

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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AL DOLD – TREASURER ('27)

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ELLEN BERGER ('25)

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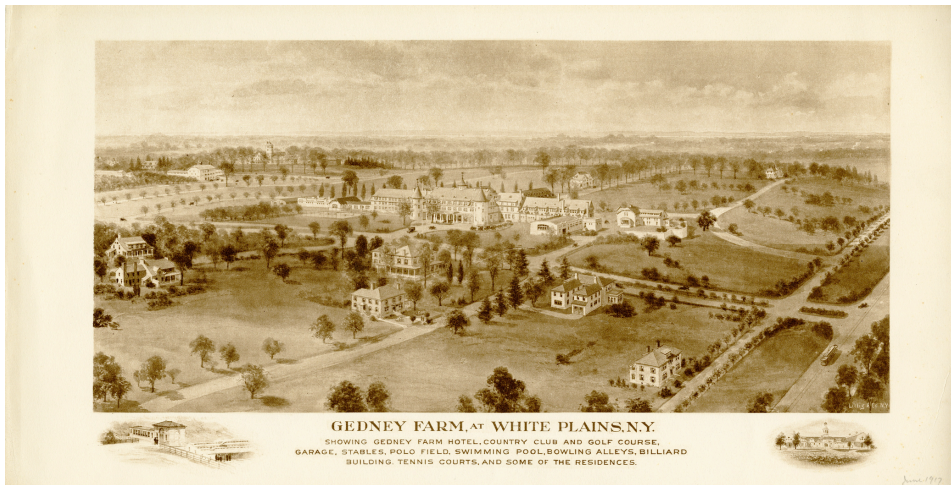
JUDY LEE ('25)

CHRISTIAN GARCY ('26)

JORDAN LENDER ('26)

CONSTANCE DEFILIPPIS ('27)

BOARD MEMBERS CAN BE REACHED BY EMAIL  
AT [INFO@GEDNEYFARMS.NET](mailto:INFO@GEDNEYFARMS.NET), OR INDIVIDUALLY USING THE  
CONTACT INFORMATION LISTED ON OUR WEBSITE AT  
[GEDNEYFARMS.NET](http://GEDNEYFARMS.NET)



# 100<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

## THE GEDNEY ASSOCIATION

1925 - 2025



### How We Got Here

THE GEDNEY ASSOCIATION WAS FOUNDED IN 1925 BY A GROUP OF DEDICATED HOMEOWNERS COMMITTED TO SHAPING THE FUTURE OF THE GEDNEY FARMS NEIGHBORHOOD. THEIR VISION WAS TO GUIDE THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE COMMUNITY THOUGHTFULLY, ENSURING THE LAND WOULD BE USED WISELY AND THE NEIGHBORHOOD WOULD FLOURISH FOR GENERATIONS OF FAMILIES TO COME.

TONIGHT, WE CELEBRATE A CENTURY OF HISTORY, MUSIC, AND MEMORIES, HONORING THE PAST WHILE LOOKING AHEAD TO THE FUTURE. AS WE EMBARK ON THE NEXT 100 YEARS, WE CONTINUE THE TRADITION OF WORKING TOGETHER, BUILDING A STRONG AND VIBRANT COMMUNITY ONE DAY AT A TIME.

THURSDAY  
MAY 1, 2025

WESTCHESTER HILLS GOLF CLUB  
WHITE PLAINS, NY

## A BRIEF HISTORY OF GEDNEY FARMS

Gedney Farms traces its roots back to 1740, when John Gedney, a descendant of early Salem settlers, purchased 116 acres in White Plains. The Gedney family, known for their agricultural innovation, transformed the land into one of the most productive farms in Westchester County by the mid-1800s. Bartholomew Gedney oversaw the farm during its peak and lived at Gedney Hall, once considered one of the finest farmhouses in the area.

In 1898, Howard Willets acquired 250 acres of the original Gedney farmland and renamed it “Gedney Farm” in honor of its legacy. Known for his flair and ambition, Willets built a mansion near today’s Heatherbloom Rd. and introduced luxury farming with champion show horses, Jersey cattle, and one of the first concrete dairy barns in the country. After a devastating fire in 1909 destroyed his home, Willets rebuilt nearby at 10 Oxford Rd. and began subdividing the estate.

In 1912, developer Robert E. Farley purchased part of the property and built the lavish Gedney Farm Hotel, complete with 300 guest rooms, formal gardens, tennis courts, indoor pool, ice rink, and access to what is now Westchester Hills Golf Club. The area became a popular resort destination and residential "cottage colony."

By 1925, Willets launched the Gedney Farm Building Company and became the first president of the newly founded Gedney Association, created to preserve the neighborhood’s unique character. Today, Gedney Farms remains one of White Plains’ most historic and distinctive neighborhoods — a legacy 100 years in the making.

## DID YOU KNOW?

The Gedney Association’s original constitution was written in 1925 and is still guiding the neighborhood 100 years later!

The Association originally represented three neighborhoods: Gedney Farms, Gedney Gardens, and Ridgeway Farms.

Gedney Farms was the original headquarters of Troop K of the New York State Troopers, founded in 1917. Some of its earliest members had served with Teddy Roosevelt’s Rough Riders! The headquarters remained here until 1924, when the barracks burned during a severe storm.

There are at least five neighborhoods in White Plains that carry the Gedney name — including Gedney Farms, Gedney Park, Gedney Manor, Gedney Meadows, and Gedney Circle — a lasting tribute to the family that first settled the area in 1740!

Heatherbloom, Howard Willets’s champion jumper, was once valued at \$20,000 — but he turned down a circus offer before the horse tragically had to be euthanized.

Howard Willets was president of the American Kennel Club and Master of Foxhounds for the Westchester Hounds.

Howard Willets was a descendant of the same family for whom Willets Point in Queens is named!

Bartholomew Gedney, an early ancestor of the Gedney family, served as a judge during the Salem Witch Trials in the 1690s.

The Gedneys once ran a freight and passenger line out of Mamaroneck Harbor, and one of their ships — the Mary E. Gordon — is pictured in early photographs near Harbor Island, Mamaroneck.

In the 1800s, Gedney Farms was so advanced in agriculture that it drew the attention of the Russian Commissioner of Agriculture, who visited to observe their farming techniques.

# HISTORY OF STREET NAMES

## **BURLING AVENUE**

The first two people to purchase lots in Gedney Farms were banker and county treasurer (later state senator) George Burling and his son John, who bought property on this road in 1913. L. Ward Prince, of the Prince & Ripley group that developed Gedney Farms, was married to George's daughter, Caroline. The road was made a public street in 1924.

## **GEDNEY PARK DRIVE**

Built along a stretch of land beside Mamaroneck Ave., which was intended as park land in 1913 (and dedicated as such in 1924 when the road was made public), it was originally known simply as Park Drive. However, when the second Gedney Circle was renamed Glendon Circle in 1934, the Common Council obviously felt having only four streets named Gedney was insufficient, so they added the Gedney name to this road.

## **GEDNEY ESPLANADE**

Built in 1913, it connects Mamaroneck Ave. with Hathaway Lane. Esplanade means "a public ground for walking", and the road was built with a grass divider for walking between the north and south portions of the road. The part of the road east of Macy Ave. and Hotel Dr. was originally known as Wellington Rd. and that part was renamed in 1947 to conform to the rest of the street. It was accepted as a public road in 1924 (original section) and 1927 (Wellington Rd. section).

## **HEATHERBLOOM ROAD**

Heatherbloom was a champion high jumping horse owned by Howard Willets, who lived in Gedney Farms prior to the development of the area for housing.

## **HATHAWAY LANE**

Named for another of Howard Willets's horses, this one a racing horse, it originally provided access to Gedney Farm from North St. and was built into a road in 1913. The eastern portion was blended into Bryant Ave. in 1934, so it now terminates at Bryant. It was accepted as a public road in 1927 from Ridgeway up to what is now Heather Lane.

## **HOTEL DRIVE**

This was originally the driveway to the Gedney Farm Hotel.

## **MURCHISON PLACE**

Named after Kenneth Murchison, architect of the Gedney Farm Hotel.

## **MACY AVENUE**

Named after Mary Macy Willets, the first wife of Howard Willets, who purchased and developed the Gedney Farm estate in 1898.

# 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GEDNEY ASSOCIATION

## AN EVENING OF SONG, STORIES, AND CELEBRATION

### EVENING PROGRAM

#### WELCOME - JOHN SHEEHAN

#### DINNER

HORS D'OEUVRES SERVED AT 6:30 PM

BUFFET DINNER BEGINS AT 7:15 PM

DESSERT TO FOLLOW

#### ENTERTAINMENT

MUSIC BY MCS MUSIC (DJ)

#### LIVE PERFORMANCES

PRESENTED BY THE WHITE PLAINS HIGH SCHOOL  
SINGERS & SONGWRITERS CLUB

UNDER THE DIRECTION OF DENNIS POLANCO,  
ADVISOR AND CREATOR

#### FEATURING:

SKYLER ROSEN, CLASS OF 2025

EMMA DOGNIN, CLASS OF 2025

BRIAN GUEDES, CLASS OF 2026

#### SILENT AUCTION

BIDDING OPEN: 6:30 PM – 9:00 PM

WINNERS ANNOUNCED: 9:15 PM



# THANK YOU TO OUR

# GENEROUS SPONSORS



1160 Mamaroneck Ave  
White Plains



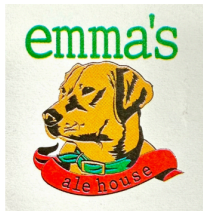
481 Mamaroneck Ave  
White Plains



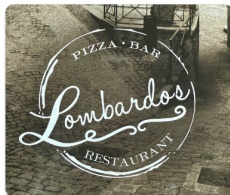
Peggy Shea



46 Gedney Way, White Plains



68 Gedney Way, White Plains



1205 Mamaroneck Ave  
White Plains, NY

White Plains



275 Mamaroneck Ave, White Plains



15 Shapham Place, White Plains



870 Mamaroneck Ave  
White Plains



1128 North Street  
White Plains, NY 10605



Luxury Labels  
37 Maple Ave  
Armonk



Scarsdale  
Ruffledfeathersgourmet.com



124 Mamaroneck Avenue  
White Plains



Roger Fox  
490 Mamaroneck Ave  
White Plains



Westchester Hills Golf Club



Maple Avenue  
White Plains



48 Gedney Way, White Plains



454 Ridgeway, White Plains



52 Gedney Way  
White Plains

Shapham



Wines and Liquors

490 Mamaroneck Ave  
White Plains

Carol Corbin

Christian & Jennifer Garcy

Wendy & Robert Harnaga

Jim Levy

John & Jenny Rand

True Value. House Center True Value Hardware

488 Mamaroneck Avenue, White Plains



466 Mamaroneck Ave  
White Plains