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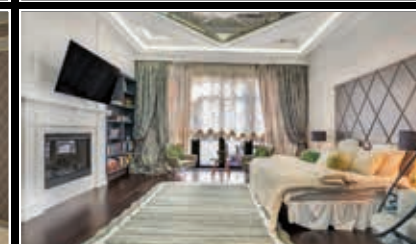
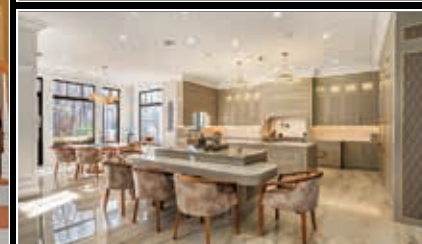
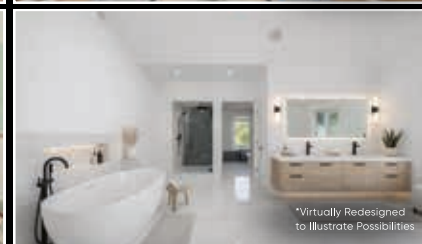
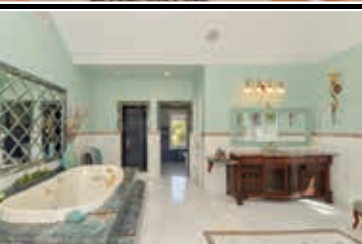
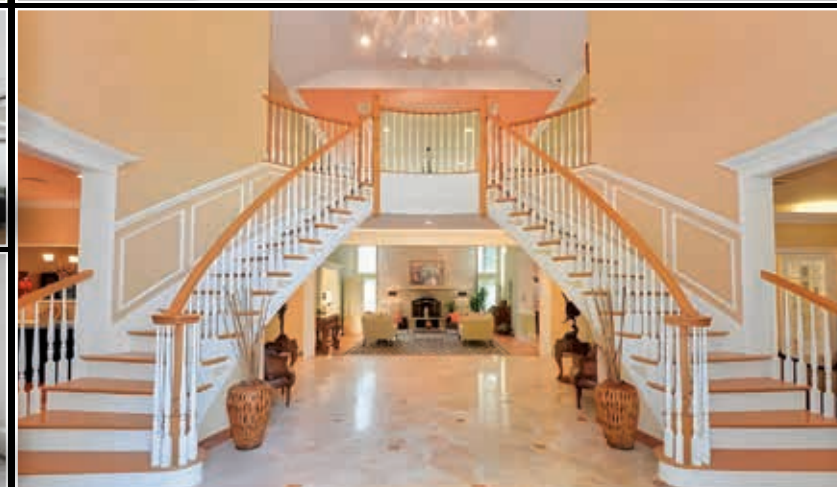
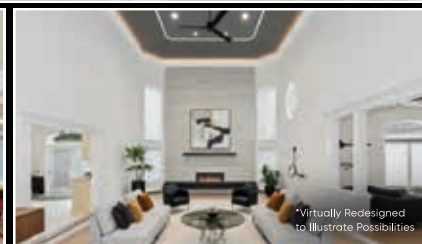
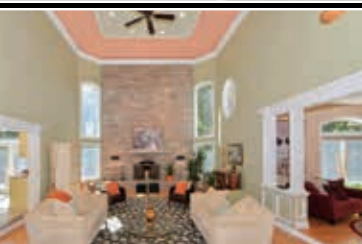


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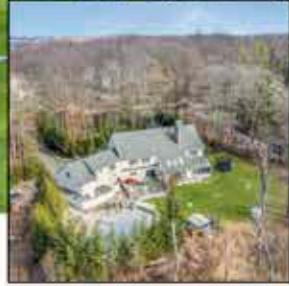
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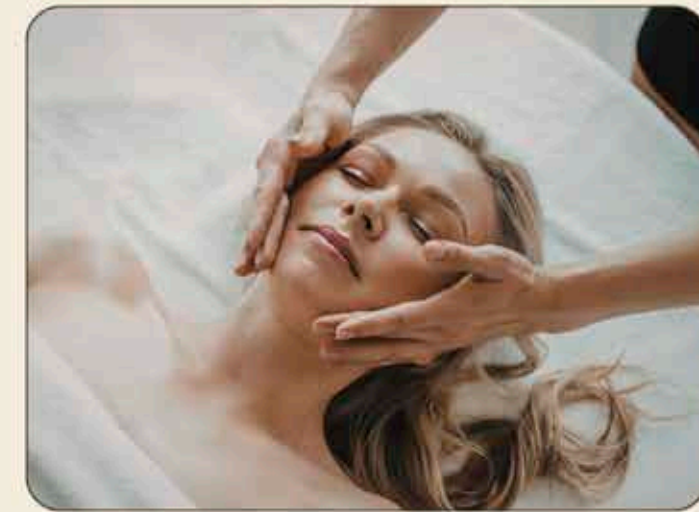
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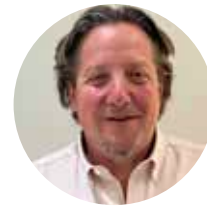
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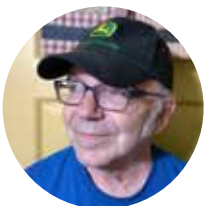
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The main residence boasts timeless architectural detailing - an expanded master chef's gourmet kitchen, a 2 1/2 story cathedral great room with fireplace, a formal living room, a formal dining room, a classic library, 8 bedrooms, 5 full and 2 half bathrooms, and 8 handcrafted fireplaces. The layout is elegant and flowing and designed for both day-to-day family living, sophisticated entertaining and multi-generational living.

The manicured grounds span approximately 6.25 wooded acres, highlighted by an oversized resort-style pool, attached cabana, an expansive pavilion with soaring 20-foot ceilings, fireplace, outdoor shower - ideal for private celebrations, summer entertaining, and quiet evenings under the stars. The property allows for additional recreational amenities such as tennis, pickle ball, basketball courts, horses, stables and paddocks. The Zen garden leads to country paths and walks.

This property has shared elbows in this exclusive neighborhood with the likes of President Richard Nixon at his adjoining family compound. This lends rare historic significance to an already exceptional offering.

This is a true legacy property - private, discreet, and rarely available - offering the ultimate escape from New York City without sacrificing convenience or accessibility.

Per the owner's request, this estate is only available through contacting:
Michael Randy - "Mr. Saddle River" TM 201-218-5850
Lauren Schachtel - Global Luxury Agent 201-509-0402



BRING MAY FLOWERS

April showers have done their part. Now it's your turn. Unscramble these spring-inspired words and let the blooms begin.

BY CAROLINE EDWARDS

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Linda with her children



FROM FAMILY LIFE TO THE PAGE: LINDA PERILLO'S

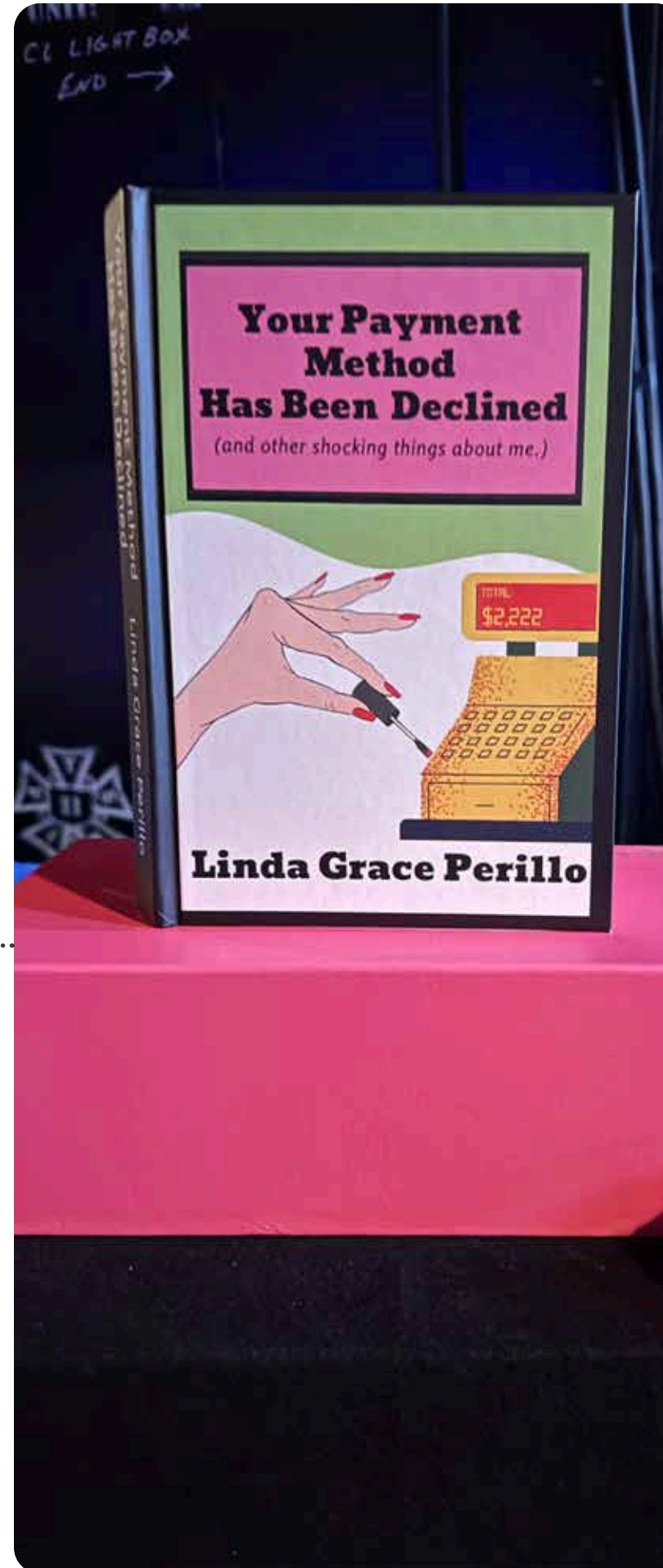
Story

Linda and her father, Mario Perillo



Linda Perillo approaches life with momentum. Her days begin early, driven by energy and a preference for staying active. With three children currently at home—ages 17, 15, and 12—her routine reflects both structure and flexibility, shaped by years of raising a large family. Two of her eight children are now married, and she has entered a new phase as a grandmother. Her children's paths vary widely, from a daughter who graduated from New York University in drama, to another studying biochemistry at Villanova, and another pursuing theater at NYU.

Perillo's early professional life was tied to her family's business. She worked for Perillo Tours until 1995, stepping away after the birth of her first child. The shift marked the beginning of a long period focused on raising her children full-time. Parenting eight children required constant adjustment, and her approach developed through experience rather than strict adherence to outside advice. She learned quickly that raising children does not follow a fixed manual. Instead, she relied on observation, instinct, and flexibility.



Travel remained a consistent part of her life, even with a growing family. She approached traveling with children as a gradual process, encouraging parents to start small and build confidence over time. Airports, delays, and unexpected changes became part of the learning curve. She viewed herself as the leader in those situations but emphasized the importance of understanding the needs and limits of the children involved.

Her own upbringing played a significant role in shaping that perspective. She grew up in Saddle River, New Jersey, in a close-knit Italian family led by her father, Mario Perillo, founder and CEO of Perillo Tours, and her mother, Olga. The family valued generosity and togetherness, and living near siblings reinforced that sense of connection.

That foundation was disrupted by loss and later complications. Her father passed away in 2003, and her brother Mark died in 2015. In addition, issues surrounding family trusts created stress and uncertainty. Trustees took control in ways that made life more difficult, leading to challenges that tested her sense of stability and trust. These experiences contributed to ongoing trust issues and required time, reflection, and professional support.

Another pivotal moment came from a physical setback. An Achilles injury left her bedridden for six months. The experience forced a pause in her otherwise active life. During that period, she turned to writing. What began as a response to pain became a creative outlet and eventually led to the development of her book, *Your Payment Method Has Been Declined*. The project emerged

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directly from a difficult period, reinforcing her belief that setbacks can serve as motivation.

Writing had long been part of her identity. She served as editor-in-chief of the newspaper at Mercy University, where she also studied criminal justice. Her interest in storytelling extended into broadcast, combining her comfort with writing and communication. In 2017, she launched her blog, *The Real Hip Mom*, now rebranded as *TheOtherWoman.shop*, driven by a need to express her experiences and connect with others.

A consistent theme in her work is the rejection of comparison. She encourages parents to trust their instincts rather than measure themselves against rigid expectations or external opinions. Her own experience raising eight children reinforced the idea that each child develops differently, with unique strengths and challenges. She views parenting as a long-term process that requires patience and adaptability.

Humor plays a central role in how she navigates both writing and life. She sees it as essential rather than optional. Without it,

daily pressures can become overwhelming. She prefers to stay busy, believing that activity supports mental well-being.

Her presence extends beyond writing. She co-hosts a weekly segment called Travel Tuesday on 970 AM Radio Night Live alongside Kevin McCullough. The program combines her background in travel with her communication skills, offering insights shaped by both professional experience and personal practice.

In addition to her media work, Perillo remains involved in community efforts. She is a certified lactation consultant, supporting new mothers during an often challenging stage of early parenthood. She was previously a member of the Italian Welfare League and continues to support its mission of assisting families in need.

Today, her life reflects multiple roles—mother, grandmother, writer, radio host, community supporter, and wife. Each role connects through a consistent approach centered on practicality, resilience, and awareness.



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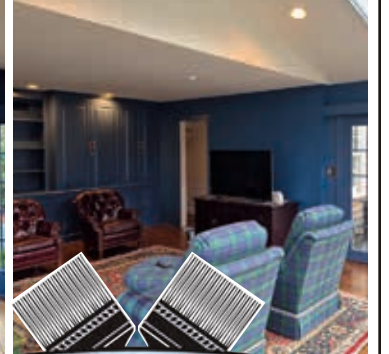
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More Than Just Cake

Carrots reach their sweetest potential in the oven. Roasting draws out their natural sugars and deepens their flavor, making them an ideal centerpiece for a rustic spring galette.

BY CAROLINE EDWARDS

Ingredients

- 1 refrigerated pie crust or homemade pastry dough
- 1 pound carrots, peeled and sliced lengthwise
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- Salt and freshly ground black pepper
- $\frac{3}{4}$ cup whole-milk ricotta
- 1 teaspoon lemon zest
- 1 tablespoon fresh thyme leaves
- 1 egg, beaten
- 1 tablespoon honey (optional)
- Flaky sea salt for finishing

Instructions:

1. Preheat oven to 400°F. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper.
2. Toss carrots with olive oil, salt, and pepper. Roast for 18 to 22 minutes until just tender and lightly caramelized. Let cool slightly.
3. Roll dough into a 12-inch circle on the prepared baking sheet.
4. In a small bowl, mix ricotta, lemon zest, thyme, and a pinch of salt. Spread over the center of the dough, leaving a 2-inch border.
5. Arrange roasted carrots over the ricotta. Drizzle lightly with honey if desired.
6. Fold the dough edges over the filling, pleating as needed. Brush crust with beaten egg.
7. Bake for 25 to 30 minutes until crust is golden brown. Finish with flaky sea salt and additional thyme.

CARROT PREP 101

Make the most of this spring staple.

CHOOSE SMART

- Smaller, thinner carrots tend to be sweeter and more tender.

STORE LIKE A PRO

- Cut off the greens as soon as you get home. They draw moisture from the root.
- Store carrots in an airtight container with a paper towel to absorb excess moisture.
- Revive limp carrots by soaking them in ice water for 10 to 15 minutes.

COOK FOR FLAVOR

- Roast at high heat (400°F or higher) to caramelize natural sugars.
- Add a splash of acid, such as lemon juice or vinegar, to balance the sweetness.
- Do not toss the tops. Blend them into pesto or chimichurri for a peppery finish.



From left, clockwise: Trevor Shaw, Barry Kraushaar, Patrick Hill, Joe Mastropaolo, George Tashji, Mark Zagorski, and Steve Paganessi.

Men's Club at I Gemelli Ristorante Italiano

ON MARCH 12TH, Several Saddle River gentlemen gathered at I Gemelli Ristorante Italiano for an evening well spent with excellent company, a standout wine list, and the kind of lively conversation that might just straighten out the world's problems. Fine Italian food, sharp minds, and plenty of good humor.

For more information about the club, visit <https://www.srvrc.org/new-members>

Afternoon Tea with the SADDLE RIVER VALLEY RESIDENTS CLUB



Front left, clockwise: Beatrice Nuwayhid, Helene Richin, Rosemarie Habicht, Elliot Bass, Helena Lobo-Zagorski, Zahra Aminlari, Gail Oglesby, Susan Homann, and Dr. Alyson Yashar

If the onset of spring turns your thoughts to the green fields of Ireland, don't grab your passport, grab your car keys! The SRVRC recently experienced a bit of Ireland at the Gracie Rose, a thriving Irish tea shop and in-store grocery that gives you a warm Irish welcome. At their Pearl River location, we were treated to a taste of Ireland with afternoon tea which included a variety of tea sandwiches, scones with jam and cream, as well as luscious desert parfaits and cookies.

Celebrating Ireland many of the attendees brought out their best green outfits and accessories contributing to the Irish aurora. Everyone had a wonderful time with wonderful conversation, enchanting bites and of course, lots of tea!

For information on Saddle River Valley Residents Club, please email svrccomm@gmail.com or view our website: www.srvrc.org

HOME MATTERS

Going Green

Earth Day does not have to be marked by grand gestures. You can make a meaningful impact from home with a few simple changes.

BY CAROLINE EDWARDS

Earth Day has a way of making sustainability feel grand. Solar panels. Electric vehicles. Major renovations. But meaningful change often begins somewhere far less dramatic: at the kitchen sink, in the

laundry room, along the garden bed just outside the door.

For homeowners, Earth Day can serve as a seasonal reset. Spring invites open windows, fresh starts, and small recalibrations. Sustainability does not

have to mean an overhaul. It can mean intention. Start with energy. Switching from incandescent bulbs to LED lighting reduces electricity use and lowers utility bills almost immediately. Sealing drafty windows and replacing worn weather stripping keeps cooled and heated air where it belongs. Even adjusting the thermostat a few degrees can make a measurable difference over time.

Water is another quiet opportunity. Fixing a dripping faucet, installing a low-flow showerhead, or adding a rain barrel for outdoor irrigation conserves resources without sacrificing comfort. In the yard, replacing thirsty turf with native plants reduces maintenance, supports pollinators, and lowers long-term water use. Inside the home, waste reduction may be the simplest shift of all. Composting food scraps, switching to reusable storage solutions, and choosing refillable cleaning products reduce landfill contributions while often saving money.

The goal is not perfection. It is progress. Collectively, small household decisions shape larger environmental outcomes. They also tend to benefit the homeowner directly through lower utility costs, reduced waste, and healthier indoor environments. Earth Day does not require a construction crew. Sometimes it requires only a few thoughtful swaps and the willingness to begin.

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Why Maximum Exposure Matters When Selling Your Home

TERRIE O'CONNOR

When it comes to selling a home, one belief refuses to die: “My agent already has a buyer” or “If the sale stays in-house, it will be faster and easier”. While that sounds appealing, it often works against the seller’s best interest. The truth is simple: the more qualified buyers who see your home, the more likely you are to get the best price and terms. That’s why widespread exposure is the real key to a successful sale.

Let’s break down the myth of the in-house sale: an in-house sale happens when the same brokerage (or even the same agent) has a buyer already in the wings to purchase your property. It is often marketed as convenient or efficient, but convenience does not equal value. The problem is that only one buyer or pool of buyers are exposed to your property’s listing, and that’s when competition disappears. No competition means:

- Less pressure for buyers to offer top dollar
- Fewer back-up offers
- Weaker negotiating leverage
- Higher risk of underpricing

Let’s face it: exposure creates competition and competition creates value. Real estate markets work on supply and demand. You already control the supply; your home is unique. What you need is demand and

that comes from visibility. Widespread exposure includes:

- Multiple listing service (MLS) distribution - nationally more than 67% of home sales are driven by MLS exposure.
- Online portals and social media marketing
- Broker-to-broker networking
- Open houses and showings
- Agent outreach across professional networks and regions

Every additional qualified buyer who sees your home increases the odds of multiple offers, shorter days on market, better contract terms and a stronger closing position. Remember, the goal is not just finding a buyer, it’s about finding the right buyer!

Modern real estate techniques have been built on a foundation of cooperation. Through the MLS system, brokerages agree to share listings and bring buyers together. This isn’t about helping agents; it’s about helping sellers access the entire market. Our intention is to cooperate fully throughout our local, national and international network. By doing so, your home reaches thousands of agents and you get true market value through competition. A cooperative sale ensures your home is priced and sold based on what the open market is willing to pay. Widespread exposure protects you by:

- Establishing a clear market value
- Creating transparency
- Allowing you to compare offers
- Giving you negotiating leverage

In short: it shifts control back where it belongs...to you, the seller.

If you worry that broad marketing will slow things down, rest assured the opposite is most often true. Statistics prove a well-priced, well-marketed home exposed to the full market sells faster, draws stronger offers and attracts serious buyers.

Before choosing a listing agents, ask these questions:

- How will you expose my home to the entire market?
- Will my property be listed on the MLS immediately?





- How do you encourage cooperation with other brokers?
- How will you create competition among buyers?

Selling your home is likely one of the largest financial transactions of your life. The sales professionals at Terrie O'Connor Realtors are here for you with a strategy of full-market exposure that delivers value!

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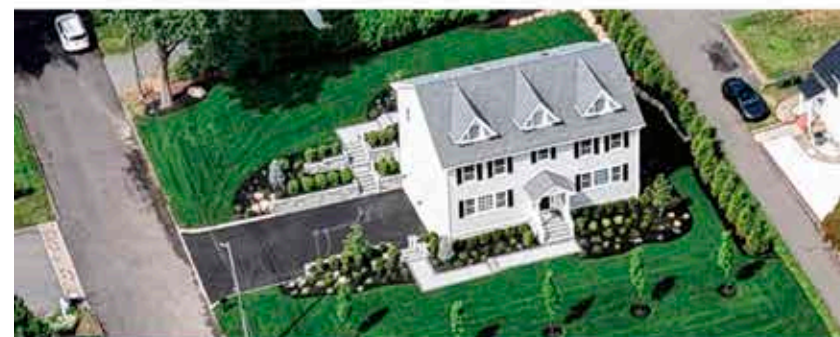
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WHERE CURIOSITY COMES TO LIFE:

Hands-on Science in Lower School at Saddle River Day School

IN MOST ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS, the science curriculum is limited to instruction and experiments that can be performed in the students' primary classroom. The Lower School at Saddle River Day School is not like most elementary schools.

One of the great features of the Lower School at Saddle River Day School is a dedicated science classroom and lab, one in which the science teachers have the space and the freedom to devise instructional units and experiments that include scientific exploration and inquiry, and teach students how to think like a scientist by using the scientific method to test their hypotheses and document their results.

Commonly referred to as "Hands On Science" at Saddle River Day School, the Lower School science program prepares students for the rigorous science curriculum



students will encounter in the SRDS Middle and Upper Schools and lays the groundwork for them to pursue STEM studies even into college and beyond. In a typical year at SRDS, students will engage in units covering Earth Science, Physics, Chemistry, and Life Science.

The youngest learners are encouraged to try simple experiments and describe their observations, building a strong foundation for



scholarship. Kindergartners engage in a unit on floating and sinking, after which they construct their own boat that is intended to stay afloat, move through the water, and carry a load. First graders study the weather, creating weather kits, recording the weather and then building model dog houses with materials that will withstand temperature and weather fluctuations.

According to Lower School Science teacher, Wendy Rhoads, giving students the opportunity to design and build their own flashlights is one of the highlights of the 3rd grade science curriculum. Students learn about electrical circuits, then are given the opportunity to specify the features they would like their flashlight to have and then pick the items they want to use in its construction. The culmination of this project is a trip to the Thomas Edison museum where each student presents their flashlight, along with their vision and rationale, to the museum staff.

By the 4th grade, when students learn about food chemistry and digestion, they are performing experiments in which they are challenged to use their acquired knowledge to identify nutrients in mystery foods. 4th grade students can also write their own lab reports, identify scientific questions that interest them, then set up their own experiments, and participate in design challenges to try and answer these questions. Along the way, they learn about structuring their research and how claims are made and supported, the proper use of lab tools, how to meticulously document their data, then sort through that data for proof, and finally, how to concisely articulate their results. Sometimes they arrive at an answer, but more often than not, their initial question leads to others, which in and of itself is an authentic scientific experience.

The science teachers in the Lower School at SRDS also take ubiquitous – but also wondrous – experiments like hatching butterflies and add an extra learning component to it. Which is why at SRDS, monarch butterflies are tagged with an identifying sticker after they've hatched so researchers around the world will know more about the migration patterns of these beautiful creatures. Participating in this Monarch Watch program instills the values of being a citizen scientist into our students, fulfilling the SRDS mission to be "caring and ethical contributors to society."

To this end, Ms. Rhoads also runs a program called the Super Science Team in which 3rd and 4th graders who have been selected on the basis of an essay they wrote, spend six weeks, one day a week after school, building science kits that are then provided to children who are receiving in-patient treatment at Sloan-Kettering. Thus far, the Super Science Team has donated about 150 self-contained kits with six different themes to the hospital. These kits include an instructional video, demonstrated by team members, and recorded by Upper School volunteers. These kits are flexible enough to be used in a child's room with the assistance of a nurse or parent but can also be used in a group setting for patients whose health is less fragile.

Wendy Rhoads and her colleagues in the science department at Saddle River Day School know that everyone – child and adult alike – learns better by doing. They also know that if we want our kids to have a passion for understanding and learning about science, we need to make sure they are interested, enthusiastic, and eager. They know that when students can apply their classroom learning to real life, they're more likely to want to know more. The SRDS Lower School Hands On philosophy achieves these objectives, nurturing curiosity, creativity, and discovery in every student, every day.



BETTER HEARING MONTH Don't Miss the Moments That Matter Most

BY DR. ANN MARIE OLSON, AUDIOLOGIST,
SOPHISTICATED HEARING – RIDGEWOOD, NJ

There are certain moments in life you don't realize you're missing - until they're gone.

- A grandchild's quiet comment from the back seat.
- A punchline at the dinner table that everyone else laughs at instantly.
- A soft "I love you" at the end of a conversation.

For many people, hearing loss doesn't happen all at once. It fades in gradually, almost unnoticed at first. You may still hear that someone is speaking - but parts of the message slip away. Words feel less clear. Conversations take more effort than they used to. So, you adapt.

- You smile and nod.
- You fill in the blanks.
- You ask people to repeat themselves - sometimes. Other times, you let it go.



But over time, those small moments begin to add up. Conversations can feel more exhausting. Social situations become less enjoyable. And without even realizing it, some people begin to withdraw - not because they want to, but because it's simply easier than struggling to keep up.

May is **Better Hearing & Speech Month**, a time to reflect on how we connect with the people around us. Hearing well isn't just about sound - it's about staying present, engaged, and fully part of the moments that matter most.

What many people don't realize is that the earlier hearing loss is addressed, the easier it is to improve. Today's hearing technology is more advanced than ever - discreet, comfortable, and designed to help you hear clearly in real-world environments, from quiet conversations at home to lively family gatherings.

If you've noticed that hearing feels harder than it used to, don't wait. You don't have to keep "getting by."

Because the moments worth hearing are the ones you can't get back.

To learn more or schedule a hearing evaluation, contact **Sophisticated Hearing in Ridgewood** or visit sophisticatedhearing.com.



Owner and audiologist at Sophisticated Hearing – Ridgewood, NJ, and Saddle River Resident
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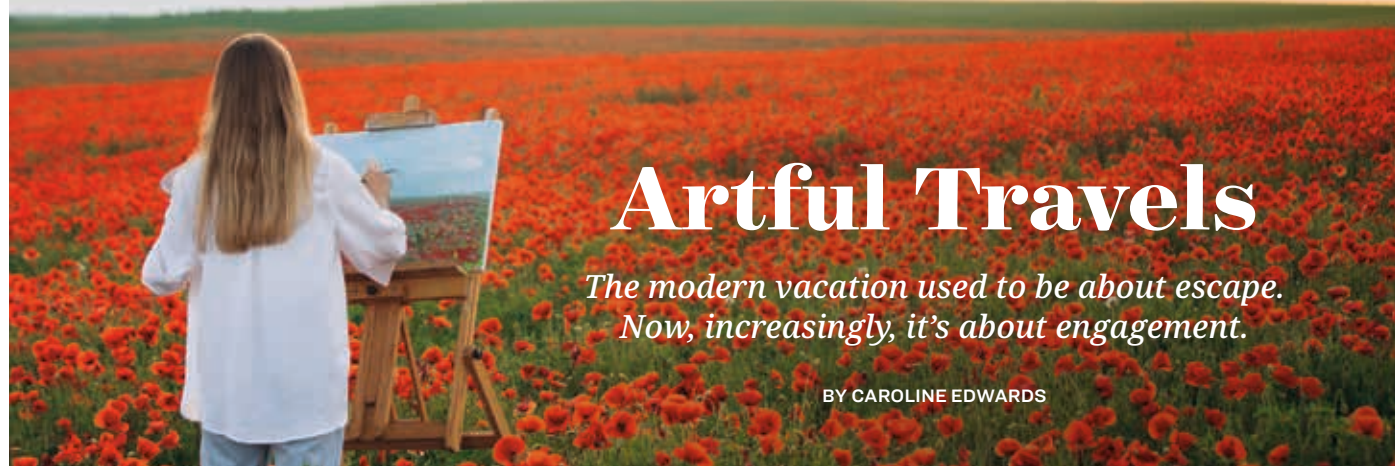


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Artful Travels

The modern vacation used to be about escape. Now, increasingly, it's about engagement.

BY CAROLINE EDWARDS

ACROSS THE COUNTRY and abroad, travelers are trading passive sightseeing for immersive, skill-based experiences, choosing pottery wheels over poolside chairs and studio time over scheduled tours. In a post-digital world defined by constant scrolling, artful travel offers something refreshingly analog: the chance to make something with your hands.

JOHN C. CAMPBELL FOLK SCHOOL
Brasstown, North Carolina

Tucked into the Blue Ridge Mountains, this storied folk school offers weeklong and weekend intensives in blacksmithing, weaving, woodcarving, bookbinding, and more. The setting is rustic, the pace intentional. Days are spent in studios; evenings unfold with music, shared

meals, and conversation — a return to communal creativity.

ANDERSON RANCH ARTS CENTER
Snowmass Village, Colorado

Set against a dramatic Rocky Mountain backdrop, Anderson Ranch blends contemporary art education with an alpine retreat. Workshops range from ceramics and painting to photography and sculpture, often led by nationally recognized artists. It's equal parts rigor and inspiration.

SOTHEBY'S INSTITUTE OF ART
New York City

For travelers drawn to the business and history of art, Sotheby's Institute offers short courses that explore the global art market, curation, and collecting. It's an

urban immersion — less paint-splattered apron, more insider access to galleries, auction houses, and cultural institutions.

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TALKING WITH MY MOUTH FULL:

Stories from Our Family Kitchen

May: Cook someone happy

BY PAULIE VALETUTTI



May is the month that makes you feel like you've got it together, even when you don't.

The garden is actually growing. The grill is back in rotation. The days stretch long enough that dinner outside is no longer a fantasy. And somewhere in the middle of all of it is Mother's Day, which in our house means one thing: I cook, and Marcy gets to actually enjoy it.

Marcy is not a brunch person. Never has been. She would much rather a quiet

Saturday morning with good coffee and nowhere to be than a crowded restaurant with a fixed menu and a two-hour wait. So over the years, Mother's Day in our kitchen has evolved into something that suits her much better: something homemade, something thoughtful, and something that involves Isabella making a mess in the best possible way.

This year, Isabella decided she was "helping." She set the table, arranged flowers she picked from the yard with

the confidence of a florist, and stirred the dressing with what I can only describe as dangerous enthusiasm. Marcy, heart full of love, cried a little. The table looked great and it was time to enjoy the meal.

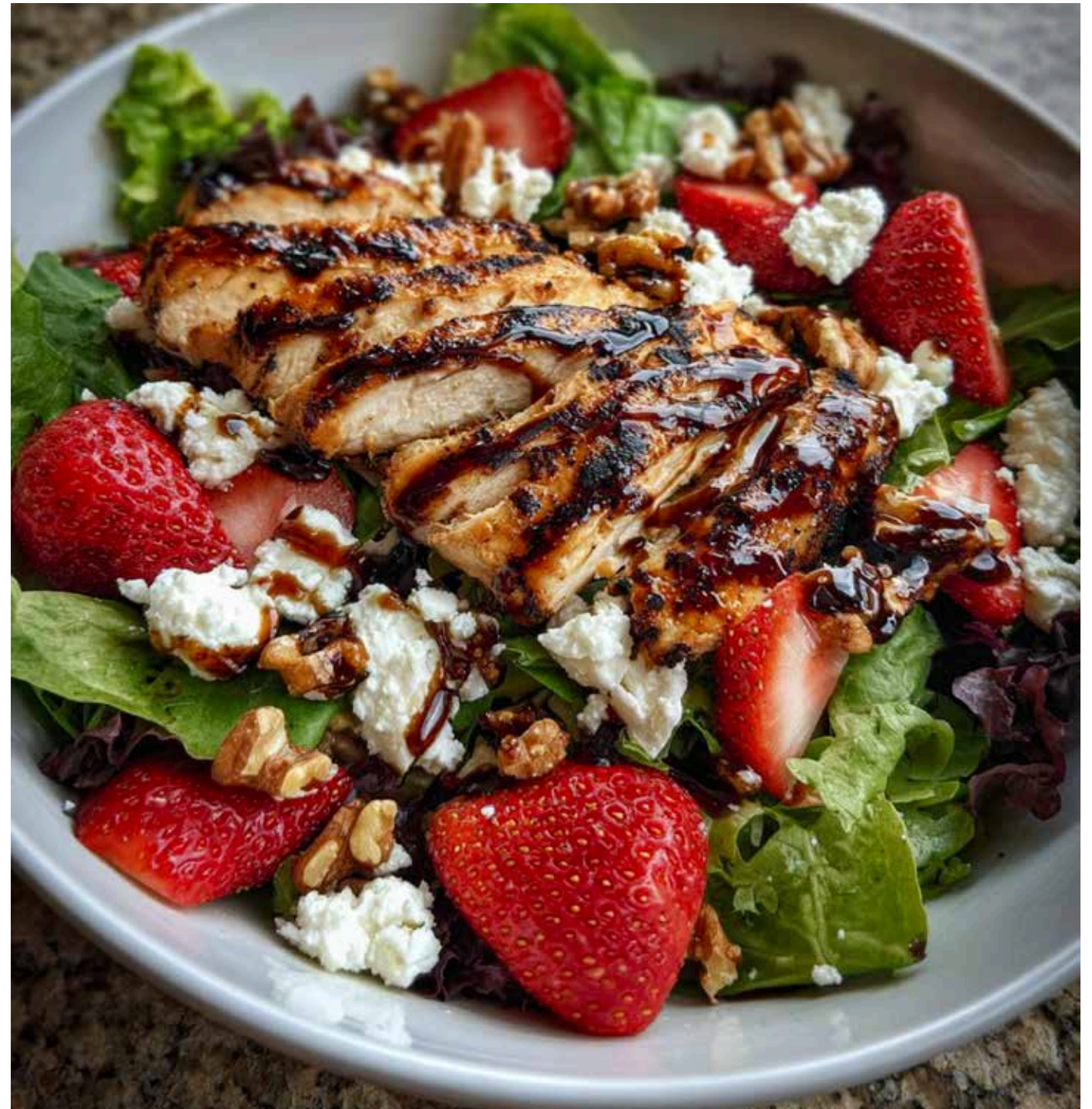
May is also when the farmers markets start getting interesting again. The winter root vegetables are finally stepping aside for spring's first wave: radishes, snap peas, early strawberries, tender lettuces that actually taste like something. If you haven't made it out to your local market



yet this spring, this is the month to go. Bring a bag, bring a kid, and leave with more than you planned.

For this month's recipe, I wanted something that felt like May. Not quite summer, not still spring. Bright, fresh, a little indulgent. A dish that works for Mother's Day, a dinner party, or a Tuesday night when you just want something good. Strawberry Arugula Salad with Grilled Chicken and Balsamic Honey Glaze has been our repeat recipe this month, and it hits every note.

Happy Mother's Day to all the moms out there, and Happy Almost Summer to everyone else!



Strawberry Arugula Salad with Grilled Chicken & Balsamic Honey Glaze

Serves: 4

FOR THE CHICKEN:

- 4 boneless, skinless chicken thighs
- 2 tbsp olive oil
- Juice of ½ lemon
- Salt, pepper, and a pinch of garlic powder
- Marinate 30 minutes, grill on medium-high 5–6 minutes per side

FOR THE SALAD:

- 4 cups arugula
- 1 cup fresh strawberries, hulled and sliced
- ¼ cup shaved Parmesan or crumbled goat cheese
- ¼ cup candied or toasted walnuts
- ¼ small red onion, thinly sliced

BALSAMIC HONEY GLAZE:

- 3 tbsp balsamic vinegar
- 1 tbsp honey
- 1 tbsp olive oil
- Pinch of salt

Whisk together and drizzle over salad just before serving.

DIRECTIONS:

Arrange arugula on a platter. Top with strawberries, cheese, nuts, and onion. Slice grilled chicken and lay over the top. Drizzle with glaze and serve immediately.

May Tip: The glaze doubles as a marinade for the chicken | make extra and brush some on while it's still on the grill for a little caramelized finish.



Saddle River Resident, Husband, Dad, Chef

Paul "Paulie" Valetutti is a girl dad, husband, chef and Saddle River Resident. A Bosco and Rutgers Alumnus, he grew up in Mahwah and has cooked professionally in Arizona, New York, France, and Italy. He and his family love to travel, ski, and of course, eat! He is very passionate about the experiences available in life.


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“Every student who participated in the festivities was also invited to a joyful “Munchkin Celebration,” recognizing their enthusiasm and love for reading throughout the month.



THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE WANDELL

A Month of Reading, Joy, and Community in Saddle River

BY DR. JENNIFER MACONES, SUPERINTENDENT - PRINCIPAL; SADDLE RIVER SCHOOL DISTRICT



Each year, schools across the country celebrate Read Across America in honor of Dr. Seuss and the joy of reading. It is a beloved tradition that highlights the importance of literacy and fosters a lifelong love of books. But here in Saddle River, no one does Read Across America quite like Wandell School.

At Wandell, this celebration is not just a day or even a week. It is an entire month dedicated to reading, imagination, and community. From the moment March begins, there is a sense of excitement that fills the building. Students, teachers, families, and volunteers come together to create something truly special.

The heart of our celebration begins with our One School, One Book initiative, made possible through the incredible generosity

of the Wandell School Education Foundation. Each family in our district, from Pre-K through Grade 5, receives a copy of the same book to read together at home. This year's big reveal was nothing short of magical.

With great anticipation, students gathered as staff members, dressed in costume, unveiled the 2026 selection: The Wizard of Oz. The excitement was immediate and contagious. Families began reading together each night, chapter by chapter, building suspense and connection not only within their homes, but across the entire school community.

To bring the story even further to life, teachers volunteered their time to record and share read-aloud videos for students to enjoy

from home. Morning announcements became a daily highlight, featuring thoughtful questions, clues about upcoming chapters, and discussions around character traits. Led by Dr. Penna and Mrs. Budds, these moments helped deepen students' understanding while keeping the energy and curiosity alive each day.

Throughout the month, Wandell was filled with engaging, meaningful activities that celebrated both literacy and social connection. Students participated in a board game day that encouraged unplugged fun with classmates. Therapy dogs visited classrooms for a special “Read with Dogs” experience that brought comfort and joy to every child. Spirit days added even more excitement, including “Oh, the Places You’ll Go,” where students dressed to represent meaningful places in their lives, and a beloved plushy parade along our very own Yellow Brick Road.

One of the most memorable aspects of the month was the transformation of our school building. With the support of the Education Foundation, our teachers and students worked tirelessly to turn Wandell into the world of Oz. Hallways came alive with vibrant rainbows, fields of poppies, and the iconic Yellow Brick Road. Classroom doors were transformed into creative works of art, each one telling a unique piece of the story.

Our parent community played a tremendous role as well. Parents at Wandell (PAWS) transformed the media center during the spring book fair into a stunning Wizard of Oz-themed

experience. Their time, creativity, and dedication elevated the celebration and created a truly magical, immersive environment for our students.

The month concluded with a schoolwide celebration that students will not soon forget. Gathered together, they watched the original Wizard of Oz film, many for the very first time, while enjoying popcorn and treats generously provided by the Education Foundation. During this special event, the winner of Wandell's first-ever Door Decorating Contest was revealed. Congratulations to Mrs. Boyajian, whose classroom design earned the honor and a beautiful trophy that will now become part of a new annual tradition.

Every student who participated in the festivities was also invited to a joyful “Munchkin Celebration,” recognizing their enthusiasm and love for reading throughout the month. Having spent many years in education, I have seen Read Across America celebrated in countless ways. But nothing compares to what happens at Wandell School. The level of dedication from our teachers, the enthusiasm of our students, and the unwavering support from our families and community create an environment that is truly extraordinary.

Wandell is more than a school. It is a place where students are inspired, where families are connected, and where a love of reading is brought to life in the most meaningful ways.



The Sandwich Generation

Caring for aging parents while building your own life.

BY CAROLINE EDWARDS

There is a particular exhaustion that comes from loving in two directions at once. Take reviewing retirement contributions while arranging your mother's physical therapy, for instance. This is the Sandwich Generation: adults, often in their 40s and 50s, raising children while caring for aging parents.

WHEN ROLES REVERSE

What begins as small support — driving to appointments, organizing medications — can quietly evolve into managing finances, coordinating in-home care, or making housing decisions. The emotional weight is matched by logistical complexity, especially when conversations about health and money have been postponed for too long.

COST OF CARE

Long-term care is one of the largest financial risks facing aging Americans.

Medicare does not cover extended custodial care, and Medicaid typically steps in only after most assets are spent down, leaving families to self-fund, liquidate assets, rely on adult children, or turn to insurance.

UNDERSTANDING YOUR OPTIONS

Long-term care insurance (LTCI) is designed to help cover services not paid for by traditional health insurance or Medicare. Policies vary, but generally they provide a daily or monthly benefit for qualified care after a waiting (elimination) period.

STARTING THE CONVERSATION

If you are in this stage of life, or see it approaching, experts recommend three proactive steps:

- 1. Have the Family Meeting**
Discuss health preferences,

living arrangements, financial resources, and legal documents. It may be uncomfortable, but clarity prevents conflict later.

2. Review Legal Documents

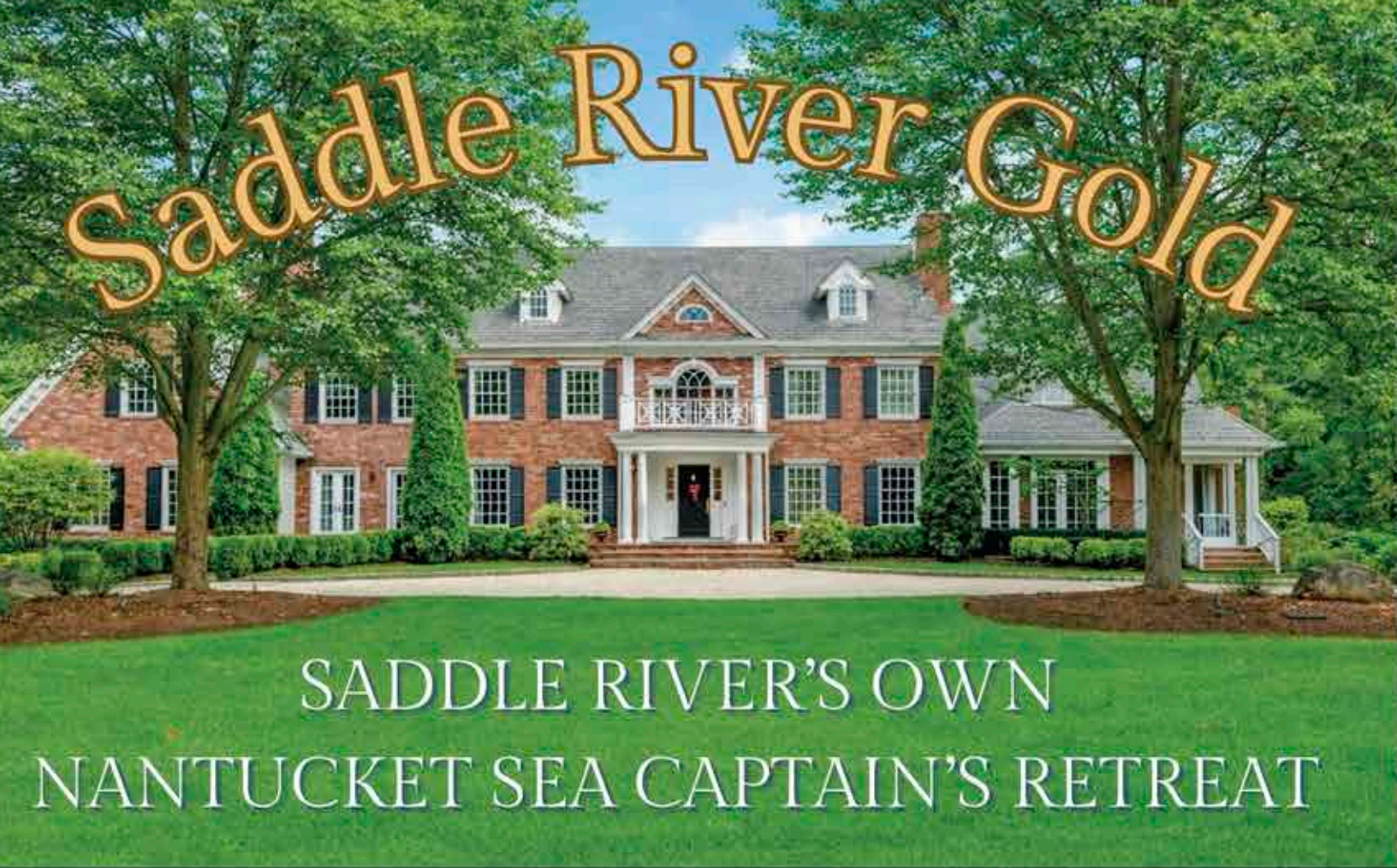
Durable power of attorney, healthcare proxy, HIPAA authorization, and updated wills are essential.

3. Consult Professionals Early

A financial planner, elder law attorney, or insurance specialist can model different care scenarios and funding strategies.

The Sandwich Generation carries a profound burden, but also a profound privilege. To show up. To protect dignity. To model for their children what care looks like in action. The goal is not to do everything. It is to do what is sustainable. Because one day, the sandwich shifts. And the way we navigate this season will shape the one that follows.

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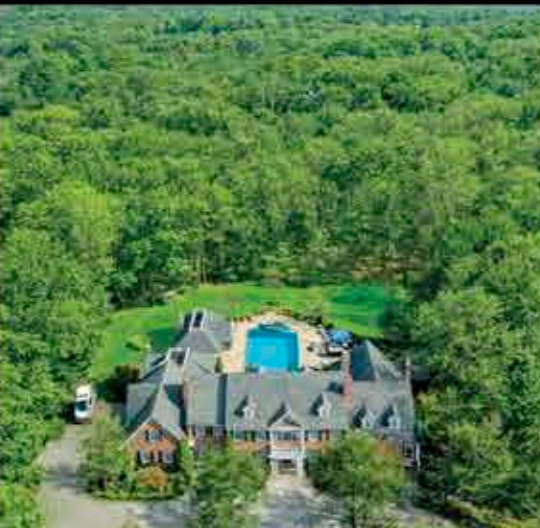
The main residence boasts timeless architectural detailing - an expanded master chef's gourmet kitchen, a 2 1/2 story cathedral great room with fireplace, a formal living room, a formal dining room, a classic library, 7 bedrooms, 5 full and 2 half bathrooms, and 8 handcrafted fireplaces. The layout is elegant and flowing and designed for both day-to-day family living, sophisticated entertaining and multi-generational living.

The manicured grounds span approximately 7 wooded acres, highlighted by an oversized resort-style pool, attached cabana, an expansive pavilion with soaring 20-foot ceilings, fireplace, outdoor shower - ideal for private celebrations, summer entertaining, and quiet evenings under the stars. The property allows for additional recreational amenities such as tennis, pickle ball, basketball courts, horses, stables and paddocks. The Zen garden leads to country paths and walks.

This property has shared elbows in this exclusive neighborhood with the likes of President Richard Nixon at his adjoining family compound. This lends rare historic significance to an already exceptional offering.

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