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IN THIS ISSUE: WW Magazine Summer 2026!

Scarsdale School Officials Address Antisemitism

At last month's meeting of the Scarsdale Board of Education, School Superintendent Dr. Drew Patrick made the following statement addressing the recent antisemitic incident at Scarsdale High School, in which fliers from the Israeli Culture Club were ripped from the walls and thrown into urinals in the boys bathroom.

"Our community is hurting deeply, and is wondering what it means for the future, and what comes next. I have served as Superintendent for four years, and in that time I have been guided by two unwavering principles—our work must be driven by the needs of our students, and trust with our community requires honesty and transparency. As we gather tonight, I say to you honestly and transparently that moving forward will require the collective work of our entire school community. That means that we are listening, seeking to learn from all of the feedback we are receiving, and putting our deepest, most concerted effort into promoting a safe, welcoming, positive school environment with the tools at our disposal—education, policy,



and dialog.

We are living in divisive times. Our country is engaged in conflict on the other side of the world. Our domestic politics feel increasingly polarized. And members of our community are feeling the impact of these larger forces in very personal ways. When global issues reach into our schools, into our shared spaces, into our homes, we feel it deeply. Many of you are here tonight because you are carrying both what has happened here and

what is unfolding in the broader world.

It must be said clearly: We are also living through a moment in which concerns about anti-Jewish hate have intensified in ways that are deeply felt by Jewish families in our community, contributing to a palpable sense of fear, vulnerability, and destabilization. National data helps explain why: Although Jews make up roughly 2 percent of the U.S. population, they are the target of nearly 70 percent of religion-based hate crimes. Jews have been

murdered in antisemitic attacks in the United States in Washington, DC, Colorado, Pittsburgh and elsewhere, attacked physically in communities across the country, and targeted in violent incidents in places like London, Australia, France, Belgium, and Canada.

At the same time, hate-fueled violence is not limited to any one community. Multiple minority communities are also experiencing heightened bias, hostility, and fear. Here in the United States, we have witnessed the shooting of Palestinian university students in Burlington, Vermont and the murder of a six-year-old boy because he was Palestinian. It is not surprising that these broader dynamics cause members of our own community to carry their weight. But bias, hostility, violence, and fear have no place in our country. As Viktor Frankl wrote after surviving the Holocaust, there is a space between what happens to us and how we respond—and in that space lies our freedom to choose what comes next. We are in that space right now. Tonight. Together.

continued on page 4



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The Common Circles Experience Comes to Scarsdale Schools

Common Circles: Moving to Understand Ourselves and Others is an immersive research-based experience that blends art, technology, and storytelling to explore shared humanity, build community, and teach the lessons of the Holocaust. A personalized version of Common Circles, *The Common Circles Experience: Scarsdale*, will come to Scarsdale schools in 2026-2027, thanks in part to the generous support of SSEF (*Scarsdale Schools Education Foundation*).

In a moment marked by growing polarization, rising antisemitism, and increasingly dehumanizing rhetoric, the exhibition celebrates identity and strengthens historical understanding while inviting reflection. Above all, the experience encourages dialogue and fosters a space where everyone is seen, heard, and valued.

About the Experience

In the first section of *We Are Scarsdale! Bridging, Belonging & Building Community* students and visitors are invited to go beyond first impressions through art, photography, optical illu-

sions, and interactive installations that reveal the multi-layered individuals in our shared community. Visual storytelling invites reflection on how we see one another and the world around us, and how easily both people and history can be reduced to a single story. By beginning with this exploration of connection, the experience prepares learners to encounter Holocaust history not as distant events, but as deeply human stories.

The second section is called *Voices Against Hate: Lessons from the Holocaust*, and is presented in partnership with USC Shoah Foundation's Dimensions in Testimony. Visitors to this portion engage in life-like conversations with Holocaust survivor Anita Lasker-Wallfisch and Jewish American liberator Alan Moskin. Using advanced interactive technology, visitors ask their own questions and hear firsthand testimony. This section also provides historical context, examines antisemitism past and present, explores Jewish life and peoplehood, and highlights local stories of hope and survival that connect global history to contempo-



rary community life. Because visitors first encounter one another as layered human beings, they can meet Anita and Alan not only as survivor and liberator, but as unique individuals. It is also important to note that this second portion—*Voices Against Hate*—holds the potential to change over time to examine other historical events. Thus, *Common Circles* is an experience that can evolve and develop with input from Scarsdale's rich, multicultural community.

throughout the disciplines at Scarsdale High School, and invites consideration of audience, purpose, perspective, and bias when confronting opposing viewpoints. In short, *Common Circles* serves to foster school environments grounded in respect, connection, and a shared commitment to understanding one another and the uniqueness of our experiences as individuals and members of a community.

The Exhibit Is Us

One of the things that makes this experience unique is that it is customized to the Scarsdale community, with multiple opportunities for teacher, student, staff, and community involvement. One of the more powerful components is *The Stories We Live* in which members of our school community and broader community are featured in five different outfits that reflect aspects of their lives. These images are surrounded by words that characterize the individual. Other ways that members of our community can contribute include:

- Common Threads: What Do We Have in Common—a tower of trading-card style biographies.
- *Stories of Hope & Survival*—personal narratives from members of our community or those connected to them about their experience.
- Interactive biography—a tool that enables students to create their own digital interactive biographies.
- Student artwork is also a central component of the exhibit.

To learn more about the project, visit <https://commoncircles.org>.

Curriculum Connections

The *Common Circles* exhibit will build on the Developmental Relationships work and serve as a powerful catalyst for existing curriculum, creating a cohesive thread of empathy, interdependence, and inquiry from elementary through high school. It will logically extend the identity work at the elementary level, and connect to the practices emphasized in *Responsive Classroom*. The exhibit also mirrors the core values students experience at Scarsdale Middle School through units of study that emphasize culture, identity, and understanding of diverse experiences and hardships faced by different groups throughout history. This work helps students build a deeper awareness of society and develop empathy for a wide range of perspectives. These concepts are also embedded in creative ways throughout our classrooms and addressed through the advisory program. The exhibit complements the rigorous work on civic engagement and global interdependence that takes place

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Scarsdale Commemorates United States’ 250th Anniversary and Village’s 325th Birthday

BY STEPHEN E. LIPKEN



Scarsdale Mayor Justin K. Arest said that the Memorial Day Parade on Monday, May 25th, originating at Chase Park, will commemorate the 250th Anniversary of the United States and celebrate Scarsdale’s 325th birthday. Scarsdale’s Birthday Bash was held on May 31st with a special party at Chase Park, followed by a short parade.

Eileen Gregware was appointed Deputy Village Clerk at the May 12th meeting of the Scarsdale Village Board of Trustees. Trustee Ronald Schulhof announced the appointment.

The board unanimously approved the 2026-2027 village budget. The adopted budget is \$53,354,201, increase in tax levy, 5.17 percent. Taxable assessed value is \$9,341,639,551; tax rate per \$1,000 of assessed value is 5.7114. Percentage increase for an average assessment of \$1,597,000 is 4.68 percent, or \$408.

Arest, trustees and residents condemned a recent antisemitic incident at Scarsdale High School in which posters promoting an Israel Culture event were ripped from the wall and thrown in urinals in the boys bathroom, and called for accountability.

During Public Comment, Scarsdale High School Junior Laila El Mosehly stated that she was trying to learn more about how infrastructure decisions are made, reaching out to the Village Engineering Department. “What struck me most was how most of the work today is about maintaining systems that were built generations ago, ancient storm drains, sewer lines, culverts and flood control infrastructure that were never designed for the kind of storms that we are experiencing now. As I understand it, the Sheldrake Flood Mitigation Project and the Middle School field work are now happening roughly at the same location,” Laila remarked.

Democratic Primary Set for June 23 in Greenburgh

Voters in the Town of Greenburgh will participate in a Democratic primary on Tuesday, June 23, to determine the party’s nominee for Town Supervisor ahead of the November 3 General Election.

The primary features incumbent Paul Feiner, who has served as Town Supervisor since 1991, and challenger Barry McGoey, a Village of Ardsley Trustee.

Paul Feiner

Supervisor Feiner is seeking re-election after more than three decades as Town Supervisor and eight years of prior service as a Westchester County Legislator. In his campaign communications, Feiner describes his tenure as centered on constituent service and direct engagement with residents.

More information about his campaign is available at www.paulfeiner.com.

Barry McGoey

Trustee McGoey entered the race after receiving the endorsement of the Greenburgh Democratic Town Committee with more than 83 percent of the vote. His professional background includes managerial, financial, and legal experience. In announcing his candidacy, McGoey cited concerns about fiscal management as identified in the ERPR Forensic Report and infrastructure conditions, and declared the need for what he described as “a fresh pair of eyes” to address town challenges. McGoey stated that his campaign will focus on fiscal responsibility, transparency, and modernization of town systems.

More information about McGoey’s campaign can be found at www.barryforgreenburgh.com.

The June 23 Democratic primary will determine the party’s nominee for Town Supervisor. Registered Democrats in Greenburgh are eligible to vote in the primary. Early voting begins Saturday, June 13, and runs through Sunday, June 21.

The winner will advance to the November 3 General Election. No Republican or Independent candidate has announced an intention to run for Town Supervisor against the Democratic nominee.



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As an educational institution, we are holding closely to that idea. The students in our care—and the adults in this community—are being asked to navigate a difficult moment. Between events that have caused pain and the actions we take next, there is an opportunity to be deliberate and to act in alignment with our values: kindness, respect, care, and empathy for all. It is also true that, in recent weeks, some of those values have felt strained.

The intersection of advocacy, politics, and bias in this moment can cloud our ability, and at times our willingness, to acknowledge when harm is happening, including in our own community. While that may be a human instinct, it cannot be where we stop. We remain responsible for engaging these realities with clarity, care, and accountability.

In this community, we will not rank suffering or turn away from one another. We stand with our Jewish neighbors, and with anyone targeted by hate, bias, or harassment. That commitment to the safety and dignity of every member of our community is foundational to who we are.

As an educational institution, we are guided by a core premise: when issues become difficult, we do not avoid them, we turn toward learning. Education gives us a framework for naming what we are seeing, understanding how bias operates, and building the skills required to respond thoughtfully rather than reactively. That includes being clear about how anti-Jewish bias manifests today, sometimes overtly, sometimes in more coded or distorted ways, and ensuring that our response strengthens, rather than fragments, our broader commitment to the dignity and safety of all members of our community.

In the near term, we will be putting forward a structured plan to move this work ahead. One component of that includes new Guidelines for Student Expression at School-Sponsored Activities, which appear in tonight's agenda. These guidelines have

been developed in consultation with experts, and a link appears in Item 12.01 for members of our school community to share feedback. That may include the opportunities for input through surveys and small, facilitated focus groups, as well as engagement with outside experts who can help us assess where there may be gaps in knowledge and skills, particularly around civil dialogue and engaging across differences. This moment has surfaced the need to strengthen those capacities, and we are actively considering how to ensure that our students, especially at the high school level, graduate with stronger skills in these areas as they prepare for college and beyond.

In the medium term, I am honored to announce some important news. After many months of collaboration and preparation, we will be introducing a new program to our schools next year called The Common Circles Experience: Scarsdale. The program features two connected parts: We Are Scarsdale! Bridging, Belonging & Building Community and Voices Against Hate: Lessons from the Holocaust. We are very excited about the opportunities for students, faculty, families, and community members to help shape and become part of the experience itself through local stories, photography, art, and participation. The program is an immersive research-based experience that blends art, technology, and storytelling to explore our shared humanity, build community, and teach the lessons of the Holocaust. In a moment marked by growing polarization, rising antisemitism, and increasingly dehumanizing rhetoric, the exhibition celebrates identity and strengthens historical understanding while inviting reflection. Above all, the experience encourages dialogue and fosters a space where everyone is seen, heard, and valued.

While these are important steps, we also need to continue to listen to our community. Tonight is part of that process, and your per-

spectives will help shape what comes next. We will share more details about those next steps in the coming weeks.

I want you to know that we see you, and we understand that this has been a challenging moment.

Our goal tonight is to listen carefully, to learn, and to take responsibility for how we move forward. We are committed to doing that work with seriousness, with care, and with a clear sense of our responsibility to one another. The fact is, we can't do it alone, and we can't do it all in a matter of days. But we will move forward as a school community, together—students, teachers, administrators, staff, parents, our Board of Education and our broader community."

School Board President Suzie Hahn began her opening comments with the following statement:

"I would also like to address the last several weeks. I will be honest, this has been a challenging time. We care deeply about every member of this community, and we have seen the genuine concern, pain, and worry that many of you are carrying. To reiterate a recent letter to the community from the Board, this Board condemns, in absolute terms, all forms of antisemitism, hate, and discrimination. We are committed to creating and sustaining learning environments in our schools that reflect our values of dignity, respect, inclusion, and safety that we strive to uphold for every student.

One of our board members recently shared that the Mandarin word for "crisis" describes a moment of danger and a critical turning point—and within that turning point, the opportunity to shape what comes next. We intend to meet this moment with that mindset, to engage it seriously, to learn from it, and to do the work required to emerge stronger as a community of students, faculty, and families.

To that end, I would like to share that on April 22, members of the Board participated in a full-day workshop at Purchase College entitled, "Identifying and Addressing Antisemitism in our Schools," presented by Brandeis University's President's Initiative on Antisemitism and Boundless, in partnership with Westchester Jewish Council and UJA-Federation of New York. This training focused on how anti-Jewish bias and hate manifests in today's schools. Board members have also over the last few months experienced the Common Circles exhibit Drew mentioned in his earlier comment, and have approved a transfer to allocate funds in our budget to help bring this exhibit, to increase empathy, reduce bias and antisemitism, to Scarsdale.

These are important steps, but they are not sufficient. We are committed to continuing this work, and to ensuring that we are educated about all forms of bias and hate, so that none of them can take root or go unaddressed in our schools."

Scarsdale Celebrates Arbor Day

The Scarsdale Board of Trustees commemorated Arbor Day with a ceremonial tree planting at Aspen Park, continuing the Village's commitment to maintaining and enhancing its tree canopy and public green spaces.

Trustees assisted in the planting of a swamp white oak (*Quercus bicolor*), a native species well-suited to the region and valued for its resilience, longevity, and environmental benefits. As part of the ceremony, Mayor Justin Arest presented a proclamation formally recognizing April 24, 2026 as Arbor Day in the Village of Scarsdale.

The proclamation encourages residents to celebrate by planting and caring for trees, helping to ensure a greener, healthier community for future generations.

The Village was also recognized as a Tree City USA community by the Arbor Day Foundation, marking its 43rd year receiving this distinction. This recognition reflects Scarsdale's sustained commitment to thoughtful tree management and stewardship.

Trustees were joined by local officials, including Westchester County Executive Ken Jenkins and New York State Assemblywoman Amy Paulin, as well as members of the Friends of Parks and the Conservation Advisory Council (CAC), highlighting the strong partnerships that support local tree planting and preservation efforts.

"Arbor Day is an opportunity to recognize the many benefits trees provide to our community and to reaffirm our shared responsibility to care for them," said Mayor Arest. "By planting and maintaining trees today, we are investing in a healthier, greener future for generations to come."



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Scarsdale Woman Brings Friends Together to Support Teens in Foster Care

What started as a simple monthly lunch has grown into something much more meaningful.

Emily Shteinhauz, a Scarsdale resident and mother of three, organized a volunteer group through JCCA's "Lunch Bunch" program, which brings community members to the organization's Pleasantville residential foster care campus each month. Alongside Jessica Levinson, Amy Kessler, Arielle Diskin, Letal Ackerman, Andrea Burinescu, and Sara Gubenko, Shteinhauz visits a boys' cottage on campus to share meals, organize activities and spend time with the teens living there.

"I started this as a simple way to give back, but it's become so much more, both for the kids and for me and my girlfriends," Shteinhauz said. "It's about showing up, building relationships, and making sure

these young people know they're seen and supported."

Shteinhauz was first introduced to the Lunch Bunch program through her involvement with UJA-Federation of New York, where she volunteered with another group visiting a girls' cottage on campus. Inspired by the experience, she later worked with JCCA to create a second group made up of women from different parts of her life.

Many of the women did not know one another before joining the effort, but the shared volunteer experience has strengthened their friendships over the past year.

Each month, one member of the group coordinates the visit, organizing food and activities for the afternoon. Some visits involve games or holiday celebrations, while others focus simply on



conversation and spending time together.

At JCCA's Pleasantville campus, youth in foster care receive housing, education and therapeutic support in a structured residential setting. Volunteers help provide additional connection and consistency for the young people living there.

"The boys are incredible," Shteinhauz said. "They are funny, energetic and always excited to participate. Every visit reminds us how important consistency and connection can be."

Beyond their regular visits, the group contributes to holiday drives and other special initiatives. Last year, volunteers and youth worked together on a bake sale

fundraiser that helped fund a summer amusement park trip.

Shteinhauz emphasized that her group is just one example of the strong volunteer spirit within the Scarsdale community.

"There are so many volunteers from Scarsdale who support JCCA—men, women and teens," she said. "It's really special to see such strong representation from the community coming together to help."

JCCA continues to welcome volunteers from across Westchester and beyond. More information about volunteer opportunities is available on the organization's website at <https://www.jccany.org>

LaManna Honored for Work with Autism Community

Carmine LaManna, CEO of FIT4ALL NY, was honored by Yonkers-based The Autism Project – FLOS, for outstanding commitment to autistic individuals and individuals with special needs, their families and community.

The Community Wellness & Inclusion Champion Award was presented at a special pre-Mother's Day luncheon, "A Mother's Love," held at Westchester Manor, in Hastings-on-Hudson. The awards ceremony featured guest speaker Sarah Olton who shared her experience living with autism as well as comments from LaManna and three other award recipients. Janine Rose, Emmy-winning anchor and political correspondent for News 12 Westchester, emceed the event.

LaManna heads up FIT4ALL NY's inclusive fitness program for neurodiverse children and adults. He has been instrumental in growing FIT4ALL NY's membership while managing the program's specialized personal training team, personally training numerous clients and conducting community advocacy for the special needs community. FIT4ALL NY's headquarters are in White Plains.

The Autism Project – FLOS – was founded by DaQueen Monroe in honor of her son, Shaquan. The organization supports, empowers and celebrates individuals with autism and lifelong disabilities — and the families who love and advocate for them — through education, community programs, empowerment events and inclusive spaces that honor dignity and potential.

In addition to a trophy and plaque from The Autism Project – FLOS, LaManna was also presented with a proclamation from the City of Yonkers and a certificate of recognition from New York State Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins.

"Working with the autistic community has changed my life in ways I never could have imagined," said LaManna in his acceptance remarks. "What we do at FIT4ALL NY is not just work—it's about purpose. Every single day I have the privilege of learning from the individuals we work with. I've learned patience, perspective and what 'real progress' looks like. Progress isn't always big and loud moments— sometimes it's a small step, a shining light, a connection—and those moments mean everything."



Carmine LaManna, CEO, FIT4ALL NY, is presented with a plaque by DaQueen Monroe, founder, The Autism Project – FLOS.



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Songcatchers Receives \$21,000 in Grants from New Rochelle’s THRIVE Program

Songcatchers has been awarded two grants through the City of New Rochelle’s THRIVE Program, supporting collaborative partnerships that expand arts access and educational opportunities for local youth.

The first award, a \$15,000 THRIVE grant, is a partnership between Songcatchers and the Boys & Girls Club of New Rochelle (BGCNR). Through this initiative, the Boys & Girls Club will transport participating students to Songcatchers for weekly music instruction throughout the year. The partnership includes a mid-year and final recital open to the public at the BGCNR facility showcasing the musical growth, creativity, and accomplishments of participating students and the broader Songcatchers community.

The second award, a \$6,000 THRIVE grant, is a partnership with The New Rochelle Campership Fund. This collaboration will enhance Songcatchers’ Summer Day Program by giving New Rochelle participants the opportunity to attend a Broadway performance in New York City, including transportation and lunch. Throughout the summer program, students will study the music, themes, and performance elements connected to the show and will present a culminat-



ing performance inspired by what they learned and experienced.

“These partnerships reflect the power of collaboration in creating meaningful opportunities for young people,” said Jennifer Lanser, Executive Director of Songcatchers. “We are incredibly grateful to the City of New Rochelle’s THRIVE Program, the Boys & Girls Club of New Rochelle, and The Campership Fund for investing in experiences that make music, performance, and the arts more accessible to our community.”

The THRIVE Program supports initiatives that strengthen the cultural, educational, and social fabric of New Rochelle through community partnerships and innovative programming.

Founded in 1978, Songcatchers provides affordable, high-quality music education and per-

formance opportunities to children and families throughout New Rochelle and lower Westchester County. Through lessons, ensembles, choirs, community performances, and outreach programs, Songcatchers serves hundreds of students annually.

To learn more about Songcatchers’ Summer Programming, call (914) 654-1178. To enroll as a student, volunteer, or donate, call (914) 654-1178.

Upcoming Events at the Scarsdale Public Library

Summer Reading - Beginning on June 7 you can register for the 2026 Summer Reading Programs, for all ages! This year’s theme is Unearth Your Story. Learn more here: <https://bit.ly/4usU4kI>

Virtual: Guided Meditations - Monday, June 15, 10 AM
Take a moment for yourself. Join via Zoom on the first and the third Monday of each month for a period of gentle seated stretching, guided meditation, and mindful breathwork. Register here: <https://bit.ly/4nzOfQn>

Images of Spain: A Concert For Guitar - Tuesday, June 2, 5 PM
Experience the soul of 19th century Spain in this evocative concert featuring a curated selection of photographs and paintings. Register here: <https://bit.ly/43liaSN>

Recognizing the Warning Signs of Alzheimer’s - Thursday, June 4, 11 AM
This presentation from the Alzheimer’s Association will discuss specific warning signs that might be worth bringing to a doctor’s attention and what is to be expected as part of normal aging. Register here: <https://bit.ly/4fz2oMW>

Author Talk: Sawadika American Girl with Daria Sommers - Saturday, June 6, 1 PM
Join local author Daria Sommers for a literary look at the experience of women who were drawn in and had their lives shaped by the experience of the Vietnam War. Register here: <https://bit.ly/4wy7DBG>

Third Annual Safety Expo - Thursday, June 11, 11 AM
Organizations of interest to seniors will be available, stop

by with your questions! This event is held in partnership with Scarsdale Edgemont Family Counseling Service-Aging in Place, and the Village of Scarsdale Parks, Recreation & Conservation Department. Register here: <https://bit.ly/4dwNQcL>

Estate Planning for Every Age - Friday, June 12, 2 PM
Learn about estate planning strategies and key milestones to keep in mind when creating or reviewing your plan. Preparing for life’s unexpected events is something everyone should consider. Register here: <https://bit.ly/4tMnutt>

Robert the Guitar Guy: A Musical - Sunday, June 14, 2 PM
Scarsdale families and their kids have heard Robert play for many years. Now join him and his fellow performers for an original musical play that invites adult audiences on a journey of self-discovery. Register here: <https://bit.ly/4dtZepG>

Study Nights - Monday, June 15 - Wednesday, June 17 until 11 PM
Scarsdale Public Library is staying open an extra two hours for teens in grades 8 - 12 to study with friends or on their own. Be sure to bring a water bottle with you! Snacks will be provided, while supplies last. Register here: <https://bit.ly/4uhyEaq>

Virtual: Women and Money Roundtable - How to Make Sense of Today’s Financial Markets - Wednesday, June 17, 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.

Register here: <https://bit.ly/4ukV76I>

Virtual: Scarsdale Reads - A Juneteenth Celebration - Wednesday, June 17, 7 PM
The Scarsdale Library is pleased to present a diverse panel of readers, including local authors and staff, offering selected prose and poetry to commemorate and celebrate Juneteenth. Register here: <https://bit.ly/4uiwXtl>

Art Workshop - Styles From Around the World - Thursday, June 25, 10:30 AM
In honor of Pride Month Kören Beck will teach a workshop on the work and styles of important Renaissance artists, with a particular look at attitudes toward homosexuality in Renaissance Italy. Register here: <https://bit.ly/4djLX4s>

Author Talk: The Stargazer of Nantucket with Julie Gerstenblatt
Monday, June 22, 7PM
Award-winning author Julie Gerstenblatt discusses her latest novel *The Stargazer of Nantucket*, an epic tale of adventure on the high seas, a spunky stowaway, and a family confronting the past to secure their future. Register here: <https://bit.ly/4dNVfpk>

Book Launch: And No One Knew with Jennifer Manocherian
Wednesday, July 1, 7 PM
Join local author Jennifer Manocherian in conversation with Jimin Han for a discussion of her new mystery novel featuring the smart, endearing, occasionally crabby older protagonist Gertrude Sidenstricker. Register here: <https://bit.ly/3PK8o9N>

Scarsdale Police Blotter

Tuesday, April 14, 2026, 6:08 PM: A 23-year-old Yonkers woman was charged with third-degree aggravated unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle and operating a motor vehicle on a public highway while using a mobile phone after police stopped her car on Popham Road.

Saturday, April 18, 2026, 3:50 PM: A wallet containing 12 credit and debit cards was found near Madison and Barry Roads and turned in to police headquarters.

Sunday, April 19, 2026, 10:53 PM: After a car accident on Scarsdale Avenue, a 45-year-old Bronx man was issued a summons for third-degree aggravated unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle.

Thursday, April 23, 2026, 8:31 AM: Police issued several summons to a 46-year-old New Rochelle man, including operating a motor vehicle without insurance, second-degree aggravated unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle, driving to the left of pavement markings and unsafe lane changes.

Friday, April 24, 2026, 7:59 AM: A 27-year-old New Rochelle man was charged with driving an uninspected motor vehicle and second-degree aggravated unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle after he was involved in a car accident near the intersection of Palmer Avenue and Heathcote Road.

Tuesday, April 28, 2026, 4:01 PM: Four teens riding motorized bikes at Greanaces Park left the park after a Brewster Road woman told them not to come onto private property.

Friday, May 1, 2026, 6:23 PM: A Post Road resident reported that he saw kids riding electric bikes on a nearby soccer field and told them to stop. Police spoke to the children, who said they stopped riding their bikes after the man yelled and cursed at them.

Sunday, May 3, 2026, 8:20 PM: A homeowner on Black Birch Lane reported that two large bags of trash were dumped on her property.

Monday, May 11, 2026, 10:25 AM: A 32-year-old Scarsdale man was charged with driving over the speed limit in a school zone and third-degree aggravated unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle after police stopped his car on Mamaroneck Road. He was taken into custody when police found he had an outstanding arrest warrant in Norwalk, Connecticut.

Tuesday, May 12, 2026, 1:48 PM: About 20 tools were reported stolen from a home under construction on Heathcote Road.

Thursday, May 14, 2026, 3:41 PM: A citation was issued to a black Infiniti parked in a handicapped spot without a placard.

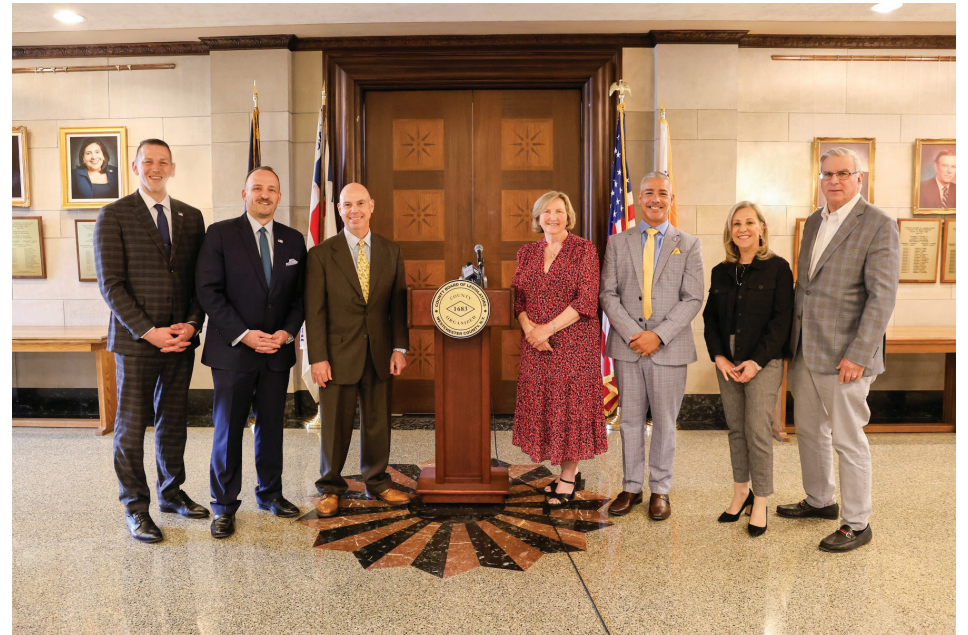
Friday, May 15, 2026, 9:39 PM: A Scarsdale woman told police that the windshield of her car was damaged by a baseball after she parked the car near the baseball field of Scarsdale High School, 1057 Post Road.

Friday, May 15, 2026, 11:06 PM: Police told a group of youths blowing whistles on Greendale Road to stop making excessive noise. The group then left the area.

Thursday, May 14, 2026, 11:14 AM: A Pelham driver was issued tickets for operating a motor vehicle with a suspended registration and third-degree aggravated unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle after police stopped his car on Post Road.

Saturday, May 16, 2026, 9:51 PM: An 18-year-old White Plains man told police that a dog bit him while he was in a park on Greendale Road and he then got into a physical altercation with the dog's owner.

Westchester County Forms Affordability Task Force



The Westchester County Board of Legislators announced the formation of the Affordability and Economic Development Task Force to address financial pressures facing residents and businesses and strengthen economic opportunity across the County, as federal priorities contribute to growing economic strain.

The task force will focus on key drivers of affordability challenges, including economic development, job creation, energy prices, housing, transportation, small business opportunities, and food costs. In the coming months, the group will convene County stakeholders and experts to develop practical, actionable policy recommendations to improve residents' quality of life.

Legislator Colin D. Smith will lead the task force and work with Board leadership to assemble relevant stakeholders and subject matter experts. He was joined by community, business, and nonprofit leaders, along with Legislators Nancy E. Barr (D-Harrison, Port Chester, Rye Brook), co-chair of the Families Task Force, and James Nolan (R-Yonkers, Eastchester, Bronxville), chair of the Small Business Committee, to show support for the effort.

Board Chairman Vedat Gashi (D-New Castle, Ossining, Somers, Yorktown) said, "I am proud to appoint Legislator Smith to chair this task force. He has been a tremendous advocate for affordability for Westchester residents and working families. I trust his guidance and leadership to move this work forward. At a time when federal actions are creating financial uncertainty, the Board is doing everything possible to make life more affordable for the people of Westchester."

Legislator Smith (D-Cortlandt, Peekskill, Yorktown), current Chair of the Board's Legislation Committee, said, "This task force moves us forward on one of the biggest challenges facing Westchester residents: affordability. Too many people are stretched thin. We will focus on issues that matter most, including housing, jobs, energy costs, and support for small businesses. Westchester has the talent and ideas to meet this moment. I look forward to bringing people together and delivering practical recommendations to the Board."

John Ravitz, Executive Vice President and COO of the Business Council of Westchester (BCW), said, "As Westchester County's largest business membership organization that focuses on economic development and advocacy the Business Council of Westchester welcomes the opportunity to be a member of the Board of Legislator's Affordability and Economic Development Task Force. If we are going to recruit and retain businesses to Westchester, we must develop solutions to deal with affordability challenges. I hope that the task force will utilize the expertise of BCW's membership to better understand the issues facing the county's business community every day."

Jan Fisher, Executive Director of Nonprofit Westchester, said, "Westchester's affordability crisis is not just an economic issue. It's about who gets to live, work, and thrive in our communities. As we work to build a county where all people can enjoy its opportunities and natural beauty, we must ensure that the nonprofit workforce—those who give so much to support our neighbors and strengthen the social and economic fabric of our county—are not pushed to the margins. Addressing affordability is criti-

continued on page 8

County Approves Wage Protections for Construction Workers



The Westchester County Board of Legislators unanimously passed the Westchester County Lessor Prevailing Wage Act, guaranteeing construction workers on County-leased properties the same standard union wages they would earn on County-owned job sites.

The measure closes a longstanding gap in state labor law that left workers unprotected on County-leased properties. Under existing law, construction on privately owned land, even when leased by the County and directly supporting County operations, can fall outside the legal definition of “public work,” leaving workers without prevailing wage protections.

During a pre-vote press conference in the Board’s rotunda, labor leaders including Westchester Putnam Building Trades Council Vice President Ed Cooke and Louis Sanchez, Business Representative for Local 3, IBEW, joined Chairman Vedat Gashi, Vice Chair Terry Clements, Majority Leader Judah Holstein, Majority Whip Shanae Williams, Minority Leader Margaret A. Cunzio, Minority Whip James Nolan, Legislators Erika L. Pierce, Jenn Puja, Nancy E. Barr, Anant Nambiar, Jewel Williams Johnson, Emiljana Ulaj, David T. Imamura, Tyrae Woodson-Samuels, David J. Tubiolo, and José I. Alvarado.

Chairman Gashi (D-New Castle, Ossining, Somers, Yorktown) said, “When Westchester County invests in construction, every worker on that job deserves fair pay—regardless of whether the building is owned or leased by the County. This law closes a loophole and sends a clear message: Westchester puts workers first.”

The new measure applies to lease agreements of 10 years or more and construction projects exceeding \$250,000 undertaken on behalf of the County. Contractors and subcontractors on those

projects will be required to pay prevailing wages and maintain certified payroll records to verify compliance. The law takes effect for new lease agreements entered into 120 days after adoption. It includes an exemption for emergency construction work required to protect public health and safety.

Legislator Puja (D-White Plains, Scarsdale, West Harrison), Chair of the Board’s Labor Committee, said, “This is yet another way Westchester is putting workers first! As a union member and a County legislator, I know how critical prevailing wages are to protecting workers and ensuring safe, high-quality construction. This legislation closes a longstanding gap by requiring fair wages on significant County-leased projects. When economic development truly benefits workers, their families, and the communities they call home, what results is a stronger workforce and a stronger Westchester.”

Thomas Carey, President, Westchester/Putnam Central Labor Body AFL-CIO, said, “Once again, I am Honored to stand shoulder to shoulder with Our Westchester County legislators and County Executive on this prevailing wage bill. Prevailing wage provides A Competitive wage and benefit package for everyone who works on these projects in Westchester County, our legislators and County Executive see the importance of our workforce and continue to stand up for what is right and the importance of providing good wages for our labor force. These men and women never ask for a handout but a hand up to provide for their families.”

Jeff Loughlin, President, Westchester/Putnam Building and Construction Trades Council said, “On behalf of the Building and Construction Trades Council, I would like to extend our thanks to all that were involved in getting this

legislation through. This, in conjunction with the apprenticeship bill, are two big items for organized labor. There are no downsides for us and it will even benefit the non-union workforce out there during these difficult economic times.”

Louis Sanchez said, “Protecting pre-

vailing wage standards in Westchester County is a shared responsibility among policymakers, employers, and workers. By enforcing these laws, we promote competitive bidding, reduce wage theft, and help address the affordability crisis facing our communities.”

White Plains Brings the World Cup to Its Streets with Soccer Fest 2026

White Plains Soccer Fest 2026, a citywide free celebration inspired by the FIFA World Cup 2026™, will turn downtown White Plains into a dynamic, fan-filled destination for residents and visitors alike. The citywide soccer takeover will feature three large-scale Live Match Watch Parties on June 14, June 27, and July 11, where fans can gather to watch international matchups on giant outdoor screens in the heart of the city. The celebration kicks off June 11 with opening ceremonies and a vibrant Parade of Flags.

From Mamaroneck Avenue to Library Plaza, White Plains will come alive with flags, storefront displays, and immersive street visuals that set the stage for a shared, citywide experience.

“Soccer Fest 2026 is about more than watching the games. It’s about bringing people together,” said White Plains Mayor Justin Brasch. “These events celebrate global culture, community spirit, and the energy that soccer inspires, while showcasing downtown White Plains as a vibrant gathering place.”

Each watch party is designed as more than a viewing experience. Attendees will enjoy live performances, contests and interactive experiences, with programming from partners 107.1 The Peak and WHUD.

Hands-on soccer activities will invite participation from fans of all ages, including human foosball, soccer darts, pop-up goals, and the “Guess Your Kick Speed” challenge. Families can also enjoy face painting, games, crafts, and a variety of activities designed for kids, teens, and adults.

Throughout the festival, visitors can explore interactive art and installations and selfie-ready moments across downtown. Additional programming includes an outdoor movie night at Library Plaza, a soccer gaming tournament for teens, and themed block parties such as “Rock the Block,” extending the energy across multiple dates.

For the full event schedule and updates, visit WPSoccerFest.com.



Westchester County Forms Affordability Task Force

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cal to an equitable, resilient Westchester where everyone, including our essential workforce and the people seeking our services, have the chance to belong and succeed.”

Kenny Burgos, CEO of New York Apartment Association, said, “Quality affordable housing is a vital component of any healthy economy. We need more homes, for all people, and we need government policies to both preserve aging housing and incentivize the creation of new housing. We are honored to be part of the Affordability and Economic Development Task Force because we know that good housing policy lifts up communities

and makes them stronger.”

Michael N. Romita, President and CEO of the Westchester County Association (WCA), said, “County government has a critical responsibility to strengthen our economy while addressing affordability for our residents, workers, and businesses. This initiative will help ensure our legislators receive valuable input from business and industry leaders to inform policy decisions. Alongside the launch of the Westchester Economic Alliance and Blueprint ’26 earlier this year, the WCA welcomes this discussion and looks forward to working with Legislator Smith and his assembled team.”

Common Special Needs Planning Mistakes Families Should Avoid

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

Planning for the care of a child with special needs is a complex process that depends on many factors. Federal and state laws and policies, funding availability, income levels, and your child's physical needs are all factors that go into creating the most effective and efficient caregiving plan for your child. However, special needs planning is not without common pitfalls that parents and other caregivers should seek to avoid. Here are some common mistakes people make when planning for their special needs children.

1. Leaving assets directly to your child with special needs

Parents commonly draft wills that leave their assets directly to their children, including any children with special needs. However, children with special needs often are heavily reliant on government programs such as Medicaid and SSI. Medicaid and SSI have strict resource limits for eligibility. As a result, receipt of significant property or a lump-sum inheritance can be catastrophic for Medicaid recipients. Instead, parents should funnel inheritances for children with special needs into a third-party supplemental needs trust to protect their eligibility for public benefits.

2. Failing to Obtain Guardianship – or Obtaining Guardianship When Unnecessary

Guardianship may be necessary when a child with special needs turns 18 and becomes a legal adult. If the child is unable to make financial or medical decisions for themselves, guardianship may be appropriate to allow a parent to continue to make important decisions on the child's behalf. However, in many cases, children with special needs can participate in the decision-making process or make decisions for themselves with the support of a parent or other caregiver. In that instance, guardianship may be unnecessary.

3. Failing to Obtain Advance Directives

If children with special needs have the legal capacity to do so, they can execute a health care proxy and a power of attorney. In these legal documents, the children can designate their parents, caregivers, or other trusted adults to make decisions if they become incapacitated and unable to do so. Executing these important legal documents can help avoid the need for guardianship in the event of the child's future incapacity.

4. Waiting Too Long to Make Plans or Decisions

All too often, parents put off long-term planning, both for themselves and their children with special needs, as unnecessary. They may assume that another child will care for their sibling with special needs or be unwilling to confront their own mortality. Whatever the case may be, waiting too long can lead to rushed decision-making during crises, which is typically not the best way to make decisions. Poor planning can also lead to the need for more expensive and time-consuming actions, such as filing for legal guardianship, when parents could have achieved the same objective by getting guardianship promptly when a child turned 18 or avoiding it altogether by having the child execute advance directives.

5. Waiting Too Long to find Housing

Securing appropriate housing for an individual with special needs is often one of the most challenging aspects of long-term planning, yet many families delay exploring available options until a crisis occurs. Housing opportunities such as supportive living arrangements, group homes, supervised apartments, or community-based residential programs frequently have lengthy waiting lists and limited availability. As a result, postponing housing discussions can significantly reduce a family's options and may lead to placements that are not well suited to the individual's needs or preferences.

Families should begin evaluating housing alternatives well in advance, taking into consideration the individual's level of independence, social needs, medical requirements, and desired quality of life. Early planning also allows parents and caregivers to become familiar with available programs, funding sources, and eligibility requirements while gradually preparing the individual for a successful transition to a new living environment.

Bernard A. Krooks, Esq., is a founding partner of Littman Krooks LLP. He was named 2021 "Lawyer of the Year" by Best Lawyers in America® for excellence in Elder Law and has been honored as one of the "Best Lawyers" in America since 2008. He was elected to the Estate Planning Hall of Fame by the National Association of Estate Planners & Councils (NAEPC). Krooks is past Chair of the Elder Law Committee of the American College of Trust and Estate Counsel (ACTEC). Mr. Krooks may be reached at (914-684-2100) or by visiting the firm's website at www.littmankrooks.com.

Table Hopping with Morris Gut: Soft Shell Crab Season Has Arrived

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



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

Alex Bar & Grille, 577 N. Broadway, White Plains. (914-358-1444) Proprietor Alex Ahmetaj offers hefty cuts of aged steaks and chops along with generously served Northern Italian/Continental fare. Plump soft shell crab, too. www.alex577.com

Sea Shore, 591 City Island Ave., City Island, Bronx. (718-885-0300) Jeffrey Weiner and his veteran crew serve soft shells in a variety of styles. Check out all

the dining areas. Daily happy hours. www.seashorerestaurant.com

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

Eastchester Fish Gourmet, 837 White Plains Road, Scarsdale. (914-725-3450) A Westchester favorite for many years. Don't forget 'Go Fish', next door. www.eastchesterfish.com

Brothers Fish & Chips, 172 N. Highland Ave., Ossining. (914-488-5141) A hidden treasure in a nondescript strip mall. Chef Elmer Oliveros does wonders with his seafood menu. Soft shells are a specialty in season. www.brothersfishandchips.com

La Mer Seafood, 407 Main St., Armonk (914-273-1766) Under new ownership, this market has been serving the area for over 30 years. A sign on the window says soft shell crabs have arrived. www.lamerseafood.net

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

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

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

scarsdalesentinel.com

Pedestrian Infrastructure Upgrades Approved for Edgemont

The Greenburgh Town Board recently adopted two resolutions furthering the Edgemont Community Council's (ECC) ongoing public safety and pedestrian infrastructure advocacy efforts.

Resolution CD 5 marks another important step forward for the Old Army Road Sidewalk Project, with the Town Board declaring itself Lead Agency and initiating the environmental review process required under SEQRA. The project includes the design and construction of new sidewalks, ramps, crosswalks, and related pedestrian safety improvements along portions of Old Army Road. These improvements will strengthen pedestrian connectivity and access to Edgemont Junior/Senior High School, Seely Place Elementary School, the Scarsdale Metro-North Train Station, and the Central Avenue corridor.

This initiative represents a major milestone in the ECC's long-standing ad-

vocacy for safer pedestrian infrastructure and follows the successful award of a \$4.8 million Federal Highway Administration Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) grant secured in partnership with the Town of Greenburgh. Construction is anticipated to begin in early 2027.

Resolution PW 4 authorizes the Department of Public Works to go to bid for a pedestrian ramp installation project at the intersection of Old Army Road and Henry Street, replacing the existing worn and non-ADA-compliant staircase. While originally included as part of the broader Old Army Road TAP Grant project, the ramp installation was accelerated in response to ECC advocacy and community feedback. Construction is anticipated to be completed this summer, providing a safer and more accessible pedestrian connection in advance of the larger Old Army Road corridor improvements.

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Scarsdale Sentinel



Edward Shapiro, President and Publisher
es@shorelinepub.com

Nancy Coveney, Editor
nancy.coveney@shorelinepub.com

Cynthia Pena, Art Director
shorelineproduction@gmail.com

Lauren Levine, Advertising Account Executive
levinelaur@gmail.com

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Scarsdale Calendar



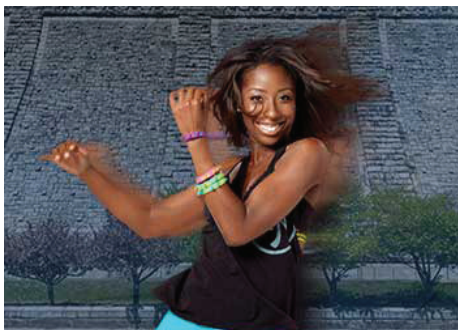
Tea with the Animals

Saturday, June 6, 10 AM to 11:30 AM
Hilltop Hanover Farm, 1271 Hanover Street, Yorktown Heights
Enjoy a mid-morning cuppa while you meet and learn about the animals on the farm! Participants will harvest and make some scrumptious treats for both humans and animals to enjoy together for a tea party! Adults and children 6 and older. Pre-registration is required with a \$15 program fee. For more information, call (914) 862-5050.



Strawberry Festival

Saturday, June 14, Noon to 3 PM
Sleepy Hollow Historical Society, One Grove Street
The 59th Annual Strawberry Festival offers an afternoon of strawberry shortcake, lemonade, iced tea, live music and old-fashioned fun. Tickets are \$10 per person and help fund the museum's collection, archives, library and school programs. For more information, call (914) 631-8374.



Zumba Classes

Tuesday, June 16 to Tuesday, September 8
6:30 PM to 7:30 PM
Kensico Dam Plaza, 1 Bronx River Parkway, Valhalla
Get moving this summer with free Zumba classes on Tuesday evenings at Kensico Dam Plaza. September classes will be held from 6 PM to 7 PM. Learn more at <https://parksevents.westchestercountyny.gov/event/zumba-classes/2026-06-16/>



Hudson River Music Festival

Sunday, June 21, 10 AM to 9 PM
Croton Point Park, 1A Croton Point Avenue, Croton-on-Hudson
Honoring the legacy of Pete and Toshi Seeger's folk picnics, the festival continues its tradition as an all-ages celebration of music, community, and environmental

action along the Hudson River. This year's festival features performances across multiple stages, family programming, interactive experiences, local food and vendors, arts and advocacy organizations, and a commitment to Zero Waste practices. For tickets, go to <https://hudsonriver.frontgatetickets.com/>



Longview Drive Volunteer Planting Day

Saturday, June 6, 9 AM to 11 AM
Longview Drive and Fort Hill Road
Volunteers will plant native species along the Longview Drive medians, helping to create beautiful, sustainable spaces that support butterflies, birds, bees, and other important pollinators while enhancing the neighborhood streetscape. To sign up, visit: <https://forms.gle/gocBSPZuSnUeEzh4A>.



Art In Bloom

Thursday, June 11 to Sunday, June 14
Gallery hours: Friday, 3 PM to 8 PM
Saturday and Sunday, 10 AM to 5 PM
Katonah Museum of Art, 134 Jay Street
Inspiring works by Katonah Museum Artists' Association artists come to life through the stunning floral interpretations of acclaimed local designer in this juried exhibition. Opening reception is Thursday, June 11, 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM.

Music Under the Stars

Wednesday, June 17, 7 PM
Scarsdale Woman's Club, 37 Drake Road
Enjoy the music of No Rent and refreshments. Admission is \$10. For more information, email swc1918@verizon.net.



Summer Solstice Tea

Sunday, June 21, Noon to 2 PM
Washington Irving's Sunnyside, 3 West Sunnyside Lane, Irvington
Summer-themed, hands-on crafts, as well as a grazing box (cheese, crackers, fruit), tray of sweets for the table, tea, coffee, cocoa, and water. For tickets, go to <https://tickets.hudsonvalley.org/summer-solstice-tea-2026>



Westchester Band

Thursday, June 26, 8 PM
Chase Park, 32 Chase Road
Westchester Band performs a free Concert Under the Stars. Bring a lawn chair or blanket and a picnic dinner. In case of rain, the concert will be held at Scarsdale Middle School, 134 Mamaroneck Road. For more information, call (914) 882-0310.



American Roots Music Festival

Saturday, June 27, 12:30 PM to 8:30 PM
Caramoor, 149 Girdle Ridge Road, Katonah
Throughout the day, dive into the Grateful Dead songbook with the acoustic string-band adventure of Deadgrass, experience the vintage-inspired

sounds of The Moonrise Cartel, and enjoy the rich, evocative storytelling of Caleb Caudle & The Sweet Critters. Rounding out this stellar lineup is the "next-generation alt-country" flair of Chloe Kimes. The festival concludes with the high-energy Memphis soul of headliners Southern Avenue. To learn more, go to <https://caramoor.org/event/american-roots-music-festival-2026>.

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