

Scarsdale Sentinel



july 2026 - vol. 2 - issue 7 scarsdalesentinel.com



Scarsdale Celebrates 325th Anniversary



Scarsdale was founded 325 years ago and the village threw itself a big birthday blast on May 31. Hundreds of residents, families, friends, village officials and well-wishers turned out to enjoy a beautiful spring day.



was a wonderful reminder that while our history spans more than three centuries, it is the people of this community who continue to define our story. Seeing residents of all ages come together to celebrate our past, connect with one another, and create new memories made for a truly remarkable day. Events like this strengthen the bonds that make Scarsdale such a special place and reflect the spirit of volunteerism and civic engagement that has sustained our community for generations,” said Scarsdale Mayor Justin K. Arest.

and Human Relations Councils, SNAP, and the many volunteers whose hard work and dedication made this celebration possible.”

The event was held in Chase Park alongside the Scarsdale Farmer’s Market. Families enjoyed children’s activities, crafts, vendors, lots of fun games and touring a fire truck with the Scarsdale Fire Department. A DJ played music for all to enjoy.

The Town of Scarsdale—named for its

“rocky valley” topography—was established in 1788 from land that once formed part of Caleb Heathcote’s pre-colonial manor. It was home to just 281 residents. Scarsdale began its transformation from rural farmland to residential suburb in 1891, when a 150-acre farm was subdivided to create Arthur Manor. In the 1920s, local business leaders worked together to build the Village Center in the Tudor Revival style, giving Scarsdale its distinctive architectural identity.

Scarsdale Flag Design Competition Winners Named

In celebration of our nation’s 250th and Scarsdale’s 325th anniversaries, the Village of Scarsdale invited residents to create and submit custom flag designs to celebrate these important milestones.

A wide variety of unique designs were submitted by residents ranging in age from 9 to 78, and a panel of judges reviewed all 42 designs before voting on the winner. The designs were judged anonymously on multiple criteria, and the panel narrowed the submissions down to the final two, who turned out to be mother and son, Ling Zhu and Entong Deng. The panel elected to combine the designs into the final, winning design and honor both winners.

The flag will be flown at key locations throughout the Village for the remainder of 2026.





Alissa Kirk
646-842-1233
alissa.kirk@randrealty.com

Howard Hanna | Rand Realty • Scarsdale

Just Sold!
126 Birchall Drive



Nobody knows New York real estate as we do. Contact us today!

JP Endres | Branch Manager
914-729-4196
jeanendres.randrealty.com

Howard Hanna | Rand Realty • Scarsdale

HOWARD HANNA
RAND REALTY



PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
WHITE PLAINS, NY
PERMIT 5121
ECRWS

Residential Customer
Scarsdale, NY 10583
*****ECRWSSEDDM****

Westchester Parks Foundation Celebrates Happy Art for Westchester Parks

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



Photo credit: Soma Vajpayee Photographed by Dante Pierre

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

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

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

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

For more information on Westchester Parks Foundation, visit thewpf.org.

EXPERIENCE THE ELEGANCE
OF *Membership*
AT HAMPSHIRE

Join the Movement in 2026!

HAMPTON GOLF RECIPROCAL PROGRAM
MEMBERS HAVE THE PRIVILEGE TO ACCESS MORE THAN 300 CLUBS AROUND THE WORLD

Don't miss your chance to join our community of golf enthusiasts.
We're offering a limited number of memberships. Secure your spot now
and take advantage of our expert instruction, beautiful course,
newly renovated practice facility, and exceptional amenities.

Contact Dorothy Palomares at 914.698.4610 ext. 214 or
dpalomares@hampshireclub.com
to learn more about membership options and benefits.
We look forward to welcoming you to our club!

HAMPSHIRE COUNTRY CLUB
1025 Cove Road Mamaroneck, New York 10543
www.hampshireclub.com

Holocaust Survivors Honored at Luncheon



Westchester Jewish Community Services (WJCS) hosted its 6th Annual Holocaust Survivor Day Luncheon at Westchester Reform Temple in Scarsdale last month. The event brought together nearly 50 Holocaust Survivors and 20 Second Generation Survivors living in the Westchester community, along with their family members and caregivers.

Allison Danzig, Coordinator of Holocaust Survivor Services at WJCS, said, "Today is about honoring Holocaust Survivors—their lives, their courage, their resilience, their extraordinary strength, and, most of all, their legacy. What they have built is strong, enduring, and deeply meaningful."

The joy of being and celebrating together was evident to all those who attended. Cantor Susanne Katchko filled the room with Yiddish songs, which reminded the survivors of their heritage and music of their childhood.

Holocaust Survivors' Day is dedicated to celebrating the strength and impact of Holo-

caust Survivors. This day is a reminder that the strength of American Judaism today is rooted in the courage of Holocaust survivors, whose determination to survive, rebuild their lives, and create a future made it possible for generations to follow—to learn, to remember, and to carry their legacy forward.

WJCS provides a wide array of services to Holocaust survivors in Westchester, including home-delivered kosher meals, support groups for Survivors as well as members of the Second Generation led by a skilled professional, home care coordination, and social activities that include holiday celebrations and outings to films, concerts, and shows. To learn more about WJCS services for Holocaust Survivors and their families, go to www.wjcs.com/services/jewish-programs.

The festive and meaningful event was co-hosted by Westchester Reform Temple in Scarsdale, KAVOD: Ensuring Dignity for Holocaust Survivors, and Concerts in Motion, an organization that is dedicated to alleviating loneliness through music.

ECC Praised on House Floor

The Edgemont Community Council (ECC) was recently recognized on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives by Congressman George Latimer for its longstanding commitment to community engagement and civic leadership in Edgemont.

In remarks delivered before Congress, Congressman Latimer praised the ECC's role in bringing together more than 225 families and serving the broader Edgemont community of approximately 8,500 residents through advocacy, programming, and neighborhood engagement.

The Congressman highlighted the ECC's extensive schedule of community events and traditions, including Lunar New Year celebrations, Halloween festivities, holiday tree and menorah lightings, and activities centered around Crane's Pond. He also recognized the organization's advocacy work with local governments and its efforts to strengthen collaboration between residents, elected officials, and community stakeholders.

The recognition is a testament to the many volunteers, board members, committee members, neighborhood representatives, and residents who dedicate their time and energy to strengthening the Edgemont community. The ECC is grateful to Congressman Latimer for his kind words, recognition, and continued support of the Edgemont community.

To watch Congressman Latimer's remarks on the House floor, visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cWYP-8v6C38>.

Scarsdale Public Library Undergoing Major Campus Transformation

BY STEPHEN E. LIPKEN



Scarsdale Mayor Justin K. Arest relayed the sad news of the passing of former Volunteer Fire Captain and President Donato L. Vaccaro, 63, a life member of Company Number 1, at the June 9 Village Board of Trustees meeting. Vaccaro, a lifelong Eastchester and Scarsdale resident, died on June 4. “Our thoughts are with his family during this difficult time,” Arest said, requesting a Moment of Silence.

The Scarsdale Public Library is undergoing a major campus transformation to expand outdoor programming and nature spaces. The \$2.2 million project, designed by Slade Architecture, features a 40-person outdoor pavilion, a “Story Walk” for children and new native plant gardens. Groundbreaking began in June, with completion targeted for spring 2027.

Mayor Arest presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Girl Scout Evie Schiff, whose Gold Award Project was Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) Comfort, providing journals, hand-decorated onesies, craft supplies for personalized nameplates, sibling activity kits, books and other thoughtful resources to families with children in the NICU.

Public Comment began with Linda Killian, One Forest Lane, Scarsdale who discussed the lack of exterior maintenance of her neighboring home on 27 Woods Lane, which is vacant. “The lawn has been mowed but there are boxes that have been stacked in the entryway of the house for months. There is no exterior or interior lighting, plants are overgrown and the breezeway between the house and the garage door is open. The windows were broken. After this winter’s blizzard, the driveway was never shoveled. Their driveway is covered with broken glass. What is next, arson, vermin, squatters?” Killian asked.

Agenda items included Resolution Authorizing Purchase of a new Combination Vacuum/Hydro-Excavator Machine; Purchase of new Olympian Leaf Pro Plus II Self-Contained Leaf Machine Trailer; Resolution to Refer a Special Use Permit Application for Retail Space in the Christie Place Development to the Planning Board and schedule a Public Hearing.

Scarsdale Man Admits Possessing and Sharing Child Sexual Abuse Images

Westchester County District Attorney Susan Cacace announced today that a Scarsdale man admitted to possessing and sharing child sexual abuse material during a court hearing yesterday.

Bora Secmen, 20, of Scarsdale, pleaded guilty before Judge Robert Prisco Tuesday to Promoting a Sexual Performance by a Child, a class D felony, and Possessing an Obscene Sexual Performance by a Child, a class E felony.

The defendant is scheduled to be sentenced on September 8, where he is expected to receive a sentence of 10 years probation, sex offender registration and additional fines.

DA Cacace said: “There is little more heinous than crimes committed against children, especially those involving sexual exploitation and abuse. Sharing the evidence of those crimes with others revictimizes the young children who have already been taken advantage of and perpetuates the underlying abuse. My administration works tirelessly to detect and prosecute the sharing of child sexual abuse material, and yesterday’s plea is the latest example of our work to hold these offenders accountable.”

On or about July 25, 2025, the defendant possessed an image depicting child sexual abuse captioned with the text: “You did it... You went lower and lower... There’s nowhere else to go from here... Ultimate Pedo,” according to a felony complaint filed in the case. Earlier that month, the defendant had shared another digital file depicting child sexual abuse through the X/Twitter platform.

This case was investigated by the Westchester County District Attorney’s High Technology Crime Unit in conjunction with the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children and the New York State Crimes Against Children Task Force.

The case is being prosecuted by Cyber Crimes Bureau Chief Michael De-lohery.



LITTMAN KROOKS
LLP

**Helping Families
Plan For
The Future**

Estate Planning & Administration

Medicaid Planning

Elder Law

Guardianship

Special Needs Planning

Special Education Advocacy

www.littmankrooks.com

800 Westchester Avenue, • Rye Brook, NY 10573 • 914.684.2100
1325 Avenue of the Americas • New York, NY 10019 • 212.490.2020

Attorney Advertising



2026 Geist Summer Fellows Working for Westchester County

The Westchester County Board of Legislators has welcomed its second class of students to the Herman S. Geist Fellowship Program, a paid summer internship that gives high school and college students firsthand experience in county government and public service.

Representing communities across Westchester, this year's fellows will spend the summer working in legislators' offices, assisting with constituent and policy-related projects, learning about the legislative process, and gaining insight into how county government serves residents. In addition to their office assignments, fellows will participate in group activities, special projects, a mock legislative session, as well as public safety and health training. These experienc-

es are designed to broaden understanding of public service while reflecting the Board's commitment to civic engagement and developing the next generation of community leaders.

The fellowship officially began with an orientation program on June 1 at the Board of Legislators. Fellows received an introduction to the Board's role in county government and met the professionals who support its work, including legislative, fiscal, communications, and administrative staff.

Board Chairman Vedat Gashi (D-New Castle, Ossining, Somers, Yorktown) said, "We're proud to welcome this year's fellows and give them an opportunity to see county government up close. Through their work with legislators and staff, they'll



gain valuable experience while helping to carry forward Herman Geist's legacy of leadership and service to Westchester."

The program is named in honor of Herman S. Geist, the first chairman of the Westchester County Board of Legislators and a lifelong public servant whose contributions helped shape county government

and civic institutions throughout Westchester. The fellowship was established by the Board in 2025 to honor Geist on the occasion of his 100th birthday, creating a lasting opportunity for young people to learn about public service while recognizing his extraordinary legacy and decades of service to Westchester County.

Junior League of Westchester on the Sound Awards \$77,000 in Community Grants

The Junior League of Westchester on the Sound (JLWOS) recently announced the winners of its 2026 Community Grants. This year, JLWOS awarded 17 organizations grants totaling \$77,000. "We are proud to be able to contribute to the efforts of these dedicated organizations to bring critical services to members of the Sound Shore community. This area has so many excellent organizations with impressive ideas seeking funding to fill service gaps for our neighbors," said Chris Howe, JLWOS President.

The JLWOS Community Grant program is open to nonprofit community organizations in New Rochelle, Larchmont, Mamaroneck, Rye Brook, Rye Neck, Rye, Harrison and Port Chester that are addressing the needs of women and children in these areas.

The following organizations received

2026 JLWOS Community Grants:

- Blue Skies Summer Camp: Providing weekly swimming sessions at the Carver Center for children from Port Chester attending camp.
- Boys & Girls Club of New Rochelle: Co-financing an inclusive leadership and youth-ambassador pilot program in partnership with the City of New Rochelle.
- Carver Center: Supporting the Carver Market, an on-site, self-choice food pantry that serves more than 3,600 registered households in Port Chester.
- Community Resource Center: Empowering low-income and immigrant women in the Sound Shore area through the "Building Our Future" program.
- Don Bosco Center: Launching a free, multi-track workforce development

continued on page 6

From Dumplings to Kreplach Celebrates Asian and Jewish Cultures

In honor of Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month and Jewish American Heritage Month in June, the Jewish Community Center of Mid-Westchester (JCCMW) in Scarsdale partnered with the Lunar Collective to host From Dumplings to Kreplach, a very special hands-on culinary experience. Led by two professional chefs, more than 80 people of different ages and backgrounds gathered together to share stories and traditions while learning how to make dumplings and kreplach—iconic dishes in



Asian and Jewish cuisines. Attendees prepared their own batches to take home, while enjoying a delicious tasting and gaining practical tips and techniques to recreate these recipes in their own kitchens.

There was a powerful feeling of togetherness as people discovered common threads between Jewish and Asian experiences, finding connection through family, culture, resilience and food.

"From Dumplings to Kreplach was a celebration of heritage, creativity, and community," shared Rabbi Dahlia Bernstein, Senior Director of Jewish Engagement and Care Services at the JCCMW. "We were excited to create a space where people of all ages were able to join together, learn from one another, and connect through the joy of cooking."

There was a powerful feeling of togetherness as people discovered common threads between Jewish and Asian experiences, finding connection through family, culture, resilience and food. The evening served as an important reminder that while our traditions may have different origins, they often carry similar values and hopes.

The program was generously sponsored by UJA-Federation of New York and supported by The Scarsdale Chinese Association.

To learn about upcoming programs at the JCCMW, visit jccmw.org.



"Still the Best Bagel in Town"

SCARSDALE BAGELS

We Carry Kosher Bagels
We Carry Sourdough & Whole Wheat Bagels
Hot Bagels Rolled by Hand & Baked on Premises

EVERYDAY SPECIAL

Buy 12 get an extra 2 FREE

Coffee & Spreads

NO FAT
NO CHOLESTEROL

52 Garth Road, Scarsdale
914-725-0090

Hours: Monday - Sunday
6:00am - 2:00pm

Maria Regina High School Celebrates Science Fair Winners



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

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

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

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

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

Town of Greenburgh Supervisor Paul Feiner presented the winners with medals and congratulated them on their achievements. "Today, Maria Regina honors you. Twenty years from now, perhaps you will be Nobel Prize winners," he told them. In April, the Town Board presented Maria Regina with a Proclamation, lauding Maria Regina as a "standard bearer in STEM studies."

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

- 9th Grade
- 1st place: **Selah Johnson, White Plains:** *Does removing trash from a pond increase fish activity and the number of fish coming up to the surface?*
- 2nd place: **Charlotte Sempre, Bronx:** *Mycoremediation: Turkey tail vs. Oyster mushroom, which is more effective at cleaning oil waste?*
- 3rd place: (tie)
- Madalyn Vanbrakle, New Rochelle:** *How does weight affect a maglev (magnetic levitation) train's ability to levitate?*
- Jillian Pellegrino, Yonkers:** *Vitamin C concentration in orange juice*

- Grade 10
- 1st place: **Isabella Gonzalez, Bronx:** *Which power wins the race?*
- 2nd place: **Gabriella Rivera, White Plains:** *How does different pH affect the color of red cabbage?*
- 3rd place: **Sofia Fernandes, White Plains:** *How does the difference of pH in liquids affect the corrosion of metal?*
- Grade 11
- 1st place: **Fiona Shabaj, Bronx:** *How does environmental pH (neutral versus cancer-like acidic conditions) affect the antibacterial effectiveness of honey, manuka honey, garlic extract, and turmeric extract?*
- 2nd place: **Adriana Gocaj, Bronx:** *Blocking Wi-Fi Signals with different materials*
- 3rd place: **Allysa Raymond, Bronxville:** *Phantom Power*
- Top AP Research
- Biology (tie):
- Ivana Serrano, Bronx:** *Research: Kartagener Syndrome (rare, inherited genetic disorder)*
- Isabella Gocaj, Bronx:** *Research: Cystic Fibrosis*
- Chemistry:
- Top Research: **Lillian Hinsliff, Scarsdale;** *Research: The medical implications of red hair*
- Special Mention: **Summer Ford, Yonkers;** *Research: How energy drinks affect chemical equilibrium in the body*



124 S. Ridge St. Rye Brook, NY 10573
914-934-0001
SportechRyeBrook.com
TheTennisProfessionals.com

Let Our
EXPERTISE
Become Your
EXPERTISE

Tennis Pickleball Squash Padel

Running Soccer Volleyball Yoga

Walking Hiking Training Cleats

From Footwear to Apparel to Gear
You Can TRUST

Make Sportech and The Tennis Professionals
Your Family's First Stop for Athletic Gear

continued from page 4

initiative focused on basic culinary skills and family development.

- Furniture Sharehouse: Furnishing six households in need with essential home furniture, including beds, dining sets, dressers, and living room seating.

- Harrison Food Pantry: Funding operations and expanding vital food assistance services for local families, seniors, women, and children facing food insecurity.

- Larchmont-Mamaroneck Community Counseling Center: Expanding its capacity to provide counseling services and reduce waitlists by continuing support for its fellowship program.

- LMC Media: Enhancing production infrastructure and strategic marketing for the third season of its "LMC Kids" educational series.

- Mamaroneck Community Chorus: Hosting an intergenerational community concert at the Emelin Theatre featuring singers of all ages.

- New Rochelle Youth Bureau: Expanding the "Mommy & Me" program to support early childhood development and empower local mothers and caregivers.

- Port Chester Head Start – Family Services of Westchester: Upgrading early childhood development spaces with new play and learning equipment.

- Providence House: Providing essential move-in and move-out packages for mothers and children staying at the New Rochelle family transitional shelter.

- Sheldrake Environmental Center: Launching a free nature-focused, pilot after-school program for local middle-school students to connect with the

environment.

- Songcatchers: Supporting local youth through two summer programs: the Summer Music Program and the Summer Instrumental Program.

- STEER: Funding the onboarding and inclusion of a new Port Chester High School student into their student-athlete mentorship program.

- Trifecta Steppers: Supporting regional and national competition travel, uniforms, and equipment for a step program that empowers middle and high school girls.

The JLOWOS is an educational and charitable organization of women with a mission to advance women's leadership for meaningful community impact through volunteer action, collaboration, and training. To learn more about joining the JLOWOS, email membership@jlowos.org or go to <https://westchesteronthesound.jl.org/join-us/>.

JLOWOS' volunteer and outreach activities are funded primarily by the sales of its thrift shop, the Golden Shoestring, located in Larchmont. Next year's Community Grant program will open in March 2027. To find out more about the JLOWOS Community Grant program, go to <https://westchesteronthesound.jl.org/grants/>.

Westchester County Now Requires Visual Gun Safety Warnings



The Westchester County Board of Legislators unanimously passed the Visual Gun Warning Law, requiring firearm retailers display images showing dangers associated with gun ownership, making Westchester second in the nation to adopt such a measure.

Under the new bill, wherever firearms are sold in Westchester County, striking public safety images must be posted alongside written notices already mandated under a 2022 County law. The enhanced warnings must also be given to anyone applying for a gun license in the County.

The Westchester County Department of Health will develop or approve the visual additions to existing signage that highlights the increased risks of suicide, domestic violence, homicide, and accidental shootings associated with keeping a gun in the home. Warnings also include contact information for the County's Crisis Prevention and Response Team and the National Suicide and Crisis Lifeline.

Penalties for non-compliant retailers will remain unchanged under existing law: a \$250 fine for first violations and,

for subsequent offenses, a \$500 fine and potential misdemeanor charges.

Research on tobacco safety campaigns suggests that visual messaging can be more effective than text alone in raising awareness and influencing behavior. Advocates say such imagery can more clearly and immediately communicate the dangers associated with gun ownership and unsafe storage practices.

Board Chairman Vedat Gashi (D-New Castle, Ossining, Somers, Yorktown) said, "Prevention starts with awareness, and these visual warnings are meant to make serious hazards clear, immediate, and unforgettable. I want to thank all of my colleagues, advocates, and community partners who worked so hard to pass this legislation. Preventing even one accidental shooting, suicide, or deadly act of violence would make this effort worthwhile."

Legislator David T. Imamura (D-Ardsley, Dobbs Ferry, Edgemont, Hartsdale, Hastings-on-Hudson, Irvington), said, "They say a picture is worth a thousand words. In this case, a picture can save lives. I am proud to sponsor a bill that

continued on page 7

WE'RE HIRING!

Advertising Sales Executives

Shoreline Publishing is hiring **Advertising Sales Executives** for our long-standing local newspapers and magazine, serving the community in both print and online. They include:

- Harrison Herald
- Larchmont Ledger
- New Rochelle Review
- The Pelham Post
- Scarsdale Sentinel
- Westchester Women magazine
- and other annual publications

- Make your own schedule so it works with your life daily routine - whether it is working during the school days, around children's activities, caregiving responsibilities, evenings or weekends or a combination.
- Work from home while still getting out of the house to visit clients.
- Opportunity to stay in the workforce without the intensity and schedule of a 9 to 5 corporate job.
- Your success is measured by your sales, not by how many hours you sit in an office. You will not be micromanaged.
- Opportunity to apply your entrepreneurial spirit under the guidance of an established publisher - you manage your own territories. New ideas are encouraged.

**You decide how much you want to work and earn!**

**Start selling what your community already trusts.**

**Email your interest to es@shorelinepub.com**



Senator Shelley Mayer Presents Outstanding Educator Awards



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

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

Among those honored was Oren Iosepovici, from Scarsdale Union Free School District, known for his incredible and far-reaching stewardship of the counseling program and comprehensive approach within his department to supporting students at Scarsdale High School. Iosepovici has skillfully been guiding students as a Dean for the past 18 years and leading the Counseling Department as Director for the last 10. As Director of Counseling, he led a sophisticated sequence of consequential events, activities, conversations, and decisions that have a direct impact on students' futures, helping earn them admission to a diverse array of prestigious colleges and universities.

Senator Shelley Mayer said, "I am proud to present the 2026 Outstanding Edu-
continued on page 10

Westchester County Now Requires Visual Gun Safety Warnings

continued from page 6

will make Westchester County second in the nation to enact a visual gun safety law. We need to show the dangers associated with firearms and ensure gun owners understand the importance of safe practices. This law will help keep Westchester residents safe."

Majority Whip Shanae Williams (D-Yonkers), a member of the Westchester County Gun Violence Prevention Task Force, said, "Graphic warning labels save lives because they force us to confront the devastating reality of gun violence before tragedy strikes. Just as warning labels on cigarettes helped educate the public about the dangers of smoking, this bill ensures that residents of Westchester County are fully informed about the risks firearms pose to individuals, families, and communities. I am proud to be a co-sponsor and I am thankful for the Westchester Gun Violence Prevention Task Force members who advocated and supported this law."

Lindsay Nichols, Policy Director, Giffords Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence, said, "They say an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. Ensuring that gun buyers really understand the dangers of having a gun could help prevent many tragedies before they happen.

That's why we applaud this proposal to educate gun store customers about the true potential of their choice to bring a firearm into their home."

Barry S. Graubart, NYS Advocacy Lead, Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America, part of the Everytown for Gun Safety network said, "For years, gunmakers have sold the idea that bringing a gun into the home makes a family safer. The data tells a very different story. A written notice is important but an enhanced warning for buyers here in Westchester will have a more significant impact."

Prior to the vote, gun violence prevention advocates from Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America, and several members of the Westchester County Gun Violence Prevention Task Force joined legislators at a press conference in the Legislative Rotunda to express support for the legislation. Participants included Chairman Vedat Gashi, Vice Chair Terry Clements, Majority Leader Judah Holstein, Majority Whip Shanae Williams, Legislators Erika L. Pierce, Jenn Puja, Anant Nambiar, Jewel Williams Johnson, Emiljana Ulaj, David T. Imamura, David J. Tubiolo, and José I. Alvarado.

Congratulations Class of 2026

WE TRANSFORM THE WORLD, ONE GIRL AT A TIME.



Class of 2026 College Acceptances

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

Scarsdale Calendar



100-Mile Bike Challenge

Sunday, June 7 through Wednesday, September 16

Blue Mountain Reservation, 435 Welcher Avenue, Peekskill

Blue Mountain Reservation is celebrating its 100th Anniversary! Help mark this celebration with the 100-miles in 100 days challenge by riding 100 miles throughout Blue Mountain Reservation. All miles must

be ridden within Blue Mountain Reservation property. To register, go to <https://parks.westchestercountyny.gov/blue-mountain-reservations-100-mile-bike-challenge>.



Tae Kwon Do: Intermediate/Advanced

Tuesdays, June 30 to September 1, 7 PM to 8 PM

Jewish Community Center Mid-Westchester, 999 Wilmot Road, Scarsdale

Through the practice of defensive physical movements, students of all ages will enhance discipline, focus, confidence, and physical fit-

ness. This intermediate/advanced class targets red to black belts and is taught by long-time instructor Henry Weber, 9th degree black belt. To register, go to <https://jccmw.org/martial-arts/#children>.



Music Fest and Fireworks

Friday, July 3, 5 PM to 10 PM

Kensico Dam Plaza, 1 Bronx River Parkway, Valhalla
Pre-concert entertainment begins at 5 PM with a guest DJ, and the Naked Soul Band at 7 PM. Fireworks begin around 9 PM. Free parking and admission. Bring blankets and chairs for seating. Learn more at <https://parksevents.westchestercountyny.gov/event/music-fest-and-fireworks/>



Ethan Bloom Film Screening

Monday, July 20, 6:30 PM to 9 PM

JCC Mid-Westchester, 999 Wilmot Road, Scarsdale

Come enjoy a heartwarming coming-of-age dramedy about a 13-year-old Jewish boy who seeks solace in the Catholic Church after the loss of his mother. The film follows Ethan (Hank Greenspan) as he hides his spiritual journey from

his father and navigates first love and cultural conflict before reconciling his faith and grief. After the screening, writer and producer Maylen Dominguez will discuss the film. The Manischewitz food truck will be outside between 5 PM and 6:30 PM for hot dogs, knishes, babka, and other goodies! Register at jccmw.org/event/ethan-bloom.

Independence Day Concert

Thursday, July 2, 7:30 PM

Scarsdale Municipal Pool, 311 Mamaroneck Road

The Westchester Band, directed by Alan Hollander, will perform patriotic favorites followed by fireworks at 9 PM. Bring a lawn chair or blanket and a picnic dinner. Get more information at <https://westchesterband.org/>.

Louis Armstrong Hot Five Centennial Celebration

Friday, July 3, 7:30 PM

Caramoor, 149 Girdle Ridge Road, Katonah

The music Louis Armstrong created in the 1920s with his small group, the Hot Five, remains among the most influential, timeless, and joyous in the history of American music. On the eve of what Armstrong always claimed to be his birthday (the Fourth of July), trumpeter Alphonso Horne will lead an all-star ensemble of today's finest jazz musicians in celebration of the 100th anniversary of this groundbreaking group. For tickets, go to <https://caramoor.org/event/louis-armstrong-hot-five-centennial-celebration-2026>.



A Midsummer Night's Dream

Thursday, July 9 to Sunday, July 26, 7 PM to 8:30 PM

Lyndhurst, 635 South Broadway, Tarrytown

M&M Performing Arts performs William Shakespeare's most famous romantic comedy – with a groovy 1960s spin! A Midsummer

Night's Dream will be performed under the stunning metal skeleton of the 1880s Gothic Greenhouse, with food and drinks available to either pre-order and purchase on-site. Enjoy the flower power of young lovers falling comically in and out of love, as a blundering troupe of squares falls under the spell of some far out forest fairies. Tickets are \$59, \$84 with dinner. For tickets, go to <https://lyndhurst.org/events/summer-theater/>.



Firefly Festival

Friday, July 10, 6 PM to 9:30 PM

Ward Pound Ridge Reservation, 6 Reservation Road, Cross River

The Annual Firefly Festival will feature crafts, facepainting, firefly games and catching. Food vendors, popcorn and live music. Professor Moiseff Firefly will share his expertise. Cost is \$15. Learn more at <https://parksevents.westchestercountyny.gov/event/firefly-festival/>.

2026 World Cup Watch Experience

Sunday, July 19, Noon

Kensico Dam Plaza, 1 Bronx River Parkway, Valhalla

Be a part of the excitement at this accessible, family-friendly FIFA World Cup community viewing event. Watch a live match broadcast on giant screens, test your skills with interactive soccer and fan experiences, snap a unique photo, and enjoy free giveaways and entertainment plus delicious local food and beverages. Free admission. Activities begin at noon, match kickoff is 3 PM. Learn more at <https://www.visitwestchesterny.com/events/fifa/>.

Scarsdale Sidewalk Sale

Thursday, July 30 to Saturday, August 1

10 AM to 6 PM

Scarsdale Village Center, Chase Road and Spencer Place

Three days of shopping, dining and summer fun includes special promotions, sidewalk displays, and exciting finds from local businesses. For more information, contact the Scarsdale Business Alliance at info@scarsdalebusinessalliance.com.

Upcoming Events at the Scarsdale Public Library

Summer Reading 2026 - Register Today!

This year there are five programs! From babies & toddlers to adults 18 years and over. Register through the Beanstack app. Dive into a world of literary adventures and fun challenges, earning chances to win fantastic prizes generously funded by the Friends of the Scarsdale Library. All programs start June 21. [bit.ly/4usU4kl](https://www.bit.ly/4usU4kl)

Pregnancy & Postpartum Support Group -

Thursdays, July 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30, 10 AM

This ongoing, face-to-face support group includes members who understand and support each other during the challenges of pregnancy and postpartum! <https://www.scarsdalelibrary.org/event/pregnancy-postpartum-support-group-148956>

Skin Health and Diabetes - Monday, July 6, 2 PM

Learn how diabetes can present through the skin, hear about common dermatologic manifestations and complications, and discuss practical strategies for prevention. <https://www.scarsdalelibrary.org/event/skin-health-and-diabetes-145550>

Songs of America - Monday, July 6, 7 PM

Celebrate the musical heritage of America at the library with patriotic music, songs from the Great American Songbook, and classic Broadway hits! <https://www.scarsdalelibrary.org/event/songs-america-151522>

Argentine Guitar Concert - Wednesday, July 8, 6 PM

Experience an expressive melding of tango, jazz, and classical music with an evening of guitar music from Carlos Pavan. <https://www.scarsdalelibrary.org/event/argentine-guitar-concert-121057>

Using AI Tools Mindfully - Thursday, July 9, 1 PM

This program is a thoughtful look at AI platforms such as ChatGPT, Claude, Gemini, and Perplexity. <https://www.scarsdalelibrary.org/event/using-ai-tools-mindfully-154977>

Blood Drive - Friday, July 10, 10 AM

Stop by the Scott Room to donate blood with the New York Blood Center. <https://www.scarsdalelibrary.org/event/blood-drive-139017>

Virtual: Navigating the Stock Market - Asset Allocation and Risk - Mon, July 13, Noon

This virtual presentation reviews how recent market developments might impact your portfolio decisions and tolerance for risk. <https://www.scarsdalelibrary.org/event/virtual-navigating-stock-market-asset-allocation-and-risk-141867>

Ukulele Concert - Wednesday, July 15, 1 PM

Join the Lower Westchester Ukulele in the Scott Room for a crowd-pleasing medley of classic and popular songs! <https://www.scarsdalelibrary.org/event/ukulele-concert-154237>

Art Workshop - Styles From Around the World - Thursday, July 16, 10:30 AM

In honor of the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, learn about modern artists who created presidential portraits. <https://www.scarsdalelibrary.org/event/art-workshop-styles-around-world-156064>

Poverty, Financial Wellbeing, and Psychological Resilience - Friday, July 17, 1 PM

Join author Hugh Harris for a look at the internal and external aspects of poverty and how the struggle for survival influences everyday financial decisions. <https://www.scarsdalelibrary.org/event/poverty-financial-wellbeing-and-psychological-resilience-155728>

Movie Screening & Discussion - *The Amorous Adventures of Moll Flanders* - Fri, July 17, 2 PM

Join Marcus Renna for a screening and discussion of the 1965 historical comedy. <https://www.scarsdalelibrary.org/event/movie-screening-discussion-amorous-adventures-moll-flanders-1965-156152>

The Frick Collection - A Virtual Visit - Monday, July 20, 6 PM

Join us in the Scott Room for a virtual visit to The Frick Collection in honor of French-American Heritage Month. <https://www.scarsdalelibrary.org/event/frick-collection-virtual-visit-155485>

Chinese Movie Matinee - *Yi Yi* (2000) - Saturday, July 25, 10 AM

Join us for a family friendly Chinese language film. This monthly event is completely free, and refreshments will be provided! <https://www.scarsdalelibrary.org/event/chinese-movie-matinee-153747>

Scarsdale Police Blotter

Monday, May 18, 2026, 9:09 AM: A Ramsey Road homeowner reported that 11 tomatoes were stolen from her garden, and similar thefts happened in the past. Police advised her to install video surveillance equipment.

Monday, May 18, 2026, 11:11 AM: Nails were reported strewn across Cooper Road, causing many flat tires. The Highway Department’s street sweeper removed the nails.

Tuesday, May 19, 2026, 7:46 AM: More than \$11,000 worth of power tools and batteries were reported stolen from a home under construction on Heathcote Road.

Wednesday, May 20, 2026, 6:44 PM: A 49-year-old Eastchester woman was charged with operating a motor vehicle without insurance and third-degree aggravated unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle after police stopped her car on Post Road.

Friday, May 22, 2026, 11:24 AM: The Scarsdale Fire Department responded to a call from a Quaker Circle resident who locked her purse in her car. Firefighters successfully opened the locked car door.

Sunday, May 24, 2026, 7:16 PM: The Scarsdale Fire Department responded to a report of smoke and haze in a restaurant on East Parkway. Firefighters found a tripped electrical breaker in the HVAC unit in the dropped ceiling.

Wednesday, May 27, 2026, 6:43 PM: A resident of Lincoln Road reported that shortly after United Parcel Service dropped off a package at her home, someone took it.

Wednesday, May 27, 2026, 11:37 PM: A Hyundai driver told police a fox ran in front of his car while he was driving on Post Road, causing him to swerve and hit a utility pole.

Thursday, May 28, 2026, 9:53 AM: After a caller reported a Toyota Prius parked for more than three hours on Brambach Road, police issued a parking overtime citation.

Thursday, May 28, 2026, 11:17 PM: A Heathcote Road resident reported that three men in a Jeep Wrangler drove into his driveway, got out of their Jeep and tried to open his locked vehicle in the driveway. When they could not open it, they drove away.

Friday, May 29, 2026, 9:17 AM: A Scarsdale man reported that while he drove near the Scarsdale Middle School on Mamaroneck Road, another driver closely followed his car and kept honking. When both vehicles stopped at the traffic light at the intersection of Mamaroneck Road and Palmer Avenue, both drivers got out of their cars and got into a verbal dispute. After photographing each other’s license plates, they drove away.

Friday, May 29, 2026, 7:14 PM: A resident of Innes Road reported that a fraudulent Progressive insurance policy for five vehicles had been taken out in his name.

Monday, June 1, 2026, 9:12 PM: A Montrose Road homeowner told police that a group of kids runs through his backyard to get to a nearby park and he wants them to stop.

Monday, June 1, 2026, 10:40 PM: Michael Maher, 49, of Yonkers was charged with driving while intoxicated, operating a motor vehicle without insurance, driving an unregistered motor vehicle and parking in a roadway after police found his 2023 Chevrolet Silverado parked in the intersection of Dunham and Pinecrest Roads.

Tuesday, June 2, 2026, 11:42 AM: A fraudulent credit card with a Florida address was issued using the name of a Scarsdale man, who told police he had never lived in Florida.

Tuesday, June 2, 2026, 6:29 PM: A Mamaroneck Avenue woman reported receiving an alarming text message from a neighbor after she refused to give her six chickens. The neighbor texted she should watch out because actions have consequences. When contacted by police, the neighbor said she was frustrated about “the chicken situation” but would never hurt her neighbor.

Wednesday, June 3, 2026, 3:49 PM: An Oak Way woman told police that she received a letter congratulating her on admission to a graduate program at a Kansas school, even though she never applied for it. When she contact the school’s financial aid office, she

continued on page 10

Scarsdale Police Blotter

continued from page 9

learned that a loan application was filed under her name, but flagged due to suspicions of fraud.

Wednesday, June 3, 2026, 7:01 PM: A caller reported that their Tesla was hit by another vehicle while it was in a parking lot on Mamaroneck Road.

Thursday, June 4, 2026, 8:15 PM: A Scarsdale man reported that he was the victim of a scam on Facebook Marketplace. He agreed to purchase roofing tiles for \$1,100 from a Texas woman, who requested a \$550 deposit. After he sent the money via Venmo, the woman stopped communication with him. He contacted Texas police, who told him the woman’s address is in an uninhabited rural area.

Saturday, June 6, 2026, 8:16 PM: Six vehicles parked on Woodland Place were damaged when a large tree in Chase Road Park toppled over. The tree pulled down primary wires and damaged a utility pole.

Monday, June 8, 2026, 8:45 PM: A Carthage Road resident notified police that the front door of a neighbor’s home was open and a dog was running in and out.

Wednesday, June 10, 2026, 3:26 PM: The manager of a business on Secor Road told police that security cameras revealed someone putting Band-Aids on a vehicle that belonged to an employee.

Saturday, June 13, 2026, 8:10 PM: A caller told police a suspicious potato chip bag dropped at the corner of Chase Road and Christie Place could contain harmful substances. Police examined the bag, found it contained trash and threw it away.

Sunday, June 14, 2026, 3:14 PM: Police responding to a report of a verbal dispute on Post Road found a woman shouting while talking on her phone. She told police she was frustrated over the high price of gas.

Senator Shelley Mayer Presents Outstanding Educator Awards

continued from page 7

cator Awards to 18 exceptional educators from across the 37th Senate District. These teachers, counselors, and school professionals represent the very best of public education in New York. As Chair of the Senate Education Committee, I am continually inspired by the extraordinary work happening in our schools. It was a privilege to hear directly from these edu-

cators about their experiences, their classroom innovations, and the impact they have every day on their students’ lives.

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

BUSINESS CARDS

\$125. per issue for 3 months. Prepaid only. Just mail us your Business Card and Full Payment and we’ll take care of the rest. Mail to: Shoreline Publishing, 629 Fifth Ave., Suite 213, Pelham, NY 10803



WANTED!!
PART TIME AD SALES EXECUTIVE

FOR ALL OF OUR NEWSPAPERS AND SPECIAL PUBLICATIONS.

EMAIL COVER LETTER OF INTEREST ALONG WITH YOUR RESUME TO:
es@shorelinepub.com

CLASSIFIEDS

ANTIQUES • ART • COLLECTIBLES

Most cash paid for paintings, antiques, furniture, silver, sculpture, jewelry, books, cameras, records, instruments, coins, watches, gold, comics, sports cards, etc. Call Aaron at 914-235-0302.

VINTAGE MILITARY ITEMS WANTED

Revolutionary War to WWII. Helmets, swords, bayonets, medals, uniforms and accoutrements. High cash paid. Please call 914-980-8678.

PROFESSIONAL HEADSHOTS – WESTCHESTER

Look confident. Natural. Unforced. Headshots for executives, entrepreneurs, creatives & teams. Tethered sessions. Guided direction. Real results. Book now at: stevesimonportraits.com

Classified Ad Form

5 newspapers over 100,000 readers -- **1 PRICE, PREPAID \$150.00 FOR 4 LINES.**
Ad runs in 6 papers for 1 month. Make check payable to: Shoreline Publishing, Inc., 629 Fifth Avenue, Suite 213, Pelham, NY 10803

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

4) _____

5) _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

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

The Scarsdale Sentinel is published monthly by Shoreline Publishing, Inc., 629 Fifth Avenue, Suite 213, Pelham, NY 10803. 914-738-7869. The entire contents of the Scarsdale Sentinel is copyrighted. No portion may be reproduced without written permission of the publisher. The views, opinions and content of this publication does not necessarily reflect that of the staff of Shoreline Publishing.

Shoreline Publishing accepts the submission of articles, events and items of interest no more than 500 words with .jpg photos for inclusion in Shoreline newspapers and websites. Email to: shorelineproduction@gmail.com or Shoreline Publishing, 629 Fifth Avenue, Suite 213, Pelham, NY 10803. Shoreline Publishing reserves the right to edit or omit any submissions.

www.shorelinepub.com

Scarsdale Sentinel

www.scarsdalesentinel.com

Larchmont Ledger

www.larchmontledger.com

Harrison Herald

www.harrisonherald.com

New Rochelle Review

www.newrochellereview.com

The Pelham Post

www.thepelhampost.com

Westchester Women Magazine

www.westchester-women.com

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Table Hopping with Morris Gut: Winging It!

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

BEECHMONT TAVERN, NEW ROCHELLE

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

JACK'S BAR & RESTAURANT, EASTCHESTER

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

anyone in Westchester. I also discovered Jack's woodfired chicken wings, roasted in that oven right in front of you. They are meaty, moist and super flavorful. Of course, their regular menu of elevated tavern specialties is also available. www.jackseastchester.com

TUCK'D AWAY, TUCKAHOE

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

THE CANDELITE INN, SCARSDALE

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



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

(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)

Cafe
Alaia

CUCINA ITALIANA

GAMBERO ROSSO®



DUE FORCHETTE

PROUD TO ANNOUNCE WE ARE THE ONLY RESTAURANT
IN WESTCHESTER COUNTY AWARDED
TWO FORKS GAMBERO ROSSO
IN 2025 AND 2026



128 Garth Road, Scarsdale, NY
(914) 725-3000
cafealaia.com

PRIVATE PARTIES AND GIFT CARDS AVAILABLE

IG: @cafealaia_cucinaitaliana

Executive Chef Luca Cabras