

Town Board Outlines Costs for Harrison Recreation and Community Center Project Phase One

BY STEPHEN E. LIPKEN

Mayor Richard Dionisio opened the Wednesday, September 13 Harrison Town/Village Board meeting with extensive discussions of the new Harrison Recreation and Community Center Phase One.

The board accepted Comptroller Maureen MacKenzie's request to appropriate \$5,000,000 from the Town Fund Balance from the Capital Reserve for Recreation Center. The funds will be placed in a Capital Account for the new recreation center and used towards the costs associated with Phase One and other near-future estimated costs associated with it. After this appropriation, the amount remaining within the Capital Reserve for Recreation Center will be \$6,763,091.99.

The board also approved Town Engineer Michael Amodeo's request to award Laura Li Industries the Harrison Recreation and Community Center Project Phase One, based on their bid of \$3,333,333, which includes construction of the foundation and site work. In addition to this amount, contingency funding of 20% of the bid's value was approved. It will allow the project to

maintain progress through additional work if unforeseen circumstances arise. The total amount payable to Laura Li Industries may not exceed \$4,000,000.

During Public Comment, resident Matthew Aracich expressed concern that the installation of a 6' x 700' concrete sidewalk as part of the Union Avenue Pedestrian Safety Improvements Project would cause severe flooding to his property, which is located on the south side of Union Avenue.



Mayor Richard Dionisio

In his letter to Gayle M. Katzen, First Deputy Commissioner, Westchester Department of Public Works (DPW), Aracich stated, "Our property is downslope and perpendicular to the road so that any disturbance and elimination of permeable surface at the road's edge where Westchester County installed the swale, stone aggregate, and drains will cause severe flooding to our property, landscaping, and potentially to our home as well. This poses a major concern for us since the County has mitigated the flooding and standing water and does not require any additional improvements," Aracich stressed. The Supervisor said he will make all right to his property.

County's Family Fun Day for Foster Families

The Westchester County Department of Social Services held its annual Family Fun Day for Foster Families on August 19 at Playland Park in Rye.

Each year Westchester County organizes and invites more than 500 foster parents and children to participate in a free day in Playland Park to honor and show appreciation for the adults who have become certified foster homes. This year 300 people attended the event. It is the goal of the DSS staff to provide an enjoyable, carefree, family bonding experience. Attendees were given t-shirts, a wristband to enter the park and enjoy the rides, free parking, as well as a delicious picnic lunch at the pavilion along the Long Island Sound. It was a beautiful, sunny day as the staff greeted the families.

Westchester County Executive George Latimer stated, "Foster children represent all ethnic groups from infants through teenagers. Some children have handicap conditions and need special care. We are so grateful to all the parents who open their hearts and commit to providing a safe and stable home to these



Back Row L-R: Leonard G. Townes, Westchester County Commissioner of Social Services; Deana Yarrobino, Resource Unit Senior Social Caseworker; Marisol Haralam, Manager I, Children's Services; Anthony Christie, Child Welfare Director, Children's Services; Syeda Ali, Resource Unit Senior Social Caseworker. Front Row L-R: Karin Hargreaves, Supervisor of Casework, Resource Unit; Michelle Lugo, Resource Unit Senior Social Caseworker; Marsha Brown-Mitchell, Supervisor of Casework, Resource Unit; and Maria Planamento, Resource Unit Senior Social Caseworker.

vulnerable children. We are happy to provide a special day to celebrate and show our thanks."

Westchester County Department of Social Services (DSS) Commissioner Leonard Townes said: "This is the first year we were able to hold Family Fun Day since COVID, and we were so excited to see our families in person as well as the smiling faces as they check-in at the registration desk. It takes a special person to go through all the training and fill out the paperwork

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Source: OKMLS, 2020, 2021, 2022, individual years, total dollar volume of single family homes sold by agent, Harrison School District.



SUNY Westchester Community College Offers Free Narcan Training and Response Kits

SUNY Westchester Community College has been approved to offer an Opioid Overdose Prevention Program by the New York State Department of Health. The program consists of brief in-person training and all attendees receive a free Narcan response kit. The training is provided free of charge to all faculty, staff, students and community members.

This initiative will be spearheaded by George W. Contreras, Dean of the School of Health Careers, Technology and Applied Learning. Dean Contreras is a 30-year veteran paramedic in the New York City Emergency Medical Service (NYC EMS).

“As a paramedic, I have witnessed how Narcan saves lives,” said Dean Contreras. “It is extremely important to raise awareness of this life-saving training, and I am delighted that SUNY Westchester is now part of the educational solution to an on-going public health crisis.”

To obtain more information, reserve a spot at the next upcoming session or schedule a small group session, email Dee Mabra at Delzora.mabra@sunywcc.edu or call 914-606-6910.



Latimer and County Leaders Name September 14 Pediatric Cancer Foundation Day

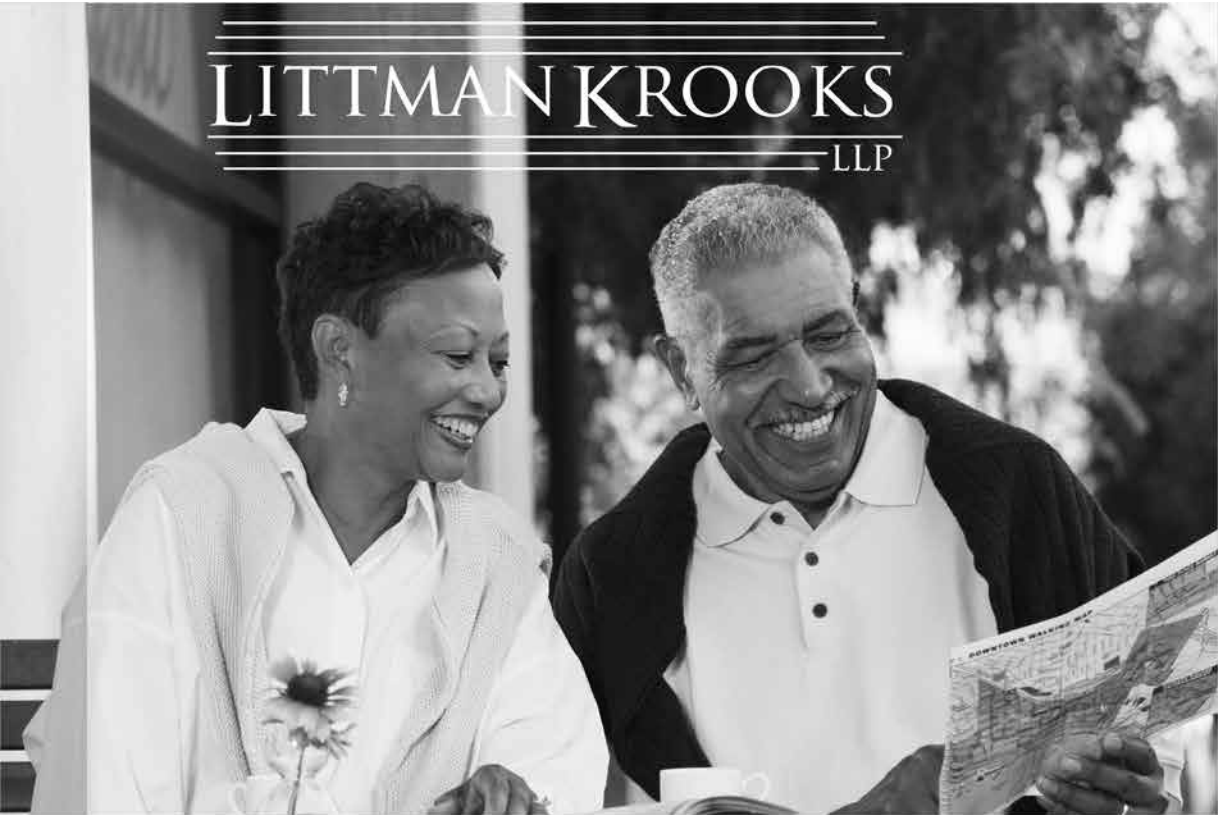
Westchester County Executive George Latimer, together with State Senator Shelley Mayer and County Legislators Nancy E. Barr and Catherine Parker, dedicated September 14 as Pediatric Cancer Foundation Day as September is Childhood Cancer Awareness Month. Pediatric cancer is the leading cause of non-accidental deaths in children. Latimer said the day will be dedicated to the children and families who are battling or have battled pediatric cancer, and the tireless work that is being done to eradicate pediatric cancer.

In advance of the County naming September 14 Pediatric Cancer Foundation Day in Westchester, local leaders gathered on Tuesday, September 12 in early recognition of the day.

The Pediatric Cancer Foundation (PCF) is a Mamaroneck-based nonprofit that has been on the front lines in the fight against pediatric cancer for 53 years. During that timeframe, PCF has distributed more than \$20M to doctors and researchers, while also helping to increase the childhood cancer survival rate from 58% in 1970 to over 80%



today. Latimer said: “We owe a great deal to organizations like Pediatric Cancer Foundation and their indefatigable efforts over five plus decades to measurably increase the rate of childhood cancer survival. Those are real lives saved. Real lives lived. No family, and especially no child, should be sentenced to endure the despair of cancer. As a community, it’s vital to remember that change and hope are possible, and we must do what we can to raise awareness of those fighting locally on behalf of children and babies not even yet born so that
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Westchester County’s Element 46 Tech Accelerator Announces Members of New Cohort

Westchester County’s Element 46 Tech Accelerator Powered by Cela announced the 11 companies who have been chosen to participate in this fall’s accelerator program. Each startup selected will experience a world-class accelerator program that features key curriculum, connections to entrepreneurs, investors and mentors and full-time support from the Element 46 staff. The program will culminate with a Demo Day in November 2023, where each participant will have the opportunity to pitch their venture to a room full of investors, technology experts, press representatives, government officials and other key contacts.

Westchester County Executive George Latimer said: “The Element 46 Tech Accelerator is a dynamic program designed to support cutting-edge tech entrepreneurs who are looking to grow their business in Westchester County. We are excited to welcome this dynamic group of startups into our accelerator program and learn more about each of their ventures.”

Westchester County Director of Economic Development, Bridget Gibbons, said: “We continue to see a highly competitive pool of tech startups applying to the Element 46 Tech Accelerator. The participants chosen for this cohort are innovative, motivated and invested in growing their ventures in Westchester County. We look forward to working alongside them over the coming weeks and witnessing their future successes.”

Westchester County Director of Entrepreneurship and Innovation, Deborah Novick, said: “Tech-driven startups are a growing subset of Westchester’s entrepreneurial community. The diversity of these ventures reflects the broad interests of tech entrepreneurs and will be wonderful additions to the Element 46 community.”

Cela Innovation Co-Founder, John Lynn, said: “In this applicant pool, we saw the widest variety of technology types, as well as business stages – and it’s reflected in the cohort itself. There are companies with web and mobile technologies, Seed-stage funding through Series A, and founders finding their place in the Westchester ecosystem through the program, as well as those emerging from within the County. We are proud to include four female CEOs and six female founders in the cohort. We’re excited to see where we can take these companies by Demo Day, and the leadership roles they will play in developing the startup ecosystem here, as past cohorts have.”

County’s Family Fun Day for Foster Families

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necessary to take in a child and we don’t take that for granted.”

Sharell and Joshua Thompson, Foster Parents said, “We take being a foster parent very seriously because these children are precious gifts. They’re a great blessing to have in the home and they need love and care. As for the training—you’ll have counselors, case-workers, etc., to help guide you through the process, what to do, and what not to do.”

Currently, there are approximately 200 foster families who are part of Westchester’s foster parent network and provide temporary homes for brothers

Members of the fall 2023 Element 46 Tech Accelerator cohort include:

- Adro (Yonkers): Adro provides university-supported financial services for international students studying at American colleges. They deliver a one-stop, fit-for-purpose solution for managing their finances, paying tuition, and accessing student-curated services, like commonly-needed purchases.
- CheckRare (Hastings on Hudson): CheckRare is a leading web and learning platform focused on rare diseases. Their mission is to improve patient outcomes through awareness and education. They work with respected physicians, researchers, and rare disease experts to create content that reaches physicians and the rare disease community. They leverage their web platform and database of 500,000 physicians to sell pharmaceutical-sponsored marketing and educational programs that address specific rare disease challenges.
- FMR Wellness (Scarsdale): FMR Wellness offers customized online nutrition libraries for medical practices whose patients do not have access to a Registered Dietitian. While both practitioners and patients know the value nutrition education plays in both prevention and healing, many barriers, including financial, behavioral and time, prevent access to proper care. FMR Wellness offers a solution to all of these barriers.
- Jotto (Pleasantville): Jotto’s patent-pending technology invites residents to answer a prompt anytime inspiration strikes, then instantly summarizes these contributions into easily digestible reports, delivered to the administrator best suited to act on it.
- Latte (White Plains): Mentorship is crucial to career development, but difficult to access. Latte is an AI-driven platform that instantly connects users with career mentors.
- LifeStream Digital Innovations, LLC (Rye Brook): Their mission is to embrace individuality as a driving force, empowering people to harness their unique value through state-of-the-art technology. Their innovative platform revolutionizes the high school, college, and job application experience, streamlining an authentic, holistic evaluation process to improve and simplify the journey for all.
- Livdao (New Rochelle): They offer affordable, hassle-free furniture solutions. Partnered with local stores, they streamline renting for students, fostering sustainable and stylish living spaces, while empowering students to focus on their education and personal growth.

and sisters being placed together, for medically fragile children, for babies/toddlers, and for children who are 10 years and older. We welcome inquiries from adults of all backgrounds, ages, income levels, and marital status. There is a screening process, mandated requirements, and training provided.

It is a big commitment, but we ask that you consider learning more. You can choose 1 of 3 actions:

- 1) Fill out a short form;
- 2) Attend a weekly virtual info session on any Thursday from 6 p.m.–7 p.m.; or
- 3) Call Yamilet Lopez at (914) 336-0076 for more information.

• Paypa Plane (Mamaroneck): Paypa Plane helps banks and enterprises create prime and enduring relationships with their business banking customers or direct clients through their proprietary Smart Payment Agreement™ technology. Smart Payment Agreements™ - regardless of the method of payment - mean payments are more safe, reliable, transparent, appropriate and fair. They believe that everyone’s financial lives can be improved with Smart Payment Agreements™ - from the exchange of value with solo fruit sellers in local markets through to large, institutional insurance conglomerates.

• Picsello (Larchmont): With 9% US growth and 2.3 million globally, independent professional photographers face a common challenge of running a profitable business. Picsello’s holistic platform streamlines client communication, invoicing, pricing, and marketing, so photographers can be successful.

• Anodet (Hastings on Hudson): Anodet captures security and data analytics in multi-family dwellings by consolidating CCTV camera feeds into a single node and utilizing computer vision technology to analyze feeds in real-time. Their innovative solution offers actionable insights to building owners, property managers, and the Police Department all while safeguarding individual privacy.

• Westchester Therapy (Scarsdale): Finding the

Latimer and County Leaders Name September 14 Pediatric Cancer Foundation Day

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one day we will have a cure or be one step closer. I’m a father and now a grandfather, and I know too well every step counts.”

In addition to the County naming September 14 as Pediatric Cancer Foundation Day, the Governor Mario M. Cuomo Bridge will be lit gold that evening in recognition of PCF and Childhood Cancer Awareness Month.

Pediatric Cancer Foundation President, Pamela Strauss Peligrì: “Westchester has been the right conduit and catalyst for our organization to sustain and grow its impact for over 53 years. This September is an opportunity for community members to be exposed to a sampling of the hope that PCF has carried forward throughout our mission. One that embraces a future without pediatric cancer. We are deeply appreciative of County Executive Latimer, Legislators Barr and Parker, State Senator Mayer, and their teams for creating this promise of hope in ‘914’ on 9/14, a date we will always remember. And an area code that represents to us, and many others, a community as rich with love as it is blessed with the resources to make change happen in this world.”

PCF (www.pcfcares.org) has been on the cutting edge in the field of pediatric cancer research since founded in 1970. Their mission is to find a cure for childhood cancer and support research, treatment, state-of-the-art equipment, and patient/parent care for world-renowned doctors and hospitals. Notably, their programs operate within a well-planned development framework, with the conviction that they look to identify important initiatives and the best research to eradicate childhood cancer.

right therapist-client match is more difficult than it should be. Westchester Therapy offers a better match process to help get the clients needed right in local communities.

Members of each Element 46 Tech Accelerator cohort are selected in a competitive, county-wide selection process. Up to 12 tech startups from across the County are selected for each program, and must feature committed founders with at least a prototype of their technology or tech-enabled product. In the past, selected startups have additionally been investor-backed, grant-funded, and/or revenue-generating operations.

In the program, each founder is matched with hand-picked mentors who are leaders in technology, finance, business strategy, venture capital, marketing and other key areas. Participants also gain access to a world-class curriculum on fundraising, customer development, executive management, product iteration, branding, marketing and more.

The Element 46 Tech Accelerator Powered by Cela runs for 10 weeks every spring and fall. This is the third cohort produced in partnership with Cela Innovation, experts in tech accelerator programming and operations.

To learn more about the Element 46 program, visit the Element 46 website.

Understanding that no child or family should have to suffer the horror or pain of pediatric cancer, PCF is committed to supporting efforts that demonstrate the greatest potential of childhood cancer research /treatment led by recognized experts who demonstrate unique talents, interests, and research development toward the cure or treatment of childhood cancers – and have worked to increase childhood cancer survival rates by 22% since 1970 – while also distributing more than \$20M to doctors and researchers.

The partners that PCF and its programs work to support, include: New York-Presbyterian Morgan Stanley Children’s Hospital/Columbia University Medical Center; Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center; Stephen D. Hassenfeld Children’s Center for Cancer and Blood Disorders at NYU Langone Medical Center; Feinstein Institute of Medical Research/Cohen Children’s Medical Center of New York, Northwell Health; Maria Fareri Children’s Hospital at Westchester Medical Center; Comer Children’s Hospital, The University of Chicago Medicine & Biological Sciences; The Tisch Cancer Center, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, Mount Sinai Health Systems; The Ohio State University College of Medicine/ The Research Institute at Nationwide Children’s Hospital; Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia; and Johns Hopkins University.

To learn more about PCF or how community members can play a role in helping to advance important pediatric cancer research efforts, call PCF Director, Nancy Joselson at 914-777-3127 or visit pcfcares.org.

Learn more about Westchester County by visiting www.westchestergov.com

Westchester Board of Legislators Celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month

On September 18, the Westchester County Board of Legislators hosted its annual Hispanic Heritage Celebration, honoring the life's work of Isabel Elsa Villar, former Executive Director of El Centro Hispano, and Dinora Pacheco, President of the Peekskill Hispanic Community Corp.

Chair Vedat Gashi (D – New Castle, Somers, Yorktown) opened the ceremony, welcoming guests both in person and virtually. He said, "This year's theme is 'Uniting Communities.' This theme recognizes the need for solidarity and cooperation across diverse groups, especially at a time when societal divisions are more apparent. The events and celebrations of 2023 are geared towards fostering unity, while still appreciating the different cultures that fall under the Hispanic and Latino umbrella."

"Tonight, we are honoring two powerhouses in the Hispanic community -- the legendary Isabel Elsa Villar of White Plains, co-founder of El Centro Hispano, who sadly passed in July, and Dinora Pacheco, President of the Peekskill Hispanic Community Corp."

Majority Leader Jose Alvarado (D – Yonkers) presented the first proclamation, extolling not just the exceptional work but the personal qualities of Ms. Villar. He said, "So many of us had the pleasure and honor of working with Isabel. She was a symbol of availability and opportunity for all ... Isabel Villar was about love. It didn't matter who you were, what you did, how you identified. She was put on this earth to do good for everyone. Her work may have been centered at El Centro Hispano in White Plains but her caring extended way beyond that, out into the entire world."

Legislator Ben Boykin II (D - White Plains, Scarsdale, West Harrison) in whose district Ms. Villar lived added, "Isabel Villar was an iconic figure in White Plains, Westchester County, and New York State. She was actively involved in many activities but devoted most of her time and talents to helping improve the lives of Hispanic residents. As the founding Executive Director of El Centro Hispano, Isabel built an institution that will continue to educate and provide services to all who seek assistance. She will be missed by all who knew her."

Legislator Jewel Williams Johnson (D – Elmsford, Greenburgh, Sleepy Hollow, Tarrytown) added, "I was honored to know such a dynamo in our community. Isabel Villar was a true visionary and strong advocate who is sorely missed. My district and the entire County continue to reap the rewards of her vision and her very valuable work. I know her memory lives on in all the valuable programs El Centro Hispano offers. Isabel poured so much into making lives better and the success stories are her legacy and for that we are more than grateful."

Accepting the proclamation on behalf of Ms. Villar was the new Executive Director of El Centro Hispano, Judith Aucar. She said, "Thank you for remembering Isabel in such a special



way. It is with great sadness that I accept this honor because it would have been a true pleasure for Isabel to be here. She left us with an amazing legacy that we promised her we will keep alive for the rest of our lives. We feel her presence at El Centro constantly. The saddest thing is to see El Centro so busy helping so many and not have Isabel see the product of her hard work and dedication for more than 49 years. We will be celebrating our 50th anniversary on January 31, 2024."

The Board declared September 24, 2023 "Isabel Elsa Villar Day" in Westchester County.

Legislator Colin Smith (D – Cortlandt, Peekskill, Yorktown) presented the second proclamation saying, "I am both excited and honored to present this proclamation to one of my hometown favorites, Dinora Pacheco, a staple in the Peekskill community. When anything is happening regarding assistance for our Hispanic residents, it's Dinora who I call because she has the pulse of what is going on and what is needed at all times through all of her resources and activities of the Peekskill Hispanic Community Corp."

Ms. Pacheco accepted the award with gratitude. She acknowledged the hard work of her staff in the audience, as well as the support of her family saying, "Our organization is not just there to help the Hispanic community, it is there to help all families in need. Right now, there are many in need and we do our best to provide programs and services to help them all. The Peekskill Hispanic Community Corp. was born as the result of helping the many families displaced by a terrible fire in 2015, but now we are 'on fire' to help as many people as we can."

The Board declared September 23, 2023 "Dinora Pacheco Day" in Westchester County.

Read the program for the Hispanic Heritage Celebration at:

www.westchesterlegislators.com/images/Newsroom/2023/091823_Hispanic_Heritage_PROGRAM.pdf.

Community Coffee & Conversations – A New Initiative From Harrison's Department of Community Services

Catherine Tammaro, the new Director of Community Services for the Town/Village of Harrison has announced an initiative they are piloting, Community Coffee & Conversations. It will be a monthly offering to all Harrison residents to bring the community together to discuss topics that matter to them.

Their inaugural event was September 21, and the topic was "Drugs, Alcohol and Addiction." The conversation was led by Dr. Christopher Aloeos and Eliza Zimmerer, LMSW, MPH. Attendees learned the concept of addiction as a disease and reasons young people may engage in substance abuse behavior. Additionally, attendees learned how to explore the environment of a teenager and learn to spot signs of possible substance use and risky behavior- a training known as Hidden in Plain Site; as well as Narcan training by Lily Neuman Director of Community Outreach and Prevention Education.

The event was well attended and very well received. The target audience was parents and local law makers including NYS Senator Shelley Mayer, NYS Assemblyman 93rd District Chris Burdick, and Harrison Mayor Richard Dionisio.

The next Community Coffee is Tuesday October 17 at 10 a.m. at the Harrison Meadows Country Club. The topic is "Social Media: The Advancement In Technology And How It Relates To Our Children's Mental Wellness And Safety."



NYS Assemblyman 93rd District Chris Burdick, NYS Senator Shelley Mayer and Harrison Mayor Richard Dionisio

White Plains Hospital Named to Fortune Media's 2023 Best Workplaces in Health Care

White Plains Hospital announced on September 7 that it is the only hospital in New York named to Fortune Media and Great Place To Work's list of Best Workplaces in Health Care, and it has also been recertified as a Great Place to Work® for the third consecutive year.

The Best Workplaces in Health Care award is based on an analysis of Great Place to Work (GPTW) survey responses from more than 208,000 employees in the healthcare industry, derived from 60 employee experience questions. In that survey, 87% percent of White Plains Hospital team members said the hospital is a great place to work, ranking it #32 on the top 40 large companies (1,000+ employees) list of Best Workplaces in Health Care in the country.

Reviewed and produced by GPTW, hospital employees from all departments and job functions were asked to complete a confidential survey that included questions on leadership effectiveness, respect, fairness, and employee pride in the community. White Plains Hospital scored 30% higher than a typical U.S.-based company in employee experience.

"Fortune congratulates the Best Workplaces in Health Care," says Fortune Editor-in-Chief Alyson Shontell. "Creating a vibrant workplace culture that draws the best talent in health care is vital for the success of the leaders in this highly competitive industry. It is also what's needed to ignite innovation and deliver best-in-class performance."

In addition to the Great Place to Work and Fortune honors, White Plains Hospital recently earned the highest five-star quality rating from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) for the second time and was also recognized by U.S. News & World Report as a Best Regional

Hospital for the fifth consecutive year. In June, it was the only hospital in New York to be named to Fortune Media and Great Place To Work's list of Best Workplaces in New York.

A full list of White Plains Hospital's accreditations and awards can be found at www.wphospital.org/about-us/accreditations-and-awards.

White Plains Hospital is a proud member of the Montefiore Health System, serving as its tertiary hub of advanced care in the Hudson Valley. The Hospital is a 292-bed not-for-profit healthcare organization with the primary mission of providing exceptional acute and preventive medical care to all people who live in, work in, or visit Westchester County and its surrounding areas. White Plains Hospital has outpatient medical facilities across Westchester, including multispecialty practices in Armonk, Larchmont, New Rochelle, Rye Brook, Somers, and Yorktown Heights, and Scarsdale Medical Group locations in Harrison and Scarsdale.

The hospital is fully accredited by the Joint Commission and in 2023, White Plains Hospital received another 5-star rating from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) — the highest distinction offered by that federal agency for the second consecutive year. In addition, the hospital received its third Magnet® designation from the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC), a distinction held by only two percent of hospitals in the country. White Plains Hospital has consistently received the Outstanding Patient Experience Award from Healthgrades®, and in 2022 became the only hospital in Westchester to be awarded with an A Safety Grade from the Leapfrog Group for the 9th time.

<https://www.wphospital.org/>

The New York Botanical Garden Transforms into Everyone’s Pumpkin Headquarters During NYBG Fall-O-Ween

The New York Botanical Garden (NYBG) becomes the region’s pumpkin headquarters during NYBG Fall-O-Ween, offering a fun and engaging array of activities, programs, and photo opportunities for all ages, through Sunday, November 12, 2023.

Experience hundreds of pumpkins and gourds on display; food and beverage talks, demonstrations, and tastings; and two family-friendly Spooky Garden Nights, offering Halloween-themed entertainment for adults and children alike. Fan favorite Adam Bierton returns to NYBG to create his intricate and nature-inspired pumpkin carvings and to host a master carver competition. Once again, the Botanical Garden is the place to see giant pumpkins during the last two weeks of October, culminating in the exciting Giant Pumpkin Carving Weekend. At the “pumpkin patch” at NYBG Shop, pick and purchase the perfect pumpkin to take home for decorating or eating, and on select weekends, get a mini-pumpkin to paint either at the Garden or at home. Fall-O-Ween concludes with two Fall Forest Weekends, with programming celebrating the colorful spectacle of autumnal foliage in the Thain Family Forest.

Join in for a special weekend of pumpkin carving, as well as the return of our popular ticketed beer sampling event for adults. Evening events give kids the chance to show off their Halloween costumes and more.

Mini-Pumpkin Decorating

Saturdays, October 7, 14, and 28
Sundays, October 8 and 15; 12–3 p.m.
Mosholu Entrance Solar Pavilions
On select weekends, pick up a mini-pumpkin to decorate right on-site or to take home for later. Be inspired by master carver Adam Bierton’s creations during the weekends, or other pumpkin and fall themed activities and attractions at the Botanical Garden. Stop by NYBG Shop to purchase the perfect harvest and Halloween décor to complete your visit.

Pumpkin Carving with Adam Bierton

Saturdays, October 7, 14, and 21
Sundays, October 1, 15, and 22
Monday, October 9, 2023, 11 a.m.–2 p.m.
Leon Levy Visitor Center
Watch amazing pumpkin faces and designs emerge from pumpkins of all shapes and sizes. Adam Bierton is a professional sculptor and pumpkin carver, as well as the season five winner of the Food Network series Halloween Wars. Most famously known for his 3D-style pumpkin carvings, Bierton has masterfully carved some of the largest pumpkins from all over the country.

Weekend Beer Garden

Saturdays and Sundays through October 29
Leon Levy Visitor Center, Hudson Garden Grill Bar, and Pop-Ups across Garden Grounds
Every weekend through October, enjoy seasonal brews on tap at the Visitor Center’s Beer Garden, at the Hudson Garden Grill Bar, and at pop-ups across the Garden grounds. Sip on seasonal IPAs, stouts, and lagers from local Bronx breweries, chill out



with a frozen apple cider cocktail, and snack on a variety of savory and sweet treats. Enjoy a beer or two at any one location, or take flight across the Garden by purchasing tickets redeemable for additional draft beers at locations throughout the grounds. For heartier fare, sit down at the Hudson Garden Grill, featuring fall-inspired farm-to-table dishes, or stop by the Pine Tree Café for artisanal panini, Neapolitan-style pizza, and signature salads.

Flavors of Fall

Saturdays and Sundays, October 7, 8, 14, 15, 21, 22, 28, and 29, and November 4, 5, 11, and 12; 12–3 p.m.
Leon Levy Visitor Center
Savor your favorite flavors of the season’s harvest and explore the botanical and culinary backgrounds and uses of pumpkins, spices, maples, and more with food and beverage talks, demonstrations, and tastings from local artisan vendors, such as Sahadi’s of Brooklyn, Boogie Down Bronx Honey, Plant Candy, Kris Da Bronx Vegan, and XOLO Kitchen.

Top Carver:

A Master Pumpkin Carving Face-Off

Sunday, October 8, 11 a.m.–3 p.m. Leon Levy Visitor Center
Three carvers battle in a round of intense pumpkin carving challenges, hosted by master carver Adam Bierton.

Giant Pumpkins on Display

Saturday, October 21–Sunday, October 30
Leon Levy Visitor Center
Explore this year’s crop of award-winning giant pumpkins from growers around the country and see one transformed by expert carver Adam Bierton on October 27, 28, and 29.

Giant Pumpkin Carving Weekend

Friday, October 27, Saturday, October 28, and Sunday, October 29, 10 a.m.–4 p.m.
Master carver Adam Bierton returns for a pumpkin carving finale. Last year, after 16 hours of scraping, chiseling, carving, and detailing, a dragon’s head emerged from his 2,424-pound pumpkin. Don’t miss the masterpiece Bierton creates this year.

Spooky Garden Nights

Saturday, October 21, and Saturday, October 28; 6:30–8:30 p.m.
Tickets: Non-Member \$30, Member \$25 (Advance purchase is recommended to guarantee admission, as events do sell out.)
Wear your Halloween costume while exploring the Everett Children’s Adventure Garden and enjoy hands-on crafting activities such as decorating trick-or-treat bags and potting up plants. Witness pumpkin carving with Adam Bierton, shadow puppet shows by Hit Lights Theater, and roaming giant skeletons by Lucrecia Novoa.

Dancing Skeletons

Larger-than-life skeletons specially commissioned by Bronx-based visual artist, educator, and puppeteer Lucrecia Novoa greet visitors of all ages during these fun evenings. Novoa is the founder and director of the performing art group “Mascara Viva.”

Live Shadow Puppet Performance

Award-winning storytellers from Hit the Lights! Theater Co. return to the Botanical Garden, using the magic of shadow puppetry, vintage overhead projectors, and live music to tell an enchanting tale about scarecrows that awaken on Halloween night.

Nighttime Giant Pumpkin Carving

Marvel as master carver Adam Bierton continues to carve into the night and see his jack-o-lanterns begin to glow.

Kiku: Spotlight on Tradition

Saturday, October 28–Sunday, November 12; 10 a.m.–4 p.m.
Bourke-Sullivan Display House at the Nolen Greenhouses for Living Collections
Artfully trained Japanese chrysanthemums—known as kiku—are on display in unique, sculptural forms that take nearly a year to grow. Visitors can marvel at this year’s kiku collection in an intimate snapshot of a generations-old artform.

Fall Forest Weekends

Saturdays and Sundays, November 4, 5, 11, and 12; 11 a.m.–4 p.m. Thain Family Forest
Explore the 50-acre Thain Family Forest—New York’s largest old-growth woodland—in its fall splendor. These weekends also spotlight Native American Heritage Month offerings, tours, educational demonstrations, and entertainment.

Big Tree: A Conversation with Author Brian Selznick and Dr. James Boyer

November 4, 2023; 11 a.m.
Arthur and Janet Ross Lecture Hall
This family-friendly, hour-long conversation and book reading is an introduction to author Brian Selznick’s children’s book Big Tree, exploring what it means to live on this planet. Selznick, the author of best-selling The Invention of Hugo Cabret, is joined by Dr. James Boyer, NYBG’s Stavros Niarchos Foundation Vice President for Children’s Education. Their conversation will be followed by a book signing in the Arthur and Janet Ross Gallery.

Vanishing Art: A Living Gallery

This pop-up programming includes performances, chalk art, and poetry readings on select dates, focusing on sustainability in art and art that leaves minimal traces on the environment. In October, Vanishing Art features a bilingual children’s theater performance that celebrates the power of community.

¡Corre, Abuelita, Run! with New York City Children’s Theater

Saturday, October 7, 2023; 12 and 2 p.m.
This interactive Spanish and English performance, a celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month, uses language, music, puppetry, and movement to explore the vibrant and diverse neighborhoods of New York City. ¡Corre, Abuelita, Run! celebrates and explores the power of community, the joy of intergenerational family relationships, New York City, and the importance of language and traditions.

For more information about NYBG Fall-O-Ween and to purchase tickets, visit our website at <https://www.nybg.org/event/fall-o-ween/>. The New York Botanical Garden is located at 2900 Southern Boulevard, Bronx, New York 10458. For more information, visit nybg.org

Westchester Philharmonic's 41st Season

Westchester's only major professional orchestra opens its main-stage season at the Purchase Performing Arts Center on Sunday, October 15th, at 3:00 pm, with conductor Danail Rachev and pianist Ran Dank, in a program featuring works of Schumann, Rossini, Mendelssohn, and George Walker, the first African American composer to win the Pulitzer Prize in Music.

The Phil's newly expanded chamber series now includes performances at Crawford Mansion in Rye Brook, in addition to its long-time collaboration with Downtown Music at Grace, at Grace Church in White Plains. Featuring members of the orchestra in small ensemble formats, the chamber series kicks off at Grace Church on September 27 with a wind sextet performing works of Mozart, Handel, and Reicha.

The full season's lineup can be found at www.westchesterphil.org/2023-24-complete-season

Mainstage performances take place at The Performing Arts Center, Purchase College, 735 Anderson Hill Road, Purchase. All tickets are \$45; half-price for young people ages 6 – 16. Tickets are sold exclusively through the PAC website. Box office fees apply.

Chamber concerts at Grace Church are free. Tickets for chamber concerts at Crawford Mansion go on sale after January 1.

Now entering its 41st season, the Westchester Philharmonic is the oldest, continuously running professional symphony orchestra and the largest performing arts organization of any kind in Westchester County. The Philharmonic's main stage concert series makes its home at the Purchase Performing Arts Center, with outdoor concerts, chamber concerts, children's programs, and



Conductor Danail Rachev

special events throughout the area, attracting savvy music lovers from Rockland, Bergen, Fairfield, and Putnam counties, New York City, and beyond.

Renowned artists who have performed with the Phil include Joshua Bell, Julia Bullock, Barbara Cook, Jeremy Denk, Branford Marsalis, Midori, Brian Stokes Mitchell, Kelly O'Hara, Garrick Ohlsson, Itzhak Perlman, Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg, Gil Shaham, Isaac Stern, and André Watts.

Among the many new works commissioned and premiered by the Westchester Philharmonic is Melinda Wagner's Concerto for Flute, Strings, and Percussion, which won the Pulitzer Prize in 1999. Newly commissioned works by award-winning composers Christopher Theofanidis, David Ludwig, and Jed Feuer debuted in 2014, 2016, and 2018, respectively.

The Westchester Philharmonic has a long history of supporting artists of diverse backgrounds. Many of the composers whose works have been commissioned or premiered with the Philharmonic come from diverse backgrounds and/or are women. Over the past ten seasons, the Philharmonic has engaged 30 conductors or guest soloists of African-American, Hispanic, and Asian backgrounds. Women conductors and composers

have appeared in eight of the last ten seasons.

The orchestra is comprised of the finest professional free-lance musicians from around the greater metropolitan area, who also perform regularly with the New York City Ballet, Orchestra St. Luke's, Orpheus, Mostly Mozart, and for many Broadway shows. Members of the Philharmonic hold faculty positions at Juilliard, Mannes, Manhattan School of Music, Purchase Conservatory, Vassar and Bard Colleges, and at local public schools.



Conductor Kazem Abdullah



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Iona University Launches New Campus Pilot in County Mayo, Ireland

Iona University is proud to announce it will launch a new campus pilot in County Mayo, Ireland, connecting to its Irish Catholic heritage and expanding opportunities for students to engage even more deeply abroad. Located within the historic Westport House Estate along the Atlantic coast, classes are set to begin Summer 2024.

“Iona University’s legacy in Ireland dates back many centuries. From St. Columba in 563 A.D. to Blessed Edmund Rice in the early 1800s to the Christian Brothers who opened our doors in New Rochelle in 1940, this is a legacy we proudly carry forward to this day,” said Iona University President Seamus Carey, Ph.D. “To return to our spiritual homeland is not only extremely rewarding; it is also full of potential. As we embrace our past, we are building our future, and together with the people of County Mayo, we look forward to the journey ahead.”

September 19 also marked Iona’s 83rd birthday. It was on this day just one year ago that the campus community came together to celebrate Iona’s transition from a college to a university.

Now, the momentum continues to build as Iona expands its presence both around the globe and close to home. Notably, in 2021, Iona nearly doubled its footprint by acquiring a new 28-acre campus in Bronxville, which is primarily home to the NewYork-Presbyterian Iona School of Health Sciences in addition to newly renovated performing arts spaces, athletic fields, and more.

Growing new student enrollment by nearly 30 percent since 2019, Iona is also celebrating its recognition in several new national rankings, elevating its previous status on regional lists.

The Princeton Review, for instance, just included Iona in its highly influential ranking of “The Best 389 Colleges” nationwide. Also taking notice was The Wall Street Journal/College Pulse, which just ranked Iona as the 66th “Best College in America,” listing Iona among the Top 10 Catholic schools nationwide.

All of this continues to reinforce the transformative power of an Iona education and the value it provides for its graduates, who now number over 50,000 around the world.

“It’s always a great day to be a Gael, but now more than ever, especially as we continue to expand opportunities both inside the classroom and beyond, the energy across campus is infectious,” said Kevin O’Sullivan, senior vice president for Enrollment and Student Affairs. “Iona’s Irish heritage plays such an integral role in our identity and inspires us every single day. I cannot wait to see how our students flourish abroad. It is sure to be a transformative experience with memories that will last a lifetime.”

Opening Summer 2024, Iona Ireland will pilot its summer academic programs at historic Westport House, a 400-acre estate and biodiverse eco-system located in County Mayo.

As a leading attraction along the 1,600-mile



have so much to offer every visitor – steeped not only in Irish history and Celtic mythology but with an enviable heritage spanning over 400 years and going back as far as the famous 16th century pirate queen, Grace O’Malley,” said Barry O’Connor, chief executive of Westport Estate. “Our biodiverse estate lands are right now embarking on a new journey rooted in sustainable and restorative nature practices. Westport House is a wonderfully rich, diverse, and varied environment to visit and to learn in and we very much hope this is the beginning of an exciting new and lasting collaboration with Iona University.”

Westport House is also within walking distance to the center of the town of Westport, which has been voted the best place to live in Ireland by the Irish Times newspaper. Brimming with music, art, dining, and more, Westport enjoys a vibrant cultural scene amidst its charming architectural landscape.

“Westport House has a bold vision for the future – and we are excited to be a part of it,” Carey said. “We look forward to bringing this program to full fruition. The fertile seeds we have planted in Westport are borne out of the spirit developed over many centuries for us as Gaels. We look forward to growing with the people, land, and communities of Westport for generations to come.”

Wild Atlantic Way – one of the longest coastal routes in the world – Westport House is not only breathtakingly beautiful but also deeply committed to building a sustainable future. With a history dating back to the 16th century, the property even includes a cherished connection to the famed “Pirate Queen,” Grace O’Malley.

Strikingly, the estate’s majestic, waterside location provides a stunning view of Croagh Patrick, a holy mountain where St. Patrick is said to have banished the serpents from Ireland.

“We will be delighted to welcome the visiting students of Iona University to Westport next year for their first-ever summer academic program in County Mayo. Westport House and its environs



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The Harrison Players: 60 Years and They're Still Going Strong!

Normally, reaching 60 is somewhat of an average event, but for a community theater group, it is a major accomplishment and one that The Harrison Players is extremely proud of.

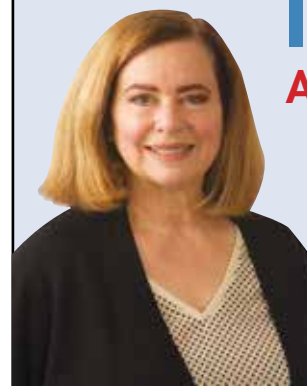
The Harrison Players Inc. was founded in 1963 as a non-profit group and has produced many shows including numerous big musicals, dramas, and comedies, as well as mysteries, children's shows, and musical reviews. Putting the community in community theater, the group firmly believes in giving to the community by also remaining very active in civic events. Members have performed for the sick and the elderly, created Haunted Parks sponsored scholarships, provided themed dinners with entertainment, and hosted Open Mic Nights. Auditions are open to everyone, and Harrison Players always welcomes new people. Through the years, the group's continued success has been due to the commitment and talent of many volunteers from around the area. The Harrison Players is affiliated with Arts Westchester, The Harrison Council for the Arts, and The Harrison Recreation Department.

To celebrate their 60th anniversary year, The Harrison Players will present *Whose Afraid of Virginia Wolf?* on Friday, October 20 at 7:30 p.m. (with an opening night champagne reception to follow), Saturday, October 21 at 7:30 p.m., Saturday, October 21 at 2:00 p.m., and Sunday, October 22 at 2:00 p.m. The production is brilliantly directed by Anthony J. Valbiro, and the exceptional cast is Amanda Bloom, Tim Brandt, Danny Charest, and Elizabeth Paldino.

Tickets are \$25.00 in Advance and \$30.00 at the Door. Visit <https://www.harrisonplayers.org/>



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Real Estate Visionary to Lead NYC Effort to Build Culture of Health for All

Joe Simone, President of Simone Development Companies, has been named Centennial Chair of the American Heart Association's Heart of New York City, a year-round effort aimed at investing in and saving and improving lives in the five boroughs. The Heart of New York City culminates with the Heart of New York City Gala in June, an event that celebrates progress made through the dedication and passion of all who support this community-wide campaign.

"The American Heart Association is dedicated to the extension of life through a commitment to science, education, improving medical care, and leading with prevention. This is why I am honored to serve as Chair of the 2024 Heart of New York City campaign and look forward to celebrating the impact we will make," said Joe Simone, President of Simone Development Companies, and member of the American Heart Association New York City Board of Directors. "I am eager to work with our outstanding team of volunteer leaders and the American Heart Association as we all advocate to make a difference in the well-being of everyone in this community. Together we must continue to strive to do everything we can to make a lasting, positive impact on the health of all New Yorkers."

In 2024 the American Heart Association will celebrate its centennial year, meaning that Simone will have the special distinction of serving as the Heart of New York City campaign's Centennial Chair. Simone will also serve on the prestigious American Heart Association New York City Board of Directors from July 2023 through June 2025.

"The American Heart Association has worked to save and improve lives since 1924—and it's just getting started," Simone said. "I invite all New Yorkers to join us in celebrating the American Heart Association's transformative impact over the past century and building a second century of equitable health for all."

The American Heart Association's centennial is a celebration of the lifesaving achievements and shared vision for a bold second century that will exponentially advance heart and brain health. The Association will continue to lead breakthroughs in science and technology, improve healthcare and advocate for federal, state, and local policies that drive healthier lifestyles.

"Joe understands the impact the mission and work of the American Heart Association can have on every person who lives in this area. We welcome him to the Heart of New York City, an initiative that centers around better health for every individual by focusing on critical issues and work to equitably improve and save lives," says Meg Gilmartin, Executive Director and Senior Vice



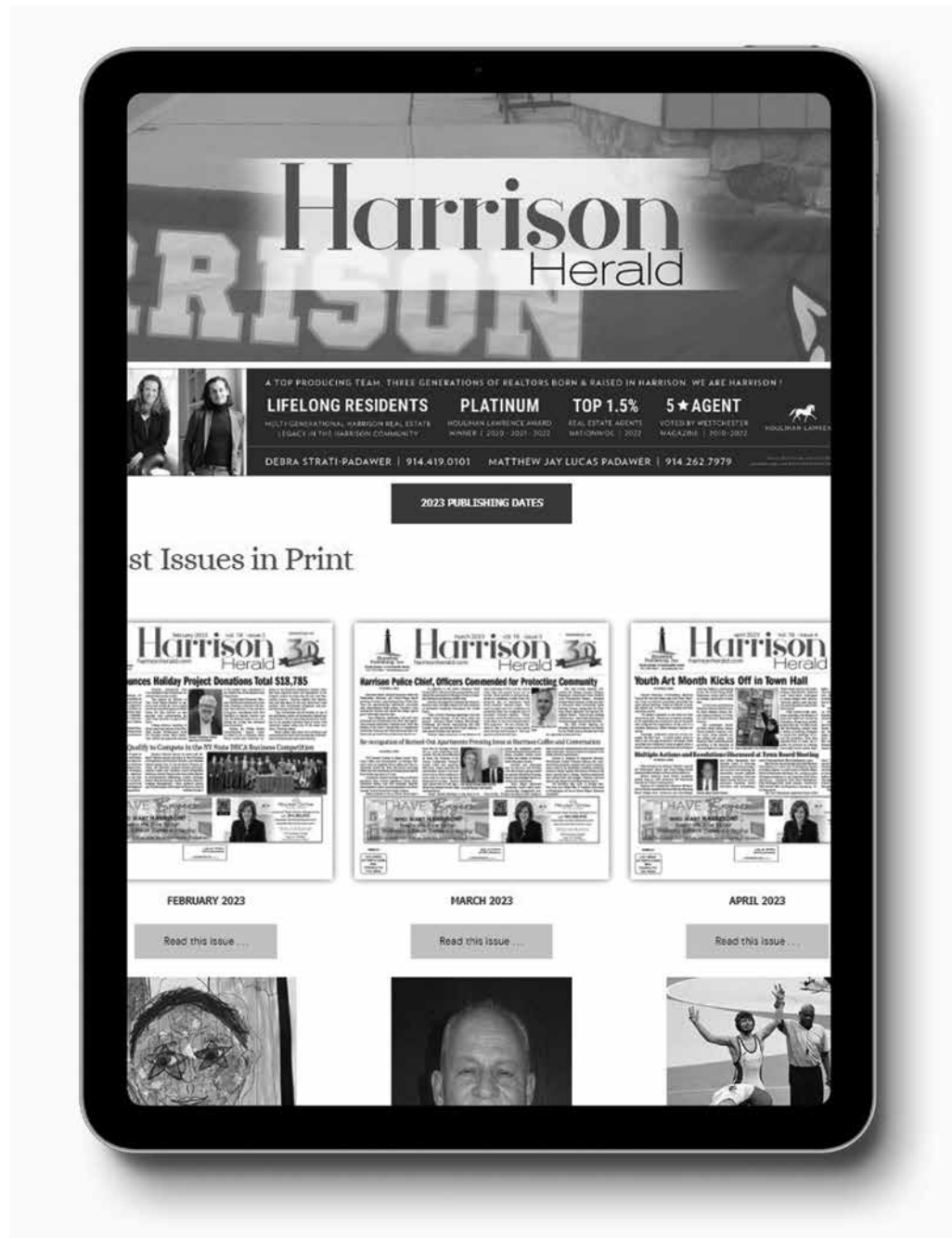
Joe Simone

President, American Heart Association, New York City.

The 2024 Heart of New York City Gala is sponsored by Simone Development Companies, and Compass One Healthcare. It is slated for June 2024 at venue TBD. The annual celebratory event is a night to honor survivors, patrons and volunteers of the American Heart Association, the world's leading nonprofit organization focused on heart and brain health. The evening will feature stories from survivors, as well as dinner, dancing, and an exciting auction. For more information on how to support or attend the Heart of New York City Gala, visit the campaign website or contact sydney.hoffman@heart.org. Visit heart.org, Facebook, Twitter or by calling 1-800-AHA-USA1.

Simone Development Companies is a full-service real estate investment company specializing in the acquisition and development of healthcare, mixed-use, office, industrial, retail, and residential properties. Headquartered at the Hutchinson Metro Center, it boasts a portfolio of over 7 million square feet throughout the Bronx, Manhattan, Queens, Long Island, Westchester County, Orange and Fairfield Counties, and New Jersey. With expertise spanning acquisition, development, construction, finance, asset management, accounting, leasing, and property management, Simone Development Companies is set apart by its vertically integrated management team, long-term asset ownership, and its pursuit of visionary development.

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Can a Person with Alzheimer's Disease Sign Legal Documents?



BY BERNARD A. KROOKS, CERTIFIED ELDER LAW ATTORNEY

Approximately 6.5 million people in the United States have Alzheimer's Disease. In fact, more than 10% of people age 65 and over are living with Alzheimer's. Alzheimer's is a progressive disease that gets worse over time and there currently is no cure. We have written extensively in this column about the importance of getting your affairs in order and taking care of your estate planning before something happens to you. By doing so, you will make things much easier for you and your family. So, what happens if someone is diagnosed with Alzheimer's, and they have not yet done their estate planning? Is it too late? That depends.

A certain level of capacity is necessary in order to sign legal documents. Someone who is in the later stages of Alzheimer's probably does not have the requisite capacity to sign legal documents. However, a person in the early stages of Alzheimer's or with a diagnosis of dementia may very well be able to sign legal documents.

For these purposes, capacity is typically analyzed situationally. That is, the question will be answered differently depending on the nature of the document and

the circumstances of the signing. The general rule: the signer has to have sufficient understanding to know what the document is, and the effect of the signing.

Here are a few examples:

- Ability to sign a contract.
 - Understanding of a power of attorney, which might give the authority to another person to make financial decisions for you.
 - Capacity to sign a trust.
 - Capacity to get married (which is, after all, a specialized kind of contract).
 - Ability to make medical decisions -- including refusing medication, or either seeking or declining mental health treatment.
- Although each of these situations will be evaluated differently, we can offer some general thoughts:
- The capacity level required to sign a trust is generally thought to be similar to the level of capacity to sign a contract.
 - The capacity to sign a will is generally considered the lowest level of capacity required to sign any legal document in New York.
 - There are few legal ways to determine capacity in advance. Some argue whether it is a legal or medical determination. Challenges to capacity are almost always initiated after the signing is completed -- and often after the signer has died or becomes mentally incapacitated. That means that evidence of capacity (or lack of capacity) is often being reconstructed after the fact.

It's also important to remember that we are writing here about capacity, and not necessarily about the

validity of documents signed by someone with Alzheimer's. It is entirely possible that although someone with Alzheimer's has the legal capacity to execute a new will, they were unduly influenced by someone else when signing their will. There is a difference between capacity on the one hand and undue influence on the other. Alzheimer's might make a person incapable of signing a document, or their capacity may be sufficient to sign. But that same person might be more susceptible to undue influence because they have Alzheimer's.

The following example may help explain what we mean: an elderly widower, living alone, has a diagnosis of Alzheimer's. He is nonetheless charming, witty, and perfectly able to discuss his wishes. He can recall the names of his three children and his seven grandchildren. He can report their ages, the cities they live in, and their careers (or status as students) -- and he is mostly correct, though sometimes his information is two or three years out of date.

This gentleman's daughter lives in the same city and is the one who oversees his living arrangements and care. She does his shopping, hires people to check on him daily, takes him to doctors' appointments, writes out his checks (he still signs them), and otherwise helps out. She also talks to him endlessly about how his other two children don't deserve to end up with his house and bank accounts, how she really ought to be the one who benefits from his estate, and how his late wife (her moth-

er) always wanted her to inherit everything. Eventually, he agrees to sign a new will and trust, mostly to stop her constant harangues.

Did he have the capacity to sign the new estate planning documents? On the facts as we've given them here, probably yes. Was he unduly influenced? Very likely. Was that influence facilitated (and the proof made easier) because of his Alzheimer's? Absolutely.

When did the daughter's behavior cross the line? The legal system isn't actually very helpful, since the answer is defined in a circular fashion. Her influence was "undue" when it resulted in her wishes being substituted for his. It was not necessarily objectionable (at least not legally) when she told him what she wished he would do, what her mother had wanted, or what was fair. But at some point, she may well have turned ordinary familial influence into "undue" influence.

As you can see, this area of the law is quite complex. By working with a competent estate planning attorney, you can increase the likelihood that your wishes will be carried out if you become incapacitated or pass away.

Bernard A. Krooks, Esq., is a founding partner of Littman Krooks LLP and named 2021 "Lawyer of the Year" by Best Lawyers in America® for excellence in Elder Law and has been honored as one of the "Best Lawyers" in America since 2008. Call (914-684-2100) or visit the firm's website at www.littmankrooks.com.

White Plains Mayor Tours Westchester Medical Center and Maria Fareri Children's Hospital

City of White Plains Mayor Thomas Roach recently got a behind-the-scenes glimpse of operations at the premier centers of healthcare in Westchester County during a personal tour of WMCHHealth's Westchester Medical Center campus.

Two of Mayor Roach's tour stops were at the only facilities of their kind in Westchester County.

His first stop was WMCHHealth's 5,500-square-foot eHealth Center, which boasts 20 multi-media stations equipped with the latest telehealth patient monitoring technologies and software. There, Mayor Roach saw how clinicians skilled in critical care use advanced healthcare technologies to monitor intensive care unit patients and provide complementary support to bedside intensive care unit care teams at Westchester Medical Center and WMCHHealth's MidHudson Regional Hospital in Poughkeepsie, as well as at other hospitals in the Hudson Valley.

Mayor Roach also visited Maria Fareri Children's Hospital, the only hospital in Westchester County dedicated to advanced care pediatrics, and where all other hospitals in Westchester County and the Hudson Valley transfer their most seriously ill and injured children for care. Led by Nicole Lucas, RN, Vice President for Patient Care Services at Maria Fareri Children's Hospital, Mayor Roach visited the hospital's dedicated pediatric hematology and oncology inpatient unit, and other inpatient "neighborhoods" in which pediatric specialist provide around-the-clock care. Maria Fareri Children's Hospital is home to Westchester County's only pediatric

intensive care unit as well as the county's highest level neonatal intensive care unit. Maria Fareri Children's Hospital also has Westchester County's single Level I pediatric trauma and burn care programs.

Westchester Medical Center's Caregiver Center also was a stop on Mayor Roach's tour. The space is a respite area for families with loved ones under the care of healthcare specialists at Westchester Medical Center, Maria Fareri Children's Hospital and the Behavioral Health Center,

the third hospital on WMCHHealth's Westchester County campus.

Josh Ratner, Executive Vice President and Chief Strategy Officer for the Westchester Medical Center Health Network (WMCHHealth) hosted Mayor Roach and led his tour.

"White Plains Mayor Thomas Roach was able to witness first-hand the advanced care his city's residents are receiving at WMCHHealth's

Westchester County campus," said Ratner. "With more than 12,000 transfers from other hospitals in Westchester County, the Hudson Valley, upstate New York and beyond last year alone, we are the regional leaders in advanced and primary care." And to enhance our efforts even further, we will soon break ground on a new Critical Care Tower that will bring the future of advanced healthcare Westchester County."

For more information about WMCHHealth, visit WMCHHealth.org or follow WMCHHealth on Facebook.com/WMCHHealth or Instagram.com/WMCHHealth.



Table Hopping with Morris Gut

Prime Pub, Somers: It's a charming town to visit. Proprietor Simi Polozani opened his latest gastropub on Rt. 202 at the entrance to Heritage Hills. The freestanding building sits right at the edge of a big pond which can be seen through large picture windows, a seasonal fireplace highlighted with wood and stone, an attractive dining room with well-spaced tables and contemporary lighting, and a semi-enclosed bar/lounge area for schmoozing and munching. Seasonal outdoor seating. Check out such menu specialties as Honey Goat Cheese Flatbread, a great Chef's Salad, their blast from the past Beef Stroganoff, Braised Short Ribs, and decadent Burrata Burger. Kid's menu. Craft beers. Prime Pub, 249 US-202, Somers. 914-617-9818 www.primepubgroup.com

Jack's Bar & Kitchen, Eastchester: Owner Shane Clifford and his friendly crew serve delicious finger foods and generously plated specialties. Out of Chef/Partner Brandan Donohoe's modern Irish American kitchen come great burgers, decadent Short Rib Mac N' Cheese, pizzas out of their woodfired oven; freshly made salads; Buttermilk Chicken Sandwich; Berkshire Pork Chops; Jack's Lamb Shank. Their full Irish Breakfast at brunch is a winner. Sticky Toffee Pudding for dessert is a must! Jack's Bar, 219 Main St., Eastchester. 914-652-7650 www.jackseastchester.com

Wolf & Warrior Brewing, White Plains: Owner/Brewmeister Michael Chiltern brought White Plains its first microbrewery. He is now serving his brews and a new menu all afternoon and evening from noon, Tuesday through Sunday. The open-air backyard has been expanded with extra seating. A daily selection of brews is listed on a big colorful blackboard. Comforting new spe-

cialties include Birria Tacos, Blazin' Wings, Hand Cut Free Range Chicken Tenders, a variety of Brew House Burgers, and Slammin' Sandwiches like the South Paw Philly Cheesesteak. Octoberfest beers and games for the kids will be on hand. Wolf & Warrior Brewing, 195A E. Post Road, White Plains. 914-368-8617 www.wolfandwarrior.com

Jean-Jacques Culinary Creations, Pleasantville: The display counters and blackboards are filled with tempting possibilities, from sweet and savory crepes and sandwiches to fresh breads and cakes. It's been 22 years and the place is still working at full steam. There are two dining rooms, one counter side, and a separate more formal section. French classics include Quiche Lorraine with salad, and a Croque Madame Croissant, oozing with fried egg, cheese, and ham. Outdoor seating weather permitting. Jean-Jacques, 468 Bedford Road, Pleasantville. 914-747-8191 www.jean-jacques.com

King Kone, Katonah: This retro fast food/dessert spot has been scooping it out for almost 70 years. The place is always popping with couples and families lining up out front. But it moves quickly. Share a large sundae with chocolate mint chip ice cream with plenty of fudge, topped with whipped cream and the ubiquitous Maraschino cherry. Enjoy the crowd from your picnic table. Menu items ranged from Corn Fritters, Lobster Roll Platter, Burgers, and a Crab Cake Sandwich. King Kone, 109 Rt. 100, Katonah. Open daily in season. 914-232-0571 They are on Facebook.

(Morris Gut 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. Email: gutreactions@optonline.net)

Manhattanville College Ranked as Top Performer for Social Mobility by “U.S. News & World Report” for Three Years in a Row

Manhattanville College has once again been ranked by “U.S. News & World Report” as one of the “Top Performers for Social Mobility.” The college ranked #1 for private, non-profit schools in New York and eighteenth overall for social mobility in Regional Universities North, according to the 2024 Best Colleges rankings issued this week. This is the third consecutive year that Manhattanville has been recognized as the top private, non-profit college in New York by the nationally recognized “U.S. News & World Report” ranking.

Frank D. Sánchez, Ph.D., President of Manhattanville College, expressed his enthusiasm for the ranking, stating, “Manhattanville College continues to outperform competitors in the ‘U.S. News & World Report’ rankings when it comes to graduating students from lower economic brackets, many of whom are the first in their families to go to college. Our social mobility ranking speaks

to the transformative power of education and the individualized support and attention all our students receive as we prepare them for success in jobs that allow them to enter higher income brackets than their parents.”

Manhattanville College’s commitment to students and their families is evidenced through new workforce-driven curricular offerings and college’s recognition as a Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI) by the U.S. Department of Education. This designation allows the college to seek federal funding to provide more resources and support for Hispanic students. Additionally, Manhattanville earned an Equity and Inclusion badge from Colleges of Distinction, which it was named to for the sixth consecutive year.

All of these distinctions have contributed to a winning year for Manhattanville, which has seen one of the largest increases in new student enrollment in recent history, welcoming more than 700 new undergraduate and graduate students to campus.

The “U.S. News & World Report” Best Colleges rankings assess 1,452 U.S. bachelor’s degree-granting institutions on 17 measures of academic quality in addition to information on application requirements, tuition and financial aid policies, student body demographics, and campus life. See all rankings here.

About Manhattanville College
Manhattanville College is a small, private

liberal arts institution dedicated to academic excellence, purposeful education, and social justice. “U.S. News and World Report” ranks Manhattanville as the #1 private, non-profit institution in New York among Top Performers of Social Mobility in Regional Universities North 2022, 2023, and 2024. Located 30 miles from New York City on a 100-acre suburban campus in the heart of bustling Westchester County, Manhattanville enables easy access to robust entertainment offerings, educational resources, and business opportunities for its primarily residential and diverse student

body. The college serves close to 1,400 undergraduate students and nearly 1,000 graduate students from more than 44 countries and 33 states. Founded in 1841, the college offers more than 75 undergraduate and graduate areas of study in the arts and sciences, education, business, creative writing, and continuing and executive education programs. Graduate students can choose from more than 70 graduate and certificate programs. Extracurricular offerings include more than 70 clubs and organizations and 24 NCAA Division III teams. To learn more, visit www.mville.edu.

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Harrison Herald



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Calendar of Events

Farmers Market

Muscoot Farm, 51 Route 100, Katonah

October 7 - October 9, 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Every Sunday through November 9, 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

The weekly farmer's market supports farmers and sustainable efforts in the area, featuring over 20 local vendors each week. Vendors vary every week and updates will be available on muscootfarm.org.



Annual Pumpkin Picking Fundraiser

Muscoot Farm, 51 Route 100, Katonah

October 7 - October 9, 10 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Muscoot Farm's Annual Pumpkin Picking Fundraiser is a free event; pumpkins vary in price based on size. Hayrides are \$5 per person, but ages 3 and under are free; cash only. Cider and doughnuts will also be on sale. Attendees will be able to visit the farm animals.

Harrison Police Open House

Harrison Police Station, 650 North St., Harrison

Saturday, October 7, 10:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

View all of Harrison's Emergency Apparatuses

Concert and Fireworks

West Harrison Firehouse, 95 Lake St, West Harrison

Saturday, October 7, 7:00 p.m.

Car Show & Summer Concert

West Harrison Village Green

Sunday October 8, 10:00am - 4:00pm

Mid-Life Crisis (Party/Rock)

45th Annual It's Great to Live in Harrison Parade & Festival Parade

Festival at Ma Riis Park, 2 Heinemann Place, Harrison

Monday, October 9, 10:00 a.m.

Food, rides, activities, & entertainment for all ages.

Harrison Educational Foundation 2nd Annual Casino Night & Silent Auction

Harrison Meadows Country Club, 123 North Street, Harrison

Thursday, October 12, 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

For more info or to register to attend, visit www.harrisoned.org.

The Harrison Players Community Theatre Group Presents:

"WHO'S AFRAID OF VIRGINIA WOOLF?"

The Veterans' Memorial Building

210 Halstead Avenue, Harrison

Friday, October 20 at 7:30 p.m. (opening reception follows)

Saturday, October 21 at 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, October 21 and Sunday, October 22nd at 2:00 p.m.

The cast of this Edward Albee classic consists of Amanda Bloom, Tim Brandt, Danny Charest, and Elizabeth Paldino.

For more information, visit www.harrisonplayers.org or email harrisonplayers@yahoo.com.

West Harrison Italian Heritage Festival

Lake Street, West Harrison

Sunday, October 22, 11:30 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Live music from Lisa Messina, Angelo Venuto, DJ Stefano, and DJ Serg. Featuring Italian food, games, prizes, music, fireworks at dusk, and more.

Manhattanville College Performing Arts Events

A Chorus Line

November 2-5

\$5, free with Manhattanville ID

Contact BoxOffice@mvil.edu for tickets.

Events at the Harrison Public Library

6th Annual Meet the Authors Event

Saturday, October 28, 1:00 to 4 p.m.

Community Room & Teen Center

Registration is Recommended

Features 15 bestselling and award-winning authors. Guest speakers include P.J. Caldas, C.J. Farley, Mariah Fredericks, Jimin Han (local Westchester author), Mary Beth Keane, Karin Lin-Greenberg, Suzio Luo, Carolyn Meckler, Clemence Michallon, William Max, Idra Novey, Devan Sandiford, Charles Soule, Beatriz Williams, and Lauren Willig. The Village Bookstore of Pleasantville will be on site selling books for the book signing. Refreshments will be served, and books will be raffled throughout the event.

Project Linus ~ Blankets for Babies Workshops

Every Tuesday, October 10, 17, 24 and 31, 2 - 4 pm

Conference Room

This year the Harrison Library will be making baby blankets for donation to the Project Linus, an organization which provides handmade blankets to children 0-18 in the United States who are seriously ill, traumatized, or otherwise in need. All knitters and crocheters are welcome to help us make blocks that will be combined to create warm and beautiful blankets.



LIVE: The Ten Faces of Maria Callas

Saturday, October 14, 2 pm

Community Room

All are welcome to this live performance in honor of renowned opera singer Maria Callas. This year has been declared the Maria Callas Year, in honor of the celebration of the 100th birthday of the legendary singer. The program focuses on her "Italian Years." This one hour concert is presented by the Harrison Friends of Opera, and Teatro Grattacielo and Cammerata Bardi. Registration is recommended.



Magic and Mind Reading Performance by Greg Dwyer

Monday, October 16, 7 pm

Community Room

Join in, if you dare, for an evening of spine-tingling enchantment that will linger in your thoughts long after the Halloween moon sets. Prepare to have your mind read, your beliefs shattered, and your imagination pushed to its limits. Welcome to the Haunting Halls of Mind, where the whispers of the paranormal become a symphony of wonder. Our spirit guide for the evening is magician and mind reader Greg Dwyer who has been performing magic since the 70's.

Create a Masterpiece with Art Instructor Connie Manna

Wednesday, October 11, 7 PM

Zoom Program

Artist Connie Manna will show how to paint a masterpiece by an Italian artist who was part of the Macchiaioli, a group of 19th-century Florentine and Neapolitan painters who reacted against the rule-bound Italian academies of art and looked to nature for instruction. No prior experience with painting is required. Registration is required.



Halloween Lantern Luminaries Workshop

Thursday, October 16, 3:30 pm

Community Room

Learn how to create beautiful Halloween lantern luminaries. All materials will be provided. Teens are welcome to join. This program is being presented in the library by the Greenwich Woods Center. Registration is recommended to reserve a spot.

AARP SmartTEK Driver Workshop

Tuesday, October 24, 2 pm

Community Room

Attend this free, 90-minute Smart DriverTEK workshop and learn: how to utilize the latest high-tech safety features in your current car, what technology to look for when shopping for a new car, the safety benefits of blind spot warning systems, forward collision warnings, lane departure warnings, smart headlights, and more. Registration required.

Tibetan Sound Healing

Friday, October 27, 3:30 pm

Community Room

Instructor Roberta Brugo is back by popular demand to

present another relaxing and refreshing Tibetan Sound Healing program in the library. Wear comfortable clothing. Mats are available. Roberta Brown, RN, Integrative Medicine coordinator, will lead in meditation and with soothing vibrations of Tibetan & crystal singing bowls, which can help return the nervous system to balance and harmony.



Harrison Public Library Presents "Moments in Time" by Susan Lovullo on view October 1 to November 3. Meet the artist October 1 from 2 to 4pm.

Susan Lovullo is a Westchester County-based artist, who specializes in photography and graphic arts. Most of her inspiration originates from the gardens that surround her home, day to day encounters and nature walks through county parks. With a love for gardening and spending time outdoors, she's able to witness all that transpires throughout the year, within these special worlds.

Visit www.harrisonpl.org for complete details on all of October's events.

Westchester County Department of Senior Programs and Services to Hold Annual Public Hearing October 19
The Westchester County Department of Senior Programs and Services (DSPS) will hold its Annual Public Hearing on Thursday, October 19, 2023 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., at the Westchester County Center, 198 Central Avenue, White Plains. DSPS will unveil the goals and objectives for the 2024-2028 four-year area plan on the proposed use of funds, from the Older Americans Act and the New York State Community Services for the Elderly Program. The final area plan, incorporating public input, will be submitted to the New York State Office for the Aging after approval by Westchester County Executive George Latimer. The hearing provides a venue for individuals to learn about and speak out on concerns that affect Westchester County senior citizens and their families. Speakers are asked to identify the many beneficiaries of services the County provides to help older citizens maintain a healthy and dignified lifestyle. Registration is not required to attend or speak at the meeting. The plan will be distributed at the public hearing, and is also available upon request starting Thursday, October 12. To request a copy of the plan, or for any other information or accommodations, please contact Andrew Crawford at aqcq@westchestercountyny.gov or call 914-813-6408. For more information about DSPS, call (914) 813-6300 or visit www.westchestergov.com/seniors.

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