



Mayoral Community Message

August 10, 2023

Dear Scarsdale Community,

This summer has been filled with several memorable community events. I want to express my gratitude to our Village staff and all involved in pulling off these great events that have brought us together as a community. From the fireworks at our municipal pool, Westchester Band concerts at Chase Park, our new Farmers' Market in the Village Center, and of course, the Scarsdale Music Festival which kicked off the summer, it has been a privilege to attend these gatherings and to see residents enjoying each other's company and all our Village has to offer. I also want to highlight our successful and beloved Rec Camp which just ended this past week and thank the Rec department staff and counselors for providing children with a fun and activity-filled summer.

If you did not catch any of these or other local events this summer, please see the opportunities listed below and check our [website](#) for updates on upcoming events. You can also sign up for regular Village announcements [here](#), and I must once again urge the entire community to sign up for our new emergency notification system by clicking [here](#).

Alongside the sunny days, we have also encountered our share of thunderstorms. Our continually changing weather systems are not something unnoticed by the Village Board and staff, especially how they impact our community's stormwater system. We continue to look for longer-term solutions and possible code alterations to face the changes in storm intensity and frequency. However, we are also cognizant that this issue must be addressed regionally for any plan to be truly successful.

Bob Steves

Scarsdale lost a dedicated volunteer, friend, and neighbor on July 30. Please read more about former Mayor and Board of Education President Bob Steves [here](#) and [here](#). I had the pleasure of working with former Mayor Steves on the Library Project Capital Campaign and was the recipient of his counsel over the years. He will be missed, and he will continue to be a role model for all who serve our community.

Public Safety

On Wednesday, July 19, the Scarsdale Police Department held a poignant wreath ceremony commemorating the 100th anniversary of Sergeant Harrison's death. John Harrison was a brave Officer in the Scarsdale Police Department who was tragically killed in 1923, while responding to a car theft. The criminals associated with the grand larceny and Sargent Harrison's death were also believed to have conducted a series of high-end burglaries in our area.

As we solemnly stood to pay our respects, it was not lost on me that we are currently grappling with a surge in burglaries in our area. We are blessed to live in one of the safest communities and have the protection of one of the best police departments. Our local police force is working tirelessly, doing everything possible to keep us safe, as they always do. They are coordinating closely with our county partners in law enforcement as well as at other levels of government to effectively counter this crime surge.



Let's honor Sergeant Harrison's memory and support our police force's efforts by remaining vigilant, implementing effective home security measures, and promptly reporting suspicious activities. The more we do to target-harden our homes and keep an eye out for anything out of the ordinary, the more successful we can be in protecting our community. There is a "Burglary Prevention Strategies" tip sheet created in conjunction with our Police Department included with this letter. Please review it and always report anything suspicious- 911 (emergency) or 914-722-1200 (non-emergency).

Heathcote Bridge Update

Now that the New York State Department of Transportation has approved the work for the Heathcote Bridge, Superintendent Coleman and his team in the Department of Public Works have been moving forward to begin work. There was a construction meeting held on July 10, and notice to proceed was then given on July 21. Materials are on order, and Superintendent Coleman expects to have a better picture of the timeline and potential disruptions from the contractor in the next month. The Village will give as many updates as possible. Our new communication tool for emergency and time-sensitive matters, [Everbridge](#), will also be utilized to notify residents, especially when the bridge might need to be unexpectedly closed for short periods of time.

Wireless Telecom

The wireless work to bring more coverage to our area being done by Verizon and discussed at Village Board meetings earlier this year is still on track. We anticipate the equipment being installed at Village Hall will be active in early September and the work at the Public Safety Building by the end of September.

Municipal Pool Project Update

At Tuesday's Board Meeting, the Village Board approved the creation of an Ad Hoc Pool Redevelopment Advisory Committee (PRAC). This group of residents, board members, and staff will be focused on achieving the creation of a pool complex that meets the needs of our community and continues to be a place where residents, family, and friends can relax, enjoy each other's company, and beat the heat. The next steps will be engaging the services of a Construction Manager and continuing to refine the needs identified by the expert consultants' previous work and entering the schematic design phase. Stay tuned for more updates as well as ways to give your input and feedback as the project progresses.

Sewer Lateral Inspections

In February, the Village Board passed new legislation to better manage our sewer system. Think of the sewer system as a dedicated highway for waste from our homes. We want to make sure that only the right kind of waste travels this highway, and that it does not leak or mix with clean water. By putting safeguards in place, we not only ensure a more efficient sewage system, but also protect our natural water sources. Simply put, sewer lateral inspections are about making sure everything goes where it's supposed to – waste from our homes stays in the designated sewer lines and clean water stays out.

Therefore, effective October 1, 2023, the Building Department will be requiring Discharge Compliance Certificates upon any sale, transfer, or conveyance of any property within the Village. Certificates will also be required for construction costing over \$100,000. These certificates will confirm that the connection between the Village sewer system and your house is in satisfactory condition. More information on this requirement will be available on our website in the coming days. Village staff has already met with local real estate agencies and notice has also been sent to real estate attorneys by the Westchester Bar Association.

Noise Code

Last month, the Village Board adopted a local law modifying the Village Code to better address noise violations. We are always striving to find the right balance between allowing residents to use their property as they wish while also ensuring neighbors are able to enjoy their homes in a peaceful manner. Over the coming months, staff will be monitoring noise complaints and gathering additional information, including sound/decibel level readings, for further consideration by the Board should future revisions to the code need to be considered.

Library Updates

Thank you to Director Beth Bermel and the Library Board for providing this Library update:

With an average of over 600 visitors daily, the Scarsdale Public Library ranks among the top libraries in Westchester County in the circulation of materials. Over 60% of our residents have a library card, with membership growing daily. Nearly 500 Scarsdale readers of all ages are participating in one of our summer reading programs. This is up from 300 last year and, there is still time to [register](#) and participate! Residents have been making great use of the Friends of the Scarsdale Library sponsored Museum Pass program this summer with over 250 reservations made since June, allowing cardholders to visit museums at no cost to them.

The Scarsdale Public Library continues to bring the community together, with local partnerships strengthening connections. The Library has been collaborating with the Scarsdale New Residents Club to offer Mah Jong and Canasta, two popular programs creating opportunities for socializing and connecting with neighbors. Local teens have been spearheading intergenerational programs this summer, including a Magic the Gathering group and chess clubs. An upcoming Trivia Night celebrates summer reading and brings the community together for some fun and intellectual gameplay. For more information on Library activities, please click [here](#) to be forwarded to the Library's website.

Upcoming Events

Summer Concert Series (last show!) • August 10 • 8PM • Scarsdale High School Auditorium

Tonight is the last of our concert series featuring the incredible Westchester Band. This family friendly program includes music from genres such as popular rock, classics, marches, and more. Due to weather, this event has been moved indoors to the Scarsdale High School Auditorium.

Party in the Park • August 11 • 6PM-8PM • Hyatt Park

Join us at Hyatt Park for the last Party in the Park of the summer. Bring blankets, chairs, and your friends to enjoy a beautiful summer night with musical entertainment.

Health, Beauty, & Wellness Fair • September 10 • 11AM-3PM • Village Center

The Scarsdale Business Alliance has organized a day of fun and educational activities to let you know about the amazing wellness resources available to you – right in our community! Don't miss this amazing event, with fun for the whole family!



Farmers Market • Sundays, June 04 – November 19 • 9AM- 1PM • Village Center

Our new Scarsdale Farmers' Market is going strong! Stop by on Sundays and pick up organic produce, tangy pickles, fresh bread, fragrant cheeses, and more.

Good News

SVAC Recognition

Last week I had the pleasure of joining State, County, and local officials to celebrate the passing of new state legislation supporting a pilot program for community paramedicine. It is an extension of great work that began during the pandemic and I'm proud to say that the Scarsdale Volunteer Ambulance Corp has been at the forefront of this model, serving the Scarsdale community and beyond. Community paramedicine can help save lives, save money, and improve the quality of life for many especially those older and immunocompromised. Click [here](#) or [here](#) for more information on the event and program.



Enjoy the last few weeks of summer!

Sincerely,



Justin Arest
Mayor



BURGLARY PREVENTION STRATEGIES

The New York Metropolitan area, including Westchester County, continues to experience a rise in property theft. The Scarsdale Police Department deploys patrol 24/7 and conducts burglary and larceny patrol on a regular basis. We collaborate with local jurisdictions and Westchester County's Real Time Crime Center to share information in an effort to minimize the number of thefts.

Critical components of property crime prevention include being an observant neighbor and immediately reporting suspicious behavior to the police and "Target Hardening" of your property. Residents are encouraged to call the police first if suspicious or unusual behavior is observed. Callers can remain anonymous. Please use 911 in any emergency and 914-722-1200 for everything else.

The following tips and strategies are presented for consideration in target hardening your home.

LOCK YOUR DOORS AND WINDOWS

It is critical to consistently ensure all doors and windows are locked, even when you step out briefly. This simple act can significantly deter potential burglars. This includes the second-story and attic windows.

USE/INSTALL A SECURITY SYSTEM

There are numerous options on the market for home security systems, including some more affordable DIY setups. These systems can deter potential burglars and increase your peace of mind. Please use a loud audible siren and ensure that your alarm is registered with the Village of Scarsdale and monitored by a central station that will notify us when an alarm is triggered. Please consider using your alarm system even when you are home.

STORE VALUABLES AND CAR KEYS OUT OF SIGHT

Don't tempt potential thieves. Keep expensive items and automobile keys out of view from doors and windows.

DON'T ADVERTISE THAT YOU'RE AWAY

If you're going on vacation, avoid signaling your absence. Ask a neighbor to collect your mail or stop delivery services until your return. If you want to post photos on social media, please try to wait until you return home.

DON'T HIDE KEYS OUTSIDE

It's safer to give a spare key to a trusted neighbor than to hide it in a predictable spot outdoors. Under an obvious rock or doormat is not an effective hiding place. This also includes leaving house keys inside vehicles.

KEEP YOUR HOME WELL LIT

Install outdoor lighting around your home, if possible, especially near entrances. Motion-activated lights can be particularly effective. Please keep your neighbors in mind when positioning lights.

WINDOW SECURITY FILM

This clear layer can strengthen your windows and prevent them from shattering, deterring burglars.

VIDEO SURVEILLANCE CAMERAS

High-definition security cameras offer real-time monitoring and recording. Some cameras also offer facial recognition, night vision, and remote access via smartphones. There are inexpensive options on the market that do not require professional installation and can be an added deterrent.

AVOID BUSINESS PATTERNS

Residents should try and avoid bringing business funds to their home. If doing so is unavoidable, residents should avoid creating any patterns related to payrolls or collections.

SAFES SHOULD BE KEPT SECRET

Ensure that safes are hidden and difficult to get to. Do not share any information about the presence of a safe in your home.

KEEP AN EYE OUT

Ask a trusted neighbor to look after your home and be vigilant for anything that appears suspicious in nature. You and your neighbors are the best judges of what is suspicious, and the Scarsdale Police Department will send officers to investigate when a call is received— don't second-guess yourself or hesitate to call the police.

SPD DARK HOUSE PROGRAM

When you will be away for a period of time, enroll in the Scarsdale Police Department's "Dark House" program to ensure a patrol officer checks on your home while you're away. Call 914-722-1200 to get more information and register.

HOME AUTOMATION

Consider installing a few automated light bulbs that can be turned on remotely or with certain planned scenes while you are out of the house.