Fuehrer is serving as Chair, with Tim Foley serving as Secretary and Sharon Higgins serving as Treasurer. Janice Starr, a Scarsdale Foundation Trustee, will also serve on the committee as a liaison, along with Seema Jaggi, President of the Scarsdale Foundation Board.
We look forward to gathering on April 23 to recognize all that makes Scarsdale a special place to live, and to benefit generations to come.
For more information, contact Pam Fuehrer, Bowl Chair at pfuehrer3@gmail.com. Additional information about the Scarsdale Foundation can be found at www.scarsdalefoundation.org.

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Table Hopping with Morris Gut: Sparkling Holiday Dining & Events

The 5th annual New Rochelle Holiday Market 2025 at New Roc City, 29 LeCount Place, will run Nov. 28 through Dec. 14th., 4-8 pm weekdays, and 12-8 pm weekends. There are holiday vendors and fun for all. For info: www.newrochelleny.gov/1842/NRNY-Holiday-Market

The White Plains Holiday Market brought to us by White Plains BID, returns December 6th through the 17th with 40 regional craft and food vendors. It takes place on Court St. between Main & Martine St. 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday thru Wednesday; to 7 p.m. Thursday-Sunday. For info: <https://wp-bid.com/events/holiday-market/>

If all this makes you hungry, here are some nearby dining suggestions for everyone in the family...

ALEX'S BAR & GRILLE, NORTH WHITE PLAINS

The handsome dining room is split into cozy sections with Mediterranean clay-colored banquets and plush beige curtained windows. Proprietor Alex Ahmetaj offers big cuts of aged steaks and chops along with generously served Northern Italian/Continental fare. Check out such specialties as: Pan Fried Calamari with hot cherry peppers, Linguini alle Vongole, a delicious fresh Branzino prepared tableside, classic Veal Parmigiana, grilled Filet Mignon, NY Sirloin Steak, a hefty Rib Eye, or the Pork Chops. Alex's Bar & Grille, 577 N. Broadway, N. White Plains. 914-358-1444 www.alex577.com

BEECHMONT TAVERN, NEW ROCHELLE

I like vintage pubs and taverns. I recently got back to the Beechmont Tavern, across from IONA University in New Rochelle. It has been around since 1928, they say, and proprietor Rob Hayes keeps the place warm and buzzing. We ordered their popular traditional chicken wings, a Gael burger and fries, and a summery goat cheese and pear salad. We shared. All were great. A special shout out to the staff. They were friendly and on the spot. We will be back. Beechmont Tavern, 750 North Ave., New Rochelle. Open 7 days. 914-636-9533 www.beechmonttavern.com

TRATTORIA VIVOLO, HARRISON

Cited by Forbes Magazine, Chef-owner and personable host Dean Vivolo serves his robust regional Italian cuisine out of a vintage diner just across from Harrison's Metro-North station. Sit at the counter, tuck into a booth, or take a table in the rear greenhouse and enjoy the surprising contemporary and traditional flavors emanating from his kitchen: tasty thin-crust pizza; Crostino di Polenta topped with wild mushrooms, gorgonzola, and tomato sauce; Linguini Nere with

bay scallops; Grilled Lamb Chops; Lasagna Bolognese al Forno; and wonderful Spaghetti a la Vongole. Fine wine list. Sparkling lights in the evenings. Seasonal outdoor patio. Free parking. Trattoria Vivolo, 301 Halstead Ave., Harrison. 914-835-6199 www.trattoriavivolo.com



JACK'S BAR & RESTAURANT, EASTCHESTER

Owner Shane Clifford and his friendly crew serve delicious finger foods and generously plated specialties. Chef/partner Brandan Donohoe's modern Irish American kitchen come great burgers, decadent Short Rib Mac N' Cheese, crusty pizzas out of their wood-fired oven; freshly made salads; Buttermilk Chicken Sandwich; Berkshire Pork Chops; Jack's Lamb Shank. Their full Irish Breakfast at brunch is a winner. Sticky Toffee Pudding for dessert is a must! The same group own Jill's in Mamaroneck. Jack's Bar, 219 Main St., Eastchester. 914-652-7650 www.jackseastchester.com

TORCELLO RISTORANTE, LARCHMONT

Imer Rraci and his veteran team reimagined the former La Riserva into a lovely setting for the Italian classics. Named after an island off the coast of Venice, this kitchen turns out such winning dishes as: colorful Mozzarella Caprice; Risotto Di Funghi with porcini; Linguine alle Vongole; Veal Chop Parmigiana; classic Rack of Lamb; and delicious Pollo Torcello, topped with applewood bacon and melted fresh mozzarella in a light bourbon mushroom sauce. Rraci had spent years working for the former Giambelli in Manhattan, and Valbella in Old Greenwich, CT. Open 7 days for dinner starting at 3:30 p.m. Bar/cocktails. Happy hours Wed. through Fri. 3:30-6 pm. Outdoor patio. Free parking. Torcello, 2382 Boston Post Road, Larchmont. 914-833-1118 www.torcellolarchmont.com

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

New Documentary Explores the Remarkable Evolution of the Scarsdale Public Schools

The Scarsdale Historical Society will present its newest documentary, From the First Schoolhouse: A Scarsdale Story, in partnership with the Scarsdale Public Library on Wednesday, December 3 at 7 PM at the Scarsdale High School (SHS) auditorium. The film traces how the Scarsdale public school district grew from a one-room schoolhouse to a national model of learning and innovation.

The film transports audiences to a version of the district that is almost unrecognizable—with oil lamps, privies, and bare-bones budgets. As the small farming community grew into a modern suburban village, residents prioritized educating children and building new schools. The schools did not progress by chance, but through civic vision, community commitment, and a lasting respect for public education—principles that remain woven into Scarsdale's character.

Produced by the Scarsdale Historical Society with documentary filmmaker Lesley Topping, this film features local historians Jordan Copeland, Leslie Chang, and Daniel Glauber, journalist Lori Rothman, former District educators Ruth Friendly and Tony Arenella, and SHS alumnus William Klayer,

who share their insights and experiences. The event will feature an introduction by Drew Patrick, Superintendent of Scarsdale Public Schools. The screening will be followed by a panel discussion with the filmmakers, local historians, and longtime educators who witnessed the district's transformation firsthand.

"Not every school district warrants its own documentary, but the Scarsdale School District is anything but ordinary," said Randy Guggenheimer, President of the Scarsdale Historical Society. "The district's meteoric rise tells a story of vision, determination, and community commitment."

"We are pleased to co-sponsor this screening, especially in the high school auditorium," stated Elizabeth Bermel, Director of Scarsdale Public Library. "It's especially moving to show the documentary in the very school that earlier generations worked so hard to build."

The premiere marks the first public screening of the film, which will later be made available for schools, civic groups, and streaming through the Historical Society's digital archive. www.scarsdalehistoricalsociety.org.

Ring in New Year's Day with All Six of J.S. Bach's Brandenburg Concertos

BY LINNET TSE

Back by popular demand! A European New Year's Day concert tradition continues in Larchmont following a sold-out inaugural concert last New Year's Day. As part of the Music in the Manor concert series, now in its second year, St. John's Episcopal Church, 4 Fountain Square, invites the community to ring in the New Year with J. S. Bach's most famous orchestral works, the Brandenburg Concertos. St. John's music director, Dr. Matthew Lewis, will lead an all-professional group of instrumentalists for a performance of all six of these well-known concertos, performed in their entirety on New Year's Day.

Dr. Lewis explains that New Year's Day concerts have long been a tradition in Europe, with one of the most famous ones being the Vienna Philharmonic's New Year's Concert. The St. John's orchestral ensemble will include 20 musicians on strings, flutes, oboes, French horns, trumpet, bassoon and harpsichord, many of whom have performed with the New York Philharmonic well as with other highly-acclaimed orchestras.

The Parish Hall, where the pieces will be performed, provides an intimate setting for the audience to experience the power of the music. "What better way to welcome the New Year than with these concertos, celebratory pieces that are full of optimism, hope and joy," notes Dr. Lewis enthusiastically.

The concert will begin at 3 PM on New Year's Day, with a short intermission for a light meal with champagne mid-way through, before finishing at around 6 PM. Tickets are \$75, including the festive reception.

For more information, go to <https://stjohnslarchmont.org/brandenburg-concertos-on-new-years-day/>.

JCC Mid-Westchester’s Dance School Boldly Reimagines Romeo & Juliet

The Dance School of the Jewish Community Center of Mid-Westchester (JCCMW) recently welcomed the community to a bold reimagining of Shakespeare’s timeless tragedy with R&J, a powerful dance experience that explores the complexities of love and identity.

In this new interpretation, the passion and peril of Verona were retold through a multiplicity of voices and perspectives with three different casts: male/female, male/male, and female/female. Through the universal language of movement, the ballet invited audiences to see themselves reflected in the joy and heartbreak of the star-crossed lovers—no matter who they are or whom they love.

With breathtaking choreography, an emotive score from Sergei Prokofiev, and fearless storytelling from the dancers of JCCMW and Hudson Ballet Theatre, this production reclaimed the stage and challenged conventions of classical ballet. It was a true celebration of love in all its forms—achingly beautiful, deeply human, and tragically fleeting.

Aaron Thao, Performing Arts Director of the JCCMW, shared, “Directing and choreographing this bold new Romeo and Juliet was nothing short of historic. Each of our three casts brought their own narratives to the forefront with an honesty and vibrancy that transformed the stage—and the audience. You could feel the theater shift every night as people recognized themselves in these love stories that reached beyond the stage. This production didn’t just retell Shakespeare; it redefined what community-centered art can be. It’s moments like these that set the JCC Mid-Westchester apart—fearless, inclusive, and willing to make history.”



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Justin Bischof, Conductor

Friday, December 12th, 7:30pm, 2025
Church of the Immaculate Heart of Mary
Father Stephen Ries | 8 Carman Road, Scarsdale, NY 10583
Tickets are \$40. Please scan the QR code for tickets.

Westchester County Legislators Pedal to Fight Domestic Violence

Members of the Westchester County Board of Legislators took to the trails on a chilly October morning to lead a family-friendly bike ride in support of domestic violence victims. Wearing event T-shirts emblazoned with the purple logo of the Break the Cycle 6-Mile Bike Ride to End Domestic Violence, the group cycled along Westchester’s scenic North County Trailway. The event benefited Pace Women’s Justice Center (PWJC), a critical legal resource for victims of domestic violence in the New York Metro area.

Supporters included County Executive Ken Jenkins and Legislator Shanae Williams (D-Yonkers), who noted the importance of spotlighting PWJC’s work all year long, not only during Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

Chairman Vedat Gashi (D-New Castle, Ossining, Somers, Yorktown), said, “Sincere thanks to PWJC for organizing today’s Break the Cycle ride and bringing us together to support their lifesaving work. Domestic violence is a crisis that exists in the shadows, affecting families regardless of wealth or status. Gatherings like this help expose a problem too many face in isolation. We’re riding with survivors to show there is support and hope.”

Cindy Kanusher, Executive Director for Pace Women’s Justice Center, said, “We are deeply grateful to the Westchester County Board of Legislators, Chairman Vedat Gashi, and all our community partners for standing with us at Break the Cycle. At PWJC, we help survivors every day navigate the legal system and heal from the impact of domestic violence—but this work takes all of us. Together, we’re shining a light on the realities of abuse and reinforcing that support and justice are within reach. By raising awareness and supporting access to free legal services at PWJC, we send a powerful message of hope, unity, and commitment to ending domestic violence and empowering every survivor.”



From left to right, Chairman Vedat Gashi, County Executive Ken Jenkins and Legislator Shanae Williams.

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Assemblywoman Amy Paulin and State Senator Michelle Hinchey Legislation Establishes Country's First State-Level Frontotemporal Degeneration Research Registry

New York State Assemblywoman Amy Paulin and State Senator Michelle Hinchey announced that Governor Kathy Hochul signed legislation they sponsored to create a statewide research registry for Frontotemporal Degeneration (FTD)—a first-of-its-kind tool in New York that will track diagnoses, raise awareness of the disease in the medical community and move society closer to finding a cure for this form of dementia. The bill (A.1985C/S.598B) was unanimously passed by both legislative houses in the 2025 session.

Senator Michelle Hinchey is the daughter of the late and widely regarded Hudson Valley Congressman Maurice Hinchey, whose battle with FTD before his passing in 2017 drove the Senator to make FTD awareness an immediate priority when she was elected to the State Senate in 2020. Since then, Hinchey has become the Legislature's leading voice on FTD, working to close gaps in care, sponsoring New York's first resolution recognizing FTD Awareness Week, and inspiring similar action in other states, including a resolution championed in California by Emma Heming Willis. In total, 25 other states have adopted FTD Resolutions and Proclamations modeled after Senator Hinchey's in New York—including four just this year in Montana, Oklahoma, Tennessee, and West Virginia.

Assemblymember Amy Paulin, Chair of the Assembly Health Committee, said, "Frontotemporal Degeneration (FTD) is a debilitating disease and the most common form of dementia in people under 60. In order to find a cure for FTD, we must first understand it. I'm proud to have partnered with Senator Hinchey on this legislation, and I thank Governor Hochul for signing it into law so we can improve care and move closer to finding a cure."

Senator Michelle Hinchey said, "New York is now the first state in the country to establish a Frontotemporal Degeneration (FTD) Research Registry—a law inspired by my father's battle with FTD and in honor of every family who has faced the heartbreak of a diagnosis. New York's FTD Research Registry will help us understand the scale of the disease in New York and address the healthcare and knowledge gaps in our medical community that delay diagnosis and care. This is progress for a disease that can often feel hopeless, and New York's law is lighting the way for other states and a national effort that will one day lead to a cure. I am profoundly grateful to Governor Hochul for signing our bill, Assemblymember Amy Paulin for her partnership, and to the Association for Frontotemporal Degeneration, Emma Heming Willis, and all of the families who fought to make this possible."

FTD drew worldwide attention in 2023 when actor Bruce Willis was diagnosed—news that was shared courageously by his wife, Emma Heming Willis, and family. Since then, Heming Willis has become a leading

advocate, raising awareness of the disease and working to strengthen support for families and caregivers, while advancing research toward a cure.



Assemblywoman Amy Paulin

Emma Heming Willis said, "This registry makes New York the nation's leader in fighting FTD. For the first time, doctors, researchers, and public health professionals will know how often FTD is diagnosed, information that's essential in the race to find treatments and a cure. I hope we see laws like this across the country soon. Thank you, Governor Hochul, for making New York a light in the darkness for my family, and every family, fighting FTD."

AFTD Director of Advocacy and Volunteer Engagement Meghan Buzby said, "The data collected under this bill will not only help with faster, more accurate diagnoses, but will also help quantify the burden of an FTD diagnosis on New York families—essential for making the case for increased public investment in caregiving and research resources. We are deeply grateful to Governor Hochul for signing this legislation into law. Her action, together with Senator Hinchey's leadership, sets a model for other states to establish their own FTD registries and will galvanize these

efforts nationwide."

FTD is one of the least understood forms of dementia, often taking nearly four years to diagnose because its symptoms are commonly mistaken for psychiatric conditions, Alzheimer's, or Parkinson's. This lack of familiarity in the medical community not only delays care but can also create severe financial hardship for families, with the cost of FTD nearly double that of Alzheimer's, as many patients and caregivers must leave the workforce during their prime earning years. With no focused data collection in place, awareness among doctors and the public remains low. Senator Hinchey's bill will help change that by giving New York the tools to track FTD for the first time, improve care, and strengthen support for families.

The FTD Research Registry will establish a statewide system to track FTD diagnoses in New York by directing hospitals and healthcare providers to report cases to the State Department of Health (DOH). The DOH will then create the New York State Frontotemporal Degeneration Registry, an online portal where the public can access data on the incidence and prevalence of FTD and related epidemiological information. To guide this work, the DOH will consult with doctors, caregivers, researchers, and public health experts to develop the registry.

For guidance regarding an FTD diagnosis and connections to social workers, contact the Association for Frontotemporal Degeneration (AFTD) Helpline at 1-866-507-7222 or email info@theaftd.org.



State Senator Michelle Hinchey

Scarsdale Calendar



Westchester’s Winter Wonderland
Thursday, December 4 through Wednesday, December 31
5 PM to 11 PM
Kensico Dam Plaza, 1 Bronx River Parkway, Valhalla
This drive-through holiday light extravaganza features a 100-foot light tunnel, Candy Cane Lane, and Rudolph’s Runway. This winter wonderland includes glittering angels of peace, dancing trees, glowing snowballs, and a 40-foot Christmas tree. Admission is \$35 per car. Learn more at <https://www.wwinterwonderland.com/>



Stand Up Comedy Night with Nicky Smigs
Saturday, December 6, 8 PM
Westchester County Center, 198 Central Avenue, White Plains
Nicky Smigs swapped the office grind for the comedy stage—and now he’s crushing it. From Caroline’s on Broadway to Governor’s Comedy Club of Levittown, he’s brought his sharp humor and uncanny impressions to crowds everywhere. He’s performed alongside Jay Leno and Anthony Rodia, appeared on Good Day New York and Jimmy Kimmel Live, and built a huge online following with his viral sketches and spot-on celebrity impressions. \$50 ticket includes dinner, show and parking. For tickets, go to <https://countycenter.biz/event/stand-up-comedy-night-with-nicky-smigs/>



Project Feeder Watch
Sundays, December 7, 14, 21 and 28
9:30 AM to Noon
Croton Point Park Nature Center, 1 Croton Point Avenue
Beginners to experts can view local birds at the Nature Center’s feeders. Free admission. For more information, call (914) 862-5290.



A Christmas Carol
Saturdays, December 13 through Sundays, December 21
2 PM, 3:30 PM and 5 PM
Old Dutch Church, 381 North Broadway, Sleepy Hollow
Nestle into the historic Old Dutch Church and let master storyteller Jonathan Kruk, complete with musical accompaniment by Jim Keyes, regale you with his adaptation of Charles Dickens’s A Christmas Carol. Recommended for ages 10 and older. Tickets are \$47 for adults, \$45 for seniors and young adults, and \$42 for children. Learn more at hudsonvalley.org.

Holiday Stress & Self Care—Webinar
Tuesday, December 2, 1 PM
The “most wonderful time of the year” doesn’t always feel that wonderful. Demands on time and energy often leave people feeling tired, disappointed, and depressed. Learn effective strategies to manage holiday stress, prioritize self-care, and get needed support in this free one-hour seminar with licensed therapist Alex Rohn, LMHC. Sponsored by Mindspring Mental Health Alliance. To register, go to https://uso6web.zoom.us/webinar/register/8117138854500/WN_tc4SGqGxRdmjVFUdVDuiLA#/registration.

Light the ‘Dale
Friday, December 5, 5 PM to 7 PM
Boniface Circle
The Village of Scarsdale kicks off the holiday season with the annual menorah and tree-lighting ceremony with caroling, festive food and a visit from Santa. Families will also have an opportunity to meet staff from the Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation, the Scarsdale Police and Fire Departments, Scarsdale Volunteer Ambulance Corp, the Village Manager’s Office, and the Scarsdale Business Alliance. Best of all, children will be able to enter their names for a chance to Light the ‘Dale on the stage alongside Mayor Justin Arest and others. It’s a great way for a child to create an extra special holiday memory! For more information, call 914-722-1160.

Sounds of the Holiday Season
Thursdays, December 11 and 18, 6:30 PM
Scarsdale Public Library, 54 Olmsted Road
Under the direction of Alan Hollander, the Westchester Band will perform a special holiday concert of joyful music, both sacred and secular. Admission is \$30. For tickets, go to scarsdale.gov/catalog.

Miller House Open House
Sunday, December 14, 11 AM to 1 PM
Miller House, 140 Virginia Road, White Plains
Drop in to visit the former home of the Ann and Elijah Miller family, an average colonial Westchester family whose lives were changed forever when Washington and his army fought for American independence. For more information, call (914) 428-1005.

Handel’s Messiah
Friday, December 12, 7:30 PM
Church of Immaculate Heart of Mary, 8 Carman Road, Scarsdale
George Frideric Handel’s Messiah Part 1 with the Hallelujah Chorus will be performed by the Moo Modus Operandi Orchestra with the Modus Singers. Tickets are \$40. To order tickets, go to <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/handel-messiah-part-i-and-hallelujah-chorus-with-orchestra-tickets-1629096253749?aff=oddttdcreator>

Estate Planning for Tangible Property Scarsdale Police Blotter



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

When people think about estate planning, they often focus on major assets like real estate, investment accounts, and life insurance policies. However, tangible personal property—items such as jewelry, artwork, collectibles, furniture, vehicles, and family heirlooms—can carry both emotional and financial value. Planning for how these possessions will be distributed after death is an important yet often overlooked part of a comprehensive estate plan.

These items may or may not have high monetary value, but they frequently hold deep sentimental significance. Disputes over tangible items are common among heirs because personal meaning can outweigh market worth. A grandmother's wedding ring, for instance, might cause more tension than a bank account because of its emotional connection.

One way to handle tangible assets is through a personal property memorandum. This document, referenced in your will or trust, allows you to list specific items and designate who should receive them. Unlike a will, which typically requires formal execution to make changes, a memorandum can usually be updated more easily without legal formalities. This flexibility makes it ideal for items that may change hands, be sold, or be newly acquired over time. However, it is important to note that in New York a personal property memorandum is not legally binding, and it simply shows the Decedent's wishes regarding their tangible personal property.

Another option is to distribute tangible personal property through specific bequests in a will or trust. A specific bequest names a particular item and the individual who should receive it. For example:

"I give my diamond engagement ring to my daughter, Jane Doe."

"I give my antique piano to my nephew, John Doe."

By including language like this, you remove ambiguity and give your executor clear legal instructions. These specific bequests are binding and enforceable under your will or trust, ensuring that your wishes are carried out as you intend.

It's important to describe each item clearly to prevent confusion or disputes. Include identifying details—such as brand names, serial numbers, or distinguishing features—especially for valuable or similar-looking property. If you later sell or give away an item that you've listed in your will, your estate plan should be updated to reflect that change. Photographs are another excellent way to clearly illustrate which tangible personal property you are describing.

Tangible personal property should be coordinated with the rest of your estate plan. For example, if valuable items are part of a trust, ownership may need to be formally transferred to the trust to avoid probate. Additionally, specific items left in a will should align with the terms of any trust or beneficiary designations to prevent contradictions. Items with significant value—such as rare collectibles—should be documented carefully for estate valuation purposes.

Tangible personal property estate planning is more than just deciding who gets what—it's about preserving family relationships and honoring sentimental ties. By creating a detailed memorandum, communicating clearly with loved ones, and integrating personal property decisions into your estate plan, you can reduce the risk of disputes and ensure your possessions end up exactly where you intend.

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.

Monday, October 13, 2025, 6:52 PM: Brayson Velasquez-Fuentes, 24, of White Plains was charged with third-degree aggravated unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle, operating a motor vehicle with improper license plates, driving an unregistered, uninspected and uninsured motor vehicle and driving without a license after the 2015 Grand Cherokee Jeep he was driving hit a tree at the Heathcote Bypass near Weaver Street.

Tuesday, October 14, 2025, 1:15 PM: A Scarsdale Parks and Recreation employee reported that a pink penis was spray-painted on the tennis courts of Scarsdale Middle School, 134 Mamaroneck Road, sometime over the weekend. The caller requested extra police patrols after school and on weekends.

Thursday, October 16, 2025, 5:37 PM: A woman reported that her mother lost a gold, platinum and diamond hoop earring near a business on Harwood Court.

Monday, November 3, 2025, 10:44 AM: A Meadow Road man told police that he hired a Florida moving company on October 15 and paid them \$3,200, but when he contacted the company two weeks later, they said they were unaware of his order and did not receive payment. The company told him its website was hacked.

Monday, November 3, 2025, 11:58 AM: A 31-year-old West Harrison woman was charged with operating a moving motor vehicle while using a portable electronic device, third-degree aggravated unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle and operating a motor vehicle without insurance after police allegedly saw her using her cell phone while driving on Weaver Street.

Monday, November 3, 2025, 4:16 PM: An East Parkway resident reported that she found several packets of sugar on the hood of her car at noon. She removed the sugar packets, but when she returned to her car at 4 PM she found more packets of sugar had been thrown onto the hood of her car.

Wednesday, November 5, 2025, 12:08 PM: A 26-year-old Bronx man was charged with speeding in a school zone, operating a motor vehicle with a suspended registration, third-degree

aggravated unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle and driving an uninspected vehicle after police stopped his car on Mamaroneck Road.

Wednesday, November 5, 2025, 1:43 PM: A Scarsdale woman turned in an Apple Watch she found at the corner of Palmer Avenue and Wynmor Road.

Saturday, November 8, 2025, 10:15 AM: A gold bracelet was found on Scout Field on Wayside Lane and turned in to police.

Sunday, November 9, 2025, 2:58 AM: A Scarsdale Avenue store owner reported that two young men wearing ski masks entered his store and tried to steal cigarettes and Zyn nicotine pouches. The pair ran away when he called police.

Sunday, November 9, 2025, 10:06 AM: A Franklin Road resident told police that a package containing a pair of Cloud 6 shoes was stolen from her front door step overnight.

Monday, November 10, 2025, 12:30 PM: A 70-year-old Scarsdale woman told police that she found a diamond ring on the sidewalk near a bench at the intersection of Spencer Place and East Parkway on October 30. No one had recently reported losing a diamond ring, so police locked the ring in an evidence box for safekeeping.

Tuesday, November 11, 2025, 12:53 PM: A Scarsdale man told police that he parked in front of an Eastchester residence at 8:30 AM and when he returned at 11:30 AM, his car was gone.

Wednesday, November 12, 2025, 4:50 PM: A Tunstall Road resident reported that the seal on a package delivered from FedEx appeared to have been tampered with, and the item he ordered was missing from inside.

Friday, November 14, 2025, 3:18 PM: A 20-piece silverware set was reported missing from a Franklin Road home.

Sunday, November 16, 2025, 4:52 AM: An Oxford Road resident told police that a man wearing a mask and blue coat walked down his driveway, stopped, turned around and then walked back up his driveway.

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how plays the role of food for all future growth. When food is lacking, adapt, and thrive is compromised before preschool even begins. Hungry toddlers who struggle with language acquisition, in children who are slow to learn, the setbacks are not only measurable in studies, they are visible in classrooms. The link between early food insecurity and later outcomes is not coincidental. Children may struggle to regulate emotions, may have more difficulty forming relationships. These early disruptions ripple outward across their lives, affecting their relationships, and their long-term potential. A toddler who does not learn to learn the way their peers do. A preschooler who grows up in poverty but from the stress and confusion of living with instability, unable to explain what they feel or the strategies to cope with the signals of deeper struggles tied to unmet needs. A child too young to speak is already being shaped by the environment. Like Westchester, the presence of such early food insecurity and in food pantry lines or speak out about their struggles. Resilience is greatest, because the consequences of food insecurity on a child who enters kindergarten already behind begin to catch up. A child who learns in their earliest years to cope with stress into every new experience. And as the National Association of Public Health Association Network show, these outcomes in early childhood are strongly associated with cognitive and socio-emotional development. It is not just about the environment — it is about shaping the trajectory of a child's life. The consequences fall on children who are most vulnerable, not only entirely on the adults and systems that support them, but inevitable. The damage of early food insecurity is not just the support they need when it matters most. Resilience is not just about the support they need when it matters most. Resilience provides more than calories; it provides the foundation for healthy development. A well-fed toddler is more resilient, more engaged in play, and more capable of giving. A baby whose parents do not have access to food and formula or groceries grows up in a world where food can flourish. Each meal provided to a child in their earliest years, in emotional health, and in the promise of a bright future. These earliest years has an outsized impact because it is the foundation for all future growth. Food insecurity for toddlers is therefore not just about the challenges of lifelong disadvantages before they begin, but the challenges extend outward across families and communities. Parents are relieved of one of their greatest fears, bonding, and building stable households. A child who is ready to learn, reducing the gaps that can be filled by communities commit to protecting the youngest from food insecurity. Actively creating healthier, more resilient generations. Food insecurity delays, behavioral problems, and diminished cognitive abilities. What it really means is lost potential, untapped potential, and the potential that can be changed. So while it is painful to see the children most at risk from food insecurity, it is equally important to act. These outcomes are not written in stone; they can be changed. Food insecurity may create delays, but it can be overcome. Resilience, but nourishment builds resilience. Every bag of groceries aimed at families with the youngest children is an investment in a brighter future tomorrow. By choosing to act, we can ensure that no parent has to watch a baby cry from hunger, that no child is seen as solvable as food insecurity. And we can prove, once and for all, that every child deserves the greatest protection, the strongest support, and the best future. The Association Network's 2021 study makes clear what families and communities face. Food insecurity is not simply a hardship of the present, it is a predictor of later outcomes. Food insecurity before the age of three were substantially more likely to experience delays in school, and poorer socio-emotional development as they grew up. Food insecurity, and maternal depression, which means the presence of food insecurity in diminished outcomes. In other words, hunger is not just a factor fully explains away. Teachers often see the children who struggle in language, struggling with focus, and who are more likely to note higher stress responses, developmental delays, and challenges. Parents themselves often note that their children fall behind or wrestle with learning challenges. To bear these findings, we must recognize that hunger is just one problem

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