

Scarsdale Sentinel



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scarsdalesentinel.com

YOUR NEW COMMUNITY GUIDE IS HERE!

Community Update from Mayor Justin K. Arest

With students back in school, fall programs in full swing, and a number of important Village projects advancing, there is a great deal happening throughout our community. I wanted to share several updates, celebrate a few recent accomplishments, and highlight several events coming up this fall.

Remembering September 11: This year marks 25 years since the September 11, 2001 attacks.

Scarsdale remembers the 2,977 lives that were taken, the families forever changed, and the extraordinary courage of the firefighters, police officers, EMTs and ordinary citizens who ran toward danger to help others. The village also honors the first responders and recovery workers who later became ill or lost their lives because of their service and exposure.

For many of us, September 11 remains deeply personal. We remember where we were, what we saw and how that day changed our country. Many in the community lost loved ones, friends, colleagues and neighbors and have carried that loss for 25 years.

The community should also recall what Americans showed us on that terrible morning. People did not stop to ask one another about religion, politics, race or where their families came from. They helped one another. They carried strangers. They stayed behind. Some gave their lives for people they did not know.

That is the America we must remember.

Freedom is not free, and the values sometimes taken for granted are not guaranteed simply because we inherited them. September 11 reminds us where hatred and extremism can lead, but it also reminds us of what is strongest about our country: courage, selflessness, service and our capacity to stand together.

For the children in our schools, September 11 is history rather than memory. None of them were born before September 11, 2001. That creates a solemn responsibility for all to



Mayor Justin K. Arest

make sure they know not only who we lost and the courage of those who stepped forward, but also the evil that caused that terrible day. They should understand that hatred and extremism are real, that freedom can never be taken for granted, and why the courage and sacrifice Americans showed in response still matter.

In recognition of the 25th anniversary, I have proclaimed September 11, 2026, a Day of Remembrance and Service in the Village of Scarsdale, and I encourage all residents to mark the day through remembrance, reflection and acts of service.

On September 11, first responders gathered at the Scarsdale Public Safety Building to honor the fallen and remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice. I hope everyone in Scarsdale will take a moment to remember them and reflect on the example they left us.

Welcoming the New Village Trea-

surer: I am very pleased to welcome Dawn Donovan as Scarsdale's new Village Treasurer. Dawn joined the Village on August 3, bringing more than 35 years of public-sector finance experience, including 25 years in municipal government. Most recently, she spent more than 15 years as Town Comptroller and Human Resources Manager for the Town of Eastchester, where she oversaw a \$48 million municipal budget.

The Treasurer plays one of the most consequential roles in Village government, with responsibility for safeguarding the community's finances and helping ensure that public resources are managed responsibly. The village took great care in filling this position, and Dawn brings tremendous experience and a demonstrated commitment to transparency, integrity and sound financial management.

Fall Fun in the Village Center: The Farmers Market at Destination Scarsdale continues every Sunday through November 22, bringing fresh food, local vendors and plenty of activity to the Village Center.

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Westchester Passes Property Tax Relief for Spouses of First Responders and Military

The Westchester County Board of Legislators unanimously approved four measures providing County property tax relief. The exemptions benefit surviving spouses of first responders who died in the line of duty, active-duty military members serving in combat zones, and veterans with serious disabilities resulting from their service.

Chairman Vedat Gashi (D-New Castle, Ossining, Somers, Yorktown) said, “Those who serve our communities and our country, and the families who stand beside them, make extraordinary sacrifices. These exemptions are a meaningful way for Westchester County to recognize that service while providing practical financial relief. I am proud that the full Board came together to support these local heroes and their families.”

The exemptions will apply to assessment rolls with taxable status dates on or after October 1, 2026. Property owners must apply through their local assessor and meet applicable eligibility requirements.

The four measures provide:

- Surviving spouses of police offi-

cers killed in the line of duty: A 50 percent exemption on the assessed value of their primary residence for County property tax purposes.

- Surviving spouses of volunteer firefighters and volunteer ambulance service members who died in the line of duty: A 50 percent exemption from County taxation on qualifying real property.

- Active-duty military members serving in combat zones: A 25 percent exemption on the assessed value of their primary residence.

- Veterans with serious disabilities resulting from their service: A full County property tax exemption on their qualifying primary residence.

Legislator Colin D. Smith (D-Cortlandt, Peekskill, Yorktown), Chair of the Board’s Legislation Committee, said, “Honoring service requires more than words; it requires meaningful action to support the people and families who have made extraordinary sacrifices on behalf of our country and our communities. I was proud to help advance this package through the Legislation Committee and to support its unanimous passage by the

Board.”

Legislator Tyrae Woodson-Samuels (D-Mount Vernon), Chair of the Board’s Budget and Appropriations Committee, said, “These exemptions reflect our values as a County—standing with those who serve and protecting the families of those who made the ultimate sacrifice. As Budget Chair, I’m proud we can provide meaningful property tax relief to our veterans, active-duty service members, first responders and their families while honoring their service to our communities.”

Legislator David J. Tubiolo (D-Yonkers, Mount Vernon), Chair of the Board’s Public Safety and Veterans

Committee, said, “I am proud to support these four important legislative items providing meaningful property tax relief to those who have sacrificed and served our communities and nation. These exemptions are more than financial assistance; they are a tangible expression of our gratitude and our commitment to standing behind our service members, veterans, first responders and their families. Westchester County has a proud tradition of honoring those who protect and serve, and I will continue advocating for policies that recognize their sacrifices and provide meaningful support when they need it most.”

Arest Outlines Appearance Tickets Regulations

BY STEPHEN E. LIPKEN

Scarsdale Mayor Justin K. Arest began the September 8 village board meeting by recalling the 25th anniversary of the September 11th attacks, observed nationally as Patriot Day. “We remember those whose lives were lost, the families, the first responders and civilians who acted with extraordinary courage and those who later lost their lives because of illnesses related to their service and exposure,” he said. “I ask for a Moment of Silence for all those whose lives were forever changed.”

A memo from Keane and Beane, P.C. outlined “Appearance Tickets” authorizes Director of Planning and Assistant Civil Engineer to issue appearance tickets for violations of the Village Code and Property Maintenance Code of New York. An appearance ticket directs a person to appear in court at a future time in connection with the alleged commission of an offense of state or local law. Failure to appear in court as directed can result in an arrest warrant.

Pursuant to Scarsdale Code Section 15-1, the following officials and employees are currently authorized to issue appearance tickets:

1. Village Manager
2. Deputy Manager
3. Fire Chief
4. Fire Captains
5. Fire Inspector and Two Firefighters
6. Police Aides
7. Parking Enforcement Officers
8. Dog Warden
9. Highway Foreman
10. Assistant Highway Foreman
11. Sanitation Foreman
12. Assistant Sanitation Foreman



Mayor Justin K. Arest

13. Superintendent of the Water Department
14. Water Foreman
15. Superintendent of Public Works
16. Village Engineer
17. Junior Civil Engineers
18. Engineering Aides
19. Building Inspector
20. Assistant Building Inspector
21. Code Enforcement Officers
22. Superintendent of Recreation and Parks Foreman
23. Temporary Summer Code Enforcement Officers

The Village undertook substantial review of its Site Plan and Zoning Code in 2024.

The proposed amendments to Chapter 171, entitled “Freshwater Wetlands,” are the proposed next step in the evaluation of the Village’s land use regulations.

The Local Law provides for an administrative approval process for minor structures within 50 to 150 feet of a wetland and a process for administrative approvals of cutting trees within 50 to 150 feet of wetlands.

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There is plenty more community fun ahead this fall, including Scarecrow Hayday on October 3, the Halloween Window Painting Contest on October 18, the Halloween Parade on October 30, and Light the 'Dale on December 4.

Freightway Planning : Work also continues on the future of the Freightway site, one of the most significant long-term planning opportunities facing the Village.

The Village is advancing the environmental review process for the site, with the Draft Generic Environmental Impact Statement (DGEIS) anticipated this fall. That process will help us better understand the potential impacts, opportunities and tradeoffs associated with possible redevelopment before any decisions are made.

Freightway serves an important function today, particularly as a parking resource for the Village Center and commuters, while also representing an opportunity to think carefully about the long-term future of this critical area. As the environmental review moves forward, there will be additional opportunities for public input, and I encourage residents to remain engaged in the process. More information can be found by visiting www.thefreightwayscarsdale.com.

Playground Progress! Over the past few years, the Village has completed major

playground renovations at Greenacres, with a new playground in 2024, and at Aspen and Willow Parks, both of which opened with newly renovated playgrounds this past spring.

Attention has now turned to Davis Park. Following a competitive proposal process and input from a review committee that included nearby residents, staff are finalizing modifications to a proposed design. Subject to Village Board approval, we anticipate placing the equipment order this fall, with construction currently expected to begin in December, weather permitting.

It has been exciting to see these spaces renewed for a new generation of Scarsdale families, and I look forward to seeing Davis Park join that growing list.

Pool Complex Update: The Village recently shared an important update on the Pool Complex Project: The existing Pool Complex will remain open for the summer of 2027.

The revised timeline gives the Village additional time to further refine the project's design, scope and cost before completing construction documents and moving through the required regulatory approvals. The Board remains committed to delivering a modern indoor/outdoor pool complex that reflects the priorities developed through years of community planning and engagement.

As this work continues, three resident volunteers will be added to the Pool Redevelopment Advisory Committee (PRAC) who bring professional expertise in architecture, design and construction.

Under the current schedule, construction is anticipated to begin following the 2027 pool season, with the new outdoor component targeted to open for summer 2029. The goal is to limit the Pool Complex closure to the summer of 2028.

For the full update and more information about the Pool Project, visit www.scarsdale.com/poolproject.

Congratulations to Scarsdale's Swim and Dive Team! I also want to recognize an accomplishment that deserves a proper celebration. On August 6, the Scarsdale Summer Swim and Dive Team won the Conference Championship, capping off a terrific summer season.

Congratulations to all the swimmers, divers and coaches who contributed to the team's success. Special congratulations go to Emily Tieng, who broke two meet records this season in the 8-and-under 25-yard backstroke and 25-yard butterfly.

Thank you as well to Head Coach Alex Eforo, Dive Coach Noam Tomkin, the assistant and pre-team coaches, and all of the families who supported the athletes throughout

the season. The Village is incredibly proud of the entire team!

A New Way to Purchase Parking Permits: September also marked the first permit sale conducted entirely through the Village's new online parking permit portal. More than 720 applications have already been approved, with several high-demand permit categories selling out.

Overall, the shift to the new system has been positive, and the Village appreciates everyone who navigated the new process with us. As with any major transition, we have also learned a great deal from this first sales cycle. Village staff are working with the portal developer to implement enhancements based on both resident and staff feedback, and the Village will continue looking for opportunities to make future permit sales as clear, convenient and user-friendly as possible.

Thank you to the Village Clerk's Office staff for the tremendous amount of work that went into preparing for and managing this transition.

Village Center Parking Meters: Thank you to everyone who tested the demo pay stations recently displayed in the Village Center and at Village Hall and provided feedback. Staff are synthesizing that input as the Village continues developing a broader plan to modernize the system.

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ernize parking in the Village Center. We hope to have more to share toward the end of the year.

The existing parking meters are well past their useful life and require constant maintenance, with staff spending significant time replacing batteries and piecing together aging parts. This is simply not sustainable. The Village needs to modernize our parking system, and we remain committed to doing so thoughtfully and incrementally.

The Pango app will continue to be an important part of the system, but we also need to determine where pay stations make sense and where single-space meters remain necessary, including at accessible parking spaces. At the same time, the Village has an opportunity to use parking data more effectively to make the most of limited Village Center parking. That may include a greater variety of time limits to encourage turnover in quick-stop locations while allowing longer stays where appropriate.

Thank you for your feedback and patience as the Village works toward a system that is more reliable, convenient and responsive to the needs of Village Center.

Traffic and Pedestrian Safety: Improving safety on Village roads remains an important priority, and I am pleased to share progress on two initiatives that have been discussed with the community.

Post Road and Edgewood Road Traffic Signal: Scarsdale is nearing the finish line on the long-awaited new traffic signal at Post Road and Edgewood Road. This New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) project follows years of advocacy by the Village and community to improve pedestrian safety at this important crossing, particularly for students and families traveling to and from Edgewood Elementary School. Most recently, NYSDOT advised the Village that the new signal is expected to be fully operational by the end of September.

Sprague Road Speed Hump Pilot Program: The Village will soon launch a speed hump

pilot program on Sprague Road as part of continuing efforts to address speeding and improve neighborhood traffic safety. Installation is expected within the next three weeks, and we look forward to evaluating how the speed humps perform during the pilot period.

The Police Department also continues its traffic safety and enforcement efforts throughout the Village, including increased attention around schools as students and families settle into the new school year.

Alongside these safety initiatives, the annual road maintenance program is continuing into the fall. Fog sealing recently began on designated roads throughout the Village, helping to protect and extend the useful life of recently paved streets. While the work can create some short-term inconvenience, it is a relatively modest investment intended to reduce the need for more frequent repaving and help provide the community with the quality of roads it deserves. As the Village works to wrap up the season's remaining road projects, we appreciate residents' patience and care around active work zones.

Crossway Pickleball Courts: Village staff continue to work on the temporary improvements to the pickleball courts at Crossway. Unfortunately, their progress has been repeatedly interrupted by rain at a stage of the project when dry conditions are particularly important.

While these improvements are temporary, the Village recognized that the condition of the courts was not acceptable for residents who use them. I greatly appreciate the creativity and dedication of Parks staff in finding a way to make meaningful improvements now rather than simply asking players to wait for the permanent project.

Staff are completing repairs to the existing playing surface before applying the resurfacing and color coats, striping the courts, and completing fencing and net work. Weather permitting, Saturday, September 19 is the target date for the courts to reopen for play.

The goal is to provide residents with a

significantly improved playing experience in the near term while the Village continues working toward the new permanent courts the community deserves.

Con Edison Transmission Project and State Oversight: The Village continues to seek answers and greater transparency from Con Edison regarding its transmission project and related work in the Walworth Avenue and Fox Meadow area.

Staff and I recently met with representatives of the New York State Department of Public Service (DPS), which is responsible for pipeline safety oversight, as well as a representative from the Governor's Office. That conversation raised important questions about communication and regulatory oversight, particularly regarding the additional inspection work currently taking place in Scarsdale. We have made clear that the Village expects to be kept fully informed about work involving critical infrastructure beneath residential streets, and the Village is continuing to pursue

answers on behalf of our residents.

At the Village's request, Con Edison held a community meeting on Tuesday, September 15 at 7 PM in Rutherford Hall at Village Hall. Representatives provided an update on the project, discussed upcoming work and answered residents' questions directly.

The Village will continue working with Con Edison and our State partners to ensure appropriate oversight, clear communication and accountability as this work proceeds.

Looking Ahead: As we look to begin another busy fall in Scarsdale, I am grateful to our residents, volunteers and Village staff who contribute every day to making our community such a special place to call home. I hope to see many of you around the Village, whether at Rock the 'Dale, the Farmers Market, on our fields and courts, or simply out enjoying our community.

Sincerely,
Justin Arest
Mayor

Edgemont Volunteers Needed

Are you looking to make a meaningful impact in Edgemont? The Edgemont Community Council (ECC) is seeking volunteers to join its committees and contribute to the future of the community.

About the ECC: It is Edgemont's advocacy and civic engagement organization. The ECC represents the community's interests and advocates for Edgemont at all levels of government. The ECC maintains relationships at the school district, fire district, town, county, state, and federal levels to advance issues that affect the Edgemont community. It is the only Edgemont community organization that represents all residents – newcomers, parents of current students, and empty nesters alike.

The ECC also builds community by planning events and supporting organizations that foster engagement and spirit. Each of Edgemont's eight neighborhoods is represented on the ECC Board of Directors.

Signature community events supported by the ECC include the Crane's Pond Halloween Parade, Menorah Lighting, Tree Lighting, and Carol Sing events; an annual community-wide service event; and the Edgemont Lunar New Year Celebration in partnership with the Edgemont Chinese Association. The ECC also sponsors the non-partisan School Board Nominating Committee (SBNC) and the Edgemont Newcomers Club.

The ECC maintains six committees, which are:

ECC Nominating: Helps identify and recruit community members to get involved with the ECC and manages the School Board Nominating Committee membership election process.

Environmental Education: Aims to educate Edgemont residents about environmental issues and local initiatives while promoting a sustainable lifestyle — such as reducing food waste, planting native plants/removing invasive plants, and adopting eco-friendly lawn care.

Governmental Affairs: Monitors and advocates on public policy and government activity that impacts Edgemont, including land use.

Newcomers: Plans gatherings for new residents in Edgemont to get to know each other and the greater community.

Programming: Plans and assists with community-wide events to bring residents together and foster community spirit and belonging.

Public Safety: Advocates for public safety initiatives to improve the quality of life in Edgemont, including initiatives related to traffic, sidewalks, and pedestrian safety.

Each committee meets regularly, with varying schedules. The ECC Board of Directors meets monthly — typically the first Monday of each month from September through June — in the Edgemont High School Faculty Lounge. All Edgemont residents are welcome to attend.

If you're interested in getting involved and being considered for a committee, email NomCom@EdgemontECC.org.

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Hospice of Westchester Receives Donation from The Scarsdale Woman’s Club



(Left to right): Holly K. Benedict, Director of Development and Public Affairs, Hospice of Westchester; Mary Ann Alling, The Scarsdale Woman’s Club; Mary K. Spengler, RN, MS, LNHA, CEO of Hospice of Westchester

Hospice of Westchester (HOW) recently received a \$1,500 donation from the Scarsdale Woman’s Club. The funds will support the organization’s work providing compassionate end-of-life care to Westchester County residents diagnosed with any life-limiting illness.

“The Scarsdale Woman’s Club has been a strong supporter of our organization for years, and we are grateful for their unwavering generosity,” said Mary K. Spengler, RN, MS, LNHA, CEO of Hospice of Westchester. “With this donation, we can continue to provide quality and compassionate services and programs to our patients, their families, and the wider Westchester community.”

About Hospice of Westchester: Hospice of Westchester (HOW) is a private, not-for-profit healthcare agency that provides skilled, compassionate and comprehensive end-of-life home care to patients diagnosed with any serious or life-limiting illness and gives support to their families and loved ones. Hospice of Westchester is located at 1025 Westchester Avenue, Suite 200, White Plains, NY. For additional information, visit www.hospiceofwestchester.com or call (914) 682-1484. For the latest news and updates, find HOW on Facebook.

Senator Mayer Gets \$100,000 for Scarsdale Police



New York State Senator Shelley B. Mayer secured \$100,000 in state funding to assist the Scarsdale Police Department in purchasing two new motorcycles and a motorcycle trailer. “It is crucial that our local police departments and officers have the necessary resources to respond to emergencies, engage in traffic control and keep our communities safe,” said Mayer.

Scarsdale Police Chief Steven DeBene, Officer Nick Kringas, and members of the Scarsdale Police Department joined Mayer, Scarsdale Mayor Justin Arest and Deputy Mayor Dara Gruenberg for the grant announcement.

**JOEL KUADUGAH
CLASS OF 2026**
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President of Classroom Crusaders
Rotary Club Vice President
QuestBridge National College Match Finalist
Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation Scholar
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FORWARD

GET REAL-WORLD READY

Joel Kuadugah has always been driven by a passion for learning, creating, and finding solutions that make a difference. Through his work in Stepinac's Susan and Daniel P. Mahoney '67 Engineering Honors Academy, research, and hands-on engineering experiences, he has built a remarkable pathway fueled by curiosity and determination. As he begins his studies in Biomedical Engineering at Columbia University, Joel is ready to turn today's ideas into tomorrow's innovations.

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Table Hopping with Morris Gut: Fall Drives to Farms and Markets



Want to visit a farmstand or pick your own apples or pumpkins, savor some cider and doughnuts, too? Take a flavorful fall foliage drive with the whole family. Here are some great destinations, and be sure to check ahead for hours and availability:

Ramsey's Farm, 17 Ramsey Road, Scarsdale, a longstanding tradition. As colorful and friendly as ever. Seasonal flowers and bounty. 914-723-3817

Mangone's Nursery & Farmers Market, 1427 E. Boston Post Road, Mamaroneck. This past year they activated the Soup Shack serving Lobster Rolls. This fall they are offering cider doughnuts, too. 914-698-3865

Westchester Greenhouses & Farm, 332 W. Hartsdale Ave., Hartsdale. The seasonal harvest grown locally. 914-949-9403 www.westchestergreenhouses.com

Thompson's Cider Mill, 335 Blinn Road, Croton-On-Hudson & Thompson's Fable Farm, 1311 Kitchawan Road (Rt.134), Ossining. Local fall artisanal foods like cider, donuts and pies. Cider Tasting Room. Next to Teatown Lake Reservation. 914-409-3433 www.thompsonscidermill.com

Wilken's Farm, 1313 Whitehall Road, Yorktown Heights. Marking their 106th year, visit the farmers market or pick your own apples, peaches, pumpkins, even Christmas Trees. Open Wednesday to Sunday, 10 AM to 5 PM through mid-December. 914-245-5111 www.wilkensfarm.com

Stuart's Fruit Farm, 62 Granite Springs Road, Granite Springs. This farm has been operating since 1828, strewn with old tractors and rural artifacts, you can pick your own fruit and produce or visit the farmers market for fresh cider donuts and pies. Open daily 9 AM to 6 PM. 914-245-2784 www.stuartsfarm.com

Harvest Moon Farm and Orchard, 130 Hardscrabble Road, North Salem. Operated by first generation farmers since 2011, the farm store is open daily 9 AM to 6 PM. On-site kitchen Monday to Friday. Get tickets online for apple picking. CSA membership available. 914-485-1210 www.harvestmoonfarmandorchard.com

Hayfield's, 1 Bloomer Road, North Salem. Owner Renea Dayton's multi-faceted country market bustles daily inside and out. From the in-house kitchen: coffee, breakfast, lunch, soups, salads, ice cream. Colorful flowers, too. 914-669-8275 www.hayfields-market.com

Outhouse Orchards, 139 Hardscrabble Road, North Salem. Weekend reservations required. 914-277-3188 www.outhouseorchardsny.com

Muscoot Farmers Market, Route 100, Katonah, part of Muscoot Farm. More than 20 vendors. The farmers market operates every Sunday from 9:30 AM to 2:30 PM through November. Free admission. 914-864-7283 www.muscootfarm.org

Salinger's Orchards, 200 Guinea Road, Brewster. Farm market and bakery. No pick-your-own, fresh-picked apples at the market. The bus on the grounds provides food and beverages. 845-277-3521 www.salingersorchards.com

Hilltop Farm and Environmental Center is an historic working farm dating back to the 18th Century, spanning 187 hilly acres. It is owned and operated by Westchester County and supported by Friends of Hilltop. 10 percent of produce grown is donated to food pantries and soup kitchens. Hilltop Hanover Farm, 1271 Hanover Street, Yorktown Heights. 914-862-5050 www.hilltophanoverfarm.org

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

White Plains Holocaust Education Center Appoints Associate Director

The Holocaust & Human Rights Education Center (HHREC) of White Plains appointed Dr. Mallory Bubar as Associate Director. Dr. Bubar also serves as the Board Secretary for the British and Irish Association for Holocaust Studies.

Dr. Bubar has 15 years of experience in education, museums, and non-profit work, and she taught German language, culture, and history while earning her Master's and Doctoral degrees. Her dissertation examined representations of the child figure in Holocaust literature, film, and museums, with a focus on how to support learners' introduction to the Holocaust.

After finishing her PhD, Dr. Bubar transitioned from academia to museum education, joining the Museum of Jewish Heritage – A Living Memorial to the Holocaust. In her role, she oversaw the Museum's education programs, collaborating with New York City schools, training museum educators, developing educational content, and securing funding for educational programming.

She has also worked with the Transatlantic Outreach Program at the Goethe Institut, managing educational initiatives such as annual teacher study tours to Germany and the online curriculum portal.

"We are delighted to welcome Mallory to our team. Her exceptional experience will help us in connecting with educators and our community about the Holocaust, other genocides, and human rights," said Millie Jasper, HHREC Executive Director.

HHREC is a nonprofit organization based in White Plains that serves area schools, synagogues, colleges, churches and civic centers in Westchester and the greater Hudson Valley area. HHREC works with students and teachers to help schools fulfill the New York State mandate that the Holocaust and other human rights abuses be included in their curriculum. For more information, visit www.hhrecny.org, call (914) 696-0738 or email info@hhrecny.org.



Residents Encouraged to Run for School Board Nominating Committee

The Scarsdale School Board Nominating Committee (SBNC) is inviting residents to become part of a long-standing community tradition that helps shape the future of Scarsdale schools. Being a part of SBNC is one of the most effective ways Scarsdale residents can impact the quality of the schools with a limited time commitment. Strong community involvement in the school board nominating process helps to ensure the highest quality candidates for the Board of Education.

Formed in 1965, the SBNC is a non-partisan committee that identifies and endorses candidates for the Scarsdale Board of Education. Thirty members, drawn equally from the five elementary school neighborhoods, work together each year to recruit, interview, and recommend highly qualified candidates for the community to vote on in May.

Why join the SBNC? Members play an active role in selecting Board of Education candidates, build connections across the community, and participate in a thoughtful process that has guided Scarsdale schools for decades. In 2024, Scarsdale residents voted to allow non-citizens to join the SBNC, ensuring that more voices can be part of this important process.

SBNC membership details

- All residents who are qualified voters, defined as a person at least 18 years of age, and a resident of Scarsdale for at least 30 days prior to the petition deadline of October 23, and interested in maintaining the excellence of Scarsdale schools are strongly urged to consider running for an SBNC position.
- Members serve three years on the SBNC, followed by two years on the Administrative Committee.
- Open seats this year: One from Edgewood and Fox Meadow, two from Quaker Ridge, and three in Greenacres.

How to run: Interested residents should complete two forms by October 23 at 5 PM: Email the SBNC biographical form to sbncelction@gmail.com and mail/drop off the candidate petition form to the address at the top of the petition. Visit <https://scarsdalesbnc.org/join-sbnc-2/> for details.

Election Day: Wednesday, December 2 (snow dates: December 7 or 9). Voting will take place at Scarsdale Middle School, 134 Mamaroneck Road, from 7 AM to 11 AM and 3 PM to 9 PM. For more information, visit scarsdalesbnc.org or email sbncelction@gmail.com.

Scarsdale Calendar



Exquisite Creatures

September 18, 2026 to January 31, 2027

Hudson River Museum, 511 Warburton Avenue, Yonkers
Using animal, mineral, and plant specimens as his medium, artist and naturalist Christopher Marley creates striking three-dimensional compositions that reveal the natural world's intricate beauty and diversity. Step into a realm where art, nature, and science converge. For more information, call (914) 963-4550.



Fall Foliage Hike

Sunday, October 18, 10 AM to 11:30 AM

Cranberry Lake Preserve, 1609 Old Orchard Street, West Harrison

Hike to the top of the quarry to get the best view of the beautiful fall foliage. Hike is approximately two miles with light rock scramble, hiking shoes recommended.

For more information, call (914) 428-1005.



Kung Fu Panda Screening & Martial Arts Workshop

Sunday, October 18, 10 AM to 12:30 PM

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

A screening of the animated film Kung Fu Panda will be followed by an exciting introduction to the world of kung fu through a live demonstration by 8th degree master instructor Ulises Ramos. Become your own kung fu warrior by learning to strike and block through guided activities. Family admission is \$36. For more information, email arts@jccmw.org.



Boo Walk

Saturday, October 31, Noon to 3 PM

Muscoot Farm, 51 Route 100, Katonah

Come in costume to the annual Boo Walk to walk the non-scary Halloween themed wooded trails. Free admission. For more information, call (914) 864-7283.

Helping Hands with Hope Community Services

Monday, October 12, 3:45 PM to 5:30 PM

Hope Community Services, 50 Washington Avenue, New Rochelle
Give back to the community through this monthly interfaith volunteer opportunity, a partnership between the Jewish Community Center of Mid-Westchester and Generations Church. Adult volunteers will meet at Hope Community Services to prepare and serve dinner in the soup kitchen. Come lend a hand, connect with others, and make a meaningful difference for neighbors in need! For more information, email jewishengagement@jccmw.org.

The Faces of Mount Rushmore

Wednesday, October 14, 2 PM

Scarsdale Woman's Club, 37 Drake Road

A multimedia program about the life and work of Luigi DelBianco, chief carver of Mount Rushmore, will be presented by his grandson. Free admission. For more information, call (914) 723-0024.

Junior League of Central Westchester Holiday Boutique

Friday, October 16, 11 AM to 7 PM

Saturday, October 17, 10 AM to 5 PM

Scarsdale Congregational Church, 1 Heathcote Road

The 40th annual Holiday Boutique will feature 20 top vendors with beautiful jewelry, clothing, housewares and gift items. The League table will feature handmade crafts and foods. The event will include Mahjong and Canasta games, a children's story time and college search discussion with author Beth Heller Gelles. For more information, email JLCW@verizon.net.

Kitchen Knacks: Mulling Spices

Saturday, October 17, 11 AM to 12:30 PM

Hilltop Hanover Farm, 1271 Hanover Street, Yorktown Heights

Learn how to dry your own fruits and spices, create flavor profiles, and take a jar of your own mulling spices home! Test your spice blend with some hot cider during the class, open to all ages. Cost is \$10. For more information, call (914) 862-5050.

Halloween Window Painting

Sunday, October 18, 9 AM to 4 PM

Chase Park, 32 Chase Road

Children and families paint spooky Halloween scenes on the windows of storefronts in the retail hub of Scarsdale village and enjoy a Family Fun Day with music and food. For more information, go to scarsdalebusinessalliance.com

Stories That Stay With Us: Beyond

Monday, October 19, 7 PM to 9 PM

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

Filmed with rare access inside Sing Sing Correctional Facility in Westchester, Beyond follows a group of incarcerated men as they prepare for a TED-style event, sharing deeply personal stories and bold ideas for transforming the prison system. The documentary captures their emotional journeys from first audition through their powerful moments on stage. Following the 89-minute screening, stay for a talkback with moderator Mikki Shaw and three formerly incarcerated speakers—Michael Tineo, Percy West, and Mujahideen Muhammad—who will share their own experiences and reflect on the themes explored in the film. A walking tour of Sing Sing will be held on October 26. Admission is \$10. For more information, email arts@jccmw.org.

Author Anna Quindlen with Journalist Sarah Loyal

Wednesday, October 21, 7 PM to 8 PM

Scarsdale Golf Club, 1 Club Way, Hartsdale

The Friends of the Scarsdale Library is hosting an evening with Pulitzer Prize-winning author Anna Quindlen in conversation with New York Times journalist Sarah Lyall to discuss Quindlen's latest novel More Than Enough. Enjoy wine, light bites and a lively discussion of a warm, witty, deeply moving story. For tickets, go to <https://givebutter.com/fosl-anna-quindlen-2026>.

Scarsdale Rotary Gala

Thursday, October 22, 6:30 PM to 9:30 PM

Scarsdale Golf Club, 1 Club Way, Hartsdale

The Rotary Club of Scarsdale will hold its 103rd anniversary fundraiser gala, bringing the community together for a fun, engaging event that will focus on welcoming newcomers to the area. This year's honoree is the Wilson Family of Wilson & Son Jewelers. Individual tickets start at \$160. To purchase tickets, go to <https://scarsdalerotary.org/scarsdale-annual-gala-fundraiser-tickets/>.

Building Connections: Neurodiversity Resource Fair

Sunday, October 25, Noon to 3 PM

Jewish Community Center of Mid-Westchester, 999 Wilmot Road, Scarsdale
JCCMW, in partnership with Smart Kids With Learning Disabilities, invites you to an afternoon dedicated to connection, support, and resources for neurodivergent individuals and their families. Meet local schools, educational programs, clinicians, community organizations, nonprofits, and businesses that provide services and support for children, teens, and young adults with learning and attention differences. Discover valuable resources, explore programs and services, connect with experts, and meet other families in the community. For further information, email inclusion@jccmw.org.

A Lasting Tribute to Congresswoman Nita M. Lowey

Westchester County honored the extraordinary life, leadership and legacy of Congresswoman Nita M. Lowey with the dedication of the United States Congresswoman Nita M. Lowey Community Green at Kensico Dam Plaza.

For more than three decades, Lowey served the people of Westchester County in the United States House of Representatives, earning a reputation as a tireless advocate for the communities she represented and a powerful voice on behalf of families, children, environmental protection, health care, education and critical federal investments.

Westchester County Executive Ken Jenkins said: “Nita Lowey dedicated her life to public service and to making life better for the people she represented. Her impact can be seen and felt throughout Westchester County, not only in the investments and initiatives she championed, but in the example she set as a leader of integrity, compassion and determination. It is fitting that this beautiful public space at Kensico Dam Plaza now carries her name and will serve as a lasting reminder of an extraordinary public servant and an extraordinary Westchester resident.”

United States Senator Chuck Schumer said: “Nita Lowey was a happy warrior for the people of Westchester. A history-maker as the first woman to chair the powerful Appropriations Committee, she delivered billions to support education, affordable healthcare, women’s rights, and better roads, bridges, and water systems. She was passionate and compassionate and worked across the aisle to get things done for the people of the Hudson Valley and beyond – from the Violence Against Women Act to expanding access to Head Start for millions. I was extremely fortunate to call Congresswoman Lowey a colleague and, above all, a dear friend. Establishing the Rep. Nita Lowey Community Green in Valhalla is a fitting tribute to an amazing person.”

United States Senator Kirsten Gillibrand said: “Nita was not only my colleague for many years, but she was also a close friend who exemplified persistence and compassion. She loved our nation and had a passion for public service that never wavered throughout her 32 years in office. Throughout her career, Nita broke barriers that changed the course of our state and improved her community. As the first woman to chair the House Appropriations Committee, her decisions and leadership helped get critical infrastructure projects completed and money into the pockets of New Yorkers. This community green, dedicated in her honor, will help ensure Nita’s service to our country will never be forgotten.”

New York State Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins said: “Con-



gresswoman Nita Lowey dedicated her life to serving the people of Westchester and making our community, our state, and our nation stronger. She was a role model, a mentor, and a friend, and her legacy continues to inspire all of us who had the privilege of knowing and working alongside her. It is especially meaningful to see her honored in a space where families, neighbors, and community members can come together. The Nita M. Lowey Community Green is a tribute to her extraordinary life, and a reminder of the generations of people she touched through her service.”

New York State Senator Pete Harchham said: “Congresswoman Nita Lowey was a trailblazer and a champion for Hudson Valley communities throughout her three decades of service in Congress, giving a voice to the voiceless and helping uplift and empower people in their lives. She was a friend and mentor to me and countless others and exemplified what it meant to be a public servant. Thank you to Westchester County and County Executive Ken Jenkins for this fitting dedication to honor the life and legacy of a remarkable woman.”

New York State Assemblywoman Amy Paulin said: “Congresswoman Nita Lowey was an extraordinary public servant and a true role model for all of us in public life. I always admired her intelligence and integrity, as well as her ability to work across the aisle to get things done. She was always available and accessible to me and the people who needed her, which was truly appreciated. She was deeply committed to the ideals of public service and to making a difference in the lives of the people she represented, which are values I’ve always tried

to embrace in my own work. Nita was a role model for women in politics, and really for all elected officials. It is wonderful to see her legacy honored with the Nita M. Lowey Community Green, a fitting tribute to a remarkable woman.”

Westchester County Board of Legislators Chairman Vedat Gashi said: “Nita Lowey was an extraordinary public servant who genuinely connected with the people and communities she served. I was fortunate to know Nita for many years and deeply appreciated her encouragement and support. No matter how busy she was or who approached her, Nita was warm, down-to-earth and accessible. It is especially fitting that her name will now grace a beautiful public space that is open and welcoming to everyone, just as she was.”

New York State Assemblyman Steve Otis said: “For those of us Nita represented, she served with determination and dedication, fighting for critical funding for New York State and successfully bringing in resources regardless of who held the majority in the House. To the nation, Nita will always be remembered as a trailblazing leader whose skill and effective service brought breakthrough after breakthrough to benefit the environment, women’s rights, education, childcare, and public health. We honor Nita and recognize her special place in American history with this dedication today.”

Congresswoman Nita M. Lowey’s District Director Patricia Keegan said: “Thank you to Westchester County Executive Ken Jenkins and the Westchester County Board of Legislators for dedicating this beautiful site as the Congresswoman Nita M. Lowey

Community Green. Throughout her 32 years in the House of Representatives, Nita set a high standard for public service. She listened to her constituents’ concerns, helped solved their problems and partnered with them to make our communities even better places to live, work and play. May the Community Green - a free, accessible park for celebrations of our country’s democracy and our residents’ cultures as well as quiet walks at every season of the year - inspire all of us to carry on her work of helping our neighbors and protecting our democracy.”

Lowey represented parts of Westchester County in Congress from 1989 through her retirement in 2021. During her 32 years in the House of Representatives, she rose to become Chairwoman of the House Appropriations Committee, becoming the first woman in congressional history to hold the position. She died March 15, 2025.

Throughout her career, Lowey fought to bring federal resources home to Westchester and the region while championing issues of national and international significance. Her leadership helped strengthen local communities, protect the environment, support public transportation, expand access to health care and education, and improve the lives of children and families.

The dedication ceremony drew hundreds of attendees, including elected officials from every level of government, family members, friends and residents whose lives were touched by Congresswoman Lowey’s decades of public service. Among those in attendance was former President Bill Clinton, who joined the community in honoring her extraordinary legacy.

Boys & Girls Club of New Rochelle Hosts Youth Leadership & Policy Forum

Youths and young adults from New Rochelle and across Westchester County will channel their experiences and ideas into recommendations for real-world change when the Boys & Girls Club of New Rochelle hosts its inaugural Youth Leadership & Policy Forum on Saturday, October 24.

Held from 10 AM to 5 PM at the Boys & Girls Club’s Remington Clubhouse, 1 Remington Place in New Rochelle, youths will identify issues affecting their lives and communities, collaborate on solutions and develop actionable policy recommendations to present to elected officials and community leaders. Youths and young adults from ages 14 to 24 are invited to

be heard at the forum and can register at <https://bit.ly/4dlbHXXH>

“Young people have cogent, strategic ideas about the opportunities and challenges facing their schools, neighborhoods, communities and future, and those ideas deserve to be heard,” said Becky Mazzanobile, CEO of the Boys & Girls Club of New Rochelle. “This forum gives them more than a seat at the table; it gives them an opportunity to shape the conversation. We want youths to know that their voices matter, that their ideas can inspire change and that they have the power to frame the future they want to see.”

The forum’s theme is “Your Voice. Your Policy. Our Future.” Officials sched-

uled to attend include Congressman George Latimer; representatives from the New Rochelle and Westchester County youth bureaus; City School District of New Rochelle Superintendent Dr. Corey W. Reynolds; Mamaroneck Schools Superintendent Dr. Charles Sampson; New York State Senators Shelley Mayer and Nathalia Fernandez; Assemblywoman Amy Paulin; Assemblyman Steve Otis; Westchester County Legislators Terry Clements and Judah Holstein; New Rochelle Mayor Yadira Ramos-Herbert; City Council members Martha Lopez-Hanratty and David Peters; and a representative from the Westchester County Executive’s Office. They will be asked to consider legislative or policy

action aligned with youths’ recommendations.

Policy discussions will focus on issues including civic engagement and youth voice; artificial intelligence, social media and digital citizenship; mental health and student wellness; education and college readiness; workforce development and career pathways; community safety and belonging; environmental sustainability; and financial literacy and economic opportunity.

The forum advances the Boys & Girls Club’s broader commitment to help young people develop the confidence, skills and opportunities to become leaders in their communities.

Upcoming Events at the Scarsdale Public Library

Survivors Among Us

Thursday, October 1 to Saturday, October 31

Throughout October, Scarsdale Public Library will host Survivors Among Us, an exhibit by Westchester Jewish Community Services. The photographic and storytelling project features Holocaust survivors living in Westchester County and shares their experiences and stories with the community.

In addition to hosting this powerful, informative and compelling exhibit, the library will offer a series of programs that explore this period in world history, held in partnership with members of the community, with some including interactions with Holocaust survivors honored in this exhibit.

Throughout the month, you can participate in the Fact Finding Mission - History’s Clues and read your way through the exhibit to learn the answers to questions about the survivors. Booklists with suggestions for all ages will be available. Learn more here: bit.ly/SurvivorsExhibit

Children’s Hallow-Read Challenge Begins!

Thursday, October 1 to Saturday, October 31

Log the minutes you read during the month of October. Spooky season is upon us! Halloween is a time brimming with excitement, magic, and mischief! Get ready to satisfy your sweet tooth, indulge in some festive fun, and curl up with a hair-raising tale. Log your reading throughout the month and earn hauntingly cool badges. bit.ly/4h6HDWz

VIRTUAL: How to Stand Out in the Competitive College Application Process

Monday, October 5, 7 PM

A panel discussion will help parents and students demystify this process and learn strategies to maximize results. Registrants will receive a recording link after the event for their own personal use. bit.ly/4766yVD

Movie Screening & Discussion - Seconds (1966)

Tuesday, October 6, 6 PM

The film is adapted from the 1963 novel of the same name written by David Ely. Some of the filming for Seconds took place here in Scarsdale, where the story of much of the first act of the film occurs. bit.ly/4cP7gtX

The Collection of a Lifetime - Downsizing Books, Photographs, and Papers

Thursday, October 8, 2 PM

The lecture features a practical and lively look at some of the considerations for downsizing personal libraries, offices, and collections. bit.ly/46pZtiI

Halloween Costume Workshop

Friday, October 9, 2:30 PM

The Makerspace’s Cricut machines, sewing machines, and button makers will be available for use in building and accessorizing your costume, as well as hot glue guns, scrap fabric, iron on vinyl, cardstock, construction paper, and more! A drop-in program, no registration required, but welcome for planning purposes. bit.ly/3VxHdBq

Restoring the Hutchinson River

Wednesday, October 14, 6 PM

Learn more about this local watershed and the ongoing work to preserve the Hutchinson River for current and future generations. bit.ly/4h97Tjc

Trivia - Halloween and Horror

Thursday, October 15, 3 PM

Come to the library and show off your knowledge of ghosts, ghouls, and goblins with an afternoon of trivia and friendly competition. bit.ly/3VcNaUk

Fall Luminaries for Teens

Saturday, October 17, 1 PM

Create beautiful luminaries with glass jars to decorate your home for the autumn holiday season. They cast a warm glow in your window, on your table, or anywhere you want to create a festive effect. bit.ly/4h2Zmyk

Preserving the Light: All the Empty Rooms Film Event

Tuesday, October 27, 7 PM

Join the library staff and the Friends of Scarsdale Public Library for a meaningful evening screening of this Oscar winning short documentary, followed by a panel discussion. bit.ly/4hwYTov

Children’s Spooky Soiree

Thursday, October 29, 6 PM

Stop by the library for a family fun night to celebrate Halloween with crafts, a photo area, and spooky activities! Costumes encouraged! All ages, activities will be geared to children ages 5 and up. No registration required. While supplies last. bit.ly/3T1Teyr

Boo Bash!

Friday, October 30, 9 AM

The Boo Bash celebrates Halloween with simple activities, a craft, and more for young children. Costumes are encouraged! All Ages - activities are geared to ages newborn to 5 years. No registration required. Activities while supplies last. bit.ly/4raYdJC

Westchester Closes Loophole in Flavored Vape Ban

The Westchester County Board of Legislators unanimously approved an amendment to County law strengthening enforcement of New York State’s ban on certain vaping devices.

The measure closes a loophole that some vendors have used to claim flavored and deceptively designed vapes found in their possession were not intended for sale in New York. It is the latest step in the Board’s ongoing efforts to reduce and prevent nicotine use among young people and protect the health and safety of all Westchester residents.

Under the new County law, if a Westchester retailer is found with four or more flavored vapes banned by state law, or four or more e-cigarettes disguised as everyday items such as highlighter pens or smartphone cases, the products are presumed to be intended for illegal sale. It is then up to the vendor to prove otherwise by showing the items were meant only for lawful online sales to customers in other states or jurisdictions where they can legally be sold.

New York prohibited the sale of most flavored vaping devices in 2020 to reduce youth access. Since then, some retailers have argued the products were being held only for shipment to customers in states where those sales remain legal. Retailers

claiming that exception must now back it up with evidence. This gives the Westchester County Department of Health a stronger enforcement tool: inspectors can act without having to prove an illegal sale took place.

Board Chairman Vedat Gashi (D–New Castle, Ossining, Somers, Yorktown) said, “Westchester has taken important steps to protect young people from the dangers of vaping. No one should be able to sidestep the law. This measure closes an enforcement gap and gives our public health officials another tool to hold retailers accountable. I’m proud the full Board came together to support this effort.”

Legislator Jewel Williams Johnson (D–Elmsford, Greenburgh, Tarrytown, White Plains), Chair of the Board’s Health Committee, said, “Since becoming a County Legislator, one of my steadfast goals has been to make harmful vaping products less accessible to our young people. This legislation closes a loophole that some retailers have exploited by claiming flavored products are merely being stored for internet sales while still making them accessible to youth. That kind of end-run around the law is unacceptable. Retailers have a responsibility, too; profit can never come before the health and well-being of our young people. We owe them an environment that sup-

ports healthier choices, stronger development, and a better future.”

Legislator Colin Smith (D–Cortlandt, Peekskill, Yorktown), Chair of the Board’s Legislation Committee, said, “Retailers have tried to hide behind vague claims that these products were meant for out-

of-state sale and use that excuse to frustrate enforcement. This law puts an end to that. If we’re serious about keeping flavored and deceptively designed vapes away from young people, our public health officials need the tools to hold violators accountable.”

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New Rochelle Review
www.newrochellereview.com

The Pelham Post
www.thepelhampost.com

Westchester Women Magazine
www.westchester-women.com

Scarsdale Police Blotter

Tuesday, September 1, 2026, 5:20 PM: A package containing clothing worth \$957.39 was reported missing from a home on Murray Hill Road.

Thursday, September 3, 2026, 4:06 AM: A Lee Road resident told police that he heard someone open his car door and then saw someone on his Ring camera dressed in black and wearing a mask enter the unlocked car parked in his driveway. He then set off his car alarm and the individual ran away. Nothing was taken from the car.

Thursday, September 3, 2026, 8:12 AM: A driver was ticketed after stopping on Mamaroneck Road, turning on the hazard lights and dropping off children.

Thursday, September 3, 2026, 11:06 AM: A resident of Sprague Road told police that her 2015 Nissan was ransacked overnight and items thrown around the front seats and in her yard. A small amount of money was missing.

Thursday, September 3, 2026, 1:11 PM: A Sprague Road homeowner reported that someone rummaged through his unlocked 2026 Lexus and 2016 Honda while they were parked in his driveway overnight and took some change from the Honda.

Thursday, September 3, 2026, 3:43 PM: A Lincoln Road man told police that an \$8,050 check he mailed from the Heathcote Post Office, 1112 Wilmot Road, was stolen and fraudulently cashed.

Friday, September 4, 2026, 11:32 AM: A patient called police after an Overhill Road physician would not see him after he arrived late to his appointment. Police advised the man to reschedule the appointment.

Friday, September 4, 2026, 12:42 PM: A resident of Brewster Road reported that he mailed two checks totaling \$9,200 and they were fraudulently cashed.

Friday, September 4, 2026, 2:11 PM: A Tompkins Road man told police that more than five years ago, his mother raised a tennis racket at him, but did not hit him.

Friday, September 4, 2026, 6:26 PM: A Putnam Road resident reported that during the past year, he kept finding plastic bags of soiled diapers in the bushes in his yard and by the curb in front of his home.

Saturday, September 5, 2026, 8:54 AM: Police asked the owner of a dog running loose on the soccer field at Wayside Lane to catch his pet. He chased the dog, but was unable to catch it. Police then caught the dog and issued a summons to the owner.

Sunday, September 6, 2026, 1:27 PM: A woman told police that she returned to her Jefferson Road home after a week's vacation to find the front door broken, window screens damaged, and the interior searched. Nothing was reported missing.

Sunday, September 6, 2026, 5:02 PM: A Montgomery Road resident reported that her home was ransacked sometime during the

weekend. Nothing appeared to be missing.

Monday, September 7, 2026, 8:17 PM: A Pinecrest Road home was reported burglarized over the holiday weekend and at least \$50,000 worth of property stolen.

Tuesday, September 8, 2026, 1:38 PM: Police ticketed a Stamford man for operating a motor vehicle with a suspended registration, no insurance and no inspection after a traffic stop on Post Road.

Tuesday, September 8, 2026, 8:48 AM: Police responded to a report of two men in masks sitting in the parking lot of Balducci's, 15 Palmer Avenue, and found two Halloween masks on the front seat head rests. The car was unoccupied.

Tuesday, September 8, 2026, 5:17 PM: A Rodney Road resident called police to report that his garbage can was stolen, but police found it at the back of his property.

Tuesday, September 8, 2026, 6:36 PM: A Drake Road driver reported that two youths riding e-bikes cut in front of him and did not allow him to pass. When he honked at them, the youths made rude gestures.

Wednesday, September 9, 2026, 4:13 PM: A Fenimore Road woman told police that she received a call from someone who claimed he had a warrant for her arrest and requested \$25,000 to resolve the problem. When she went to Wells Fargo to withdraw the funds from her account, the bank manager told her it was a scam.

Friday, September 11, 2026, 3:59 PM: A Sherbrooke Road homeowner told police that he found a drone in his backyard that does not belong to him.

Saturday, September 12, 2026, 11:41 PM: Police gave a verbal warning to a Harcourt Road homeowner whose loud music at a party he was hosting drew complaints from neighbors. He turned down the music, but later turned it up again. After police returned and issued a summons, the homeowner said the party was over.

Tuesday, September 15, 2026, 5:07 PM: Police issued summonses for speeding, driving an uninspected vehicle and third-degree aggravated unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle to a Northport man after a traffic stop on Post Road.

Friday, September 18, 2026, 3:59 PM: A Park Road woman reported that her email address had been changed on her American Airlines account and her airline points were used to purchase a \$300 Lululemon gift card.

Saturday, September 19, 2026, 11:18 AM: A Scarsdale woman reported that she attempted to withdraw \$450 from an ATM machine at Chase Bank, 8 East Parkway, but the transaction was declined. She then successfully withdrew \$420, but realized later that the bank charged her account for both withdrawals.

Sunday, September 20, 2026, 9:40 AM: A Rye Brook man damaged a street sign when he tried to pull into a parking space on Boniface Circle.

Going Into Surgery? Make Sure Your Estate Planning Documents Are in Order

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

When preparing for surgery, most people focus on the procedure, recovery, transportation, and post-operative care. Estate planning documents, however, are often overlooked. Whether surgery is routine or serious, it is important to make sure the right people have the legal authority to act for you if you are temporarily unable to make decisions yourself.

Too often, people wait until the day before surgery—or even until they are already in the hospital—to address these issues. A little advance planning can make a significant difference.

Health Care Proxy: One of the most important documents to have before surgery is a Health Care Proxy. This document allows you to appoint someone you trust to make medical decisions for you if you are unable to do so.

Your agent may need to communicate with doctors, consent to treatment, address rehabilitation options, or make other important medical decisions. Choose someone who understands your wishes and can make difficult decisions under pressure. It is also wise to name an alternate agent in case your first choice is unavailable.

Simply telling a spouse, child, sibling, or friend what you would want is not the same as giving that person legal authority to act.

Living Will: A Living Will works together with a Health Care Proxy. While the Health Care Proxy identifies the person who will make medical decisions, a Living Will provides written guidance about your wishes concerning life-sustaining treatment if you cannot communicate.

These may include decisions involving artificial nutrition and hydration, mechanical ventilation, resuscitation, and other medical interventions. Although these can be difficult subjects to discuss, putting your wishes in writing can spare your family from having to guess what you would have wanted during a medical crisis.

Power of Attorney: Medical decisions are only part of the picture. If you are temporarily incapacitated after surgery, someone may also need to handle financial and legal matters.

A properly drafted Durable Power of Attorney can allow your agent to pay bills, communicate with banks and insurance companies, manage property, and handle other financial matters. Many people assume a spouse or adult child automatically has this authority, but that is not always the case.

Without a Power of Attorney, even routine financial matters can become difficult. In more serious situations, the lack of proper planning

can result in the need for a costly guardianship proceeding.

Review Your Will, Trusts and Beneficiary Designations: Surgery is also a good reminder to review your Will and any trusts. Ask whether they still reflect your wishes and whether the people named as Executor or Trustee remain the right choices. Consider whether there have been marriages, divorces, births, deaths, or other significant family changes.

If you have a Revocable Trust, make sure it has been properly funded. Having a trust document is only part of the planning; assets generally need to be properly titled or coordinated with the trust.

You should also review beneficiary designations on retirement accounts, life insurance policies, annuities, and other accounts that pass directly to named beneficiaries. These designations can take precedence over instructions in your Will, so outdated information could unintentionally undermine your overall estate plan.

Don't Wait Until the Last Minute: Perhaps the most important advice is simple: don't wait until the day before surgery to begin estate planning.

Good planning takes time. Your attorney needs to understand your family, assets, goals, and concerns. Documents may need to be drafted or revised, and proper witnessing or notarization may be required.

Waiting until you are already hospitalized can create additional complications, particularly if anesthesia, strong pain medication, or a significant medical event affects your ability to make decisions. A hospital room is rarely the ideal place to make important estate planning decisions.

The better approach is to prepare while you are healthy and able to thoughtfully consider your options.

Plan Before You Need the Documents: Most surgeries go as planned, but preparing for the unexpected is an important part of protecting yourself and your family.

Before undergoing surgery, make sure your Health Care Proxy, Living Will, Power of Attorney, Will, trusts, and beneficiary designations are current. Make sure the people you have appointed understand their roles and know where important documents can be found.

The best time to prepare for an emergency is before there is one.

Bernard A. Krooks, Esq., is a founding partner of Littman Krooks LLP. He was named the 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). Mr. Krooks may be reached at 914-684-2100 or at www.littmankrooks.com.

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the highest quality rating five years in a row.**



5 STARS

HIGHEST QUALITY RATING

BY CENTERS FOR MEDICARE AND MEDICAID SERVICES

FIFTH YEAR IN A ROW

While many hospitals receive awards, very few earn the highest honors as consistently as White Plains Hospital. We are proud to have earned our fifth consecutive CMS 5-Star Quality Rating — recognition of our unwavering commitment to quality, safety and the patient experience.

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