

The 45th It's Great to Live in Harrison/Columbus Day Observance

BY STEPHEN E. LIPKEN

The 45th It's Great to Live in Harrison/Columbus Day Observance, sponsored by the Harrison Recreation Department, was celebrated from October 7 through October 9. A weekend of activities, which consisted of the Harrison Police Open House, an evening concert at the West Harrison Firehouse with fireworks, a car show, and music in the West Harrison Business District, culminating with the Columbus Day Parade, which drew an estimated 2,600 to 3,000 participants.



Harrison Hispanic Community Dancer

Bands in the parade included the Harrison High School Marching Band with cheerleaders, the Saints Brigade Drum and Bugle Corps from Port Chester, the Pipes and Drums of the Police Emerald Society of Westchester Band, the Dixie Dandies, and the Yonkers Military Band. Other participants featured in the parade were dancers from the Hispanic community in colorful costumes, Bruce Chung's Tae Kwon Do, and antique and classic vehicles, including Roy Aletti's 1924 Ford Model T Fire Truck.

Appearing on the reviewing stand were Trust-



Left to right: Harrison Trustee Fred Sciliano; Mayor Richard Dionisio; Trustee Liz Brown.

ees Fred Sciliano and Liz Brown, Mayor Richard Dionisio, Town Clerk Jackie Greer, County Executive George Latimer, and County Legislators Nancy Barr and Catherine Parker.

"What a fabulous day we had," Dionisio observed. "The parade was awesome. The attendance I think is the largest ever. It's Great to Live in Harrison, come on down, you're going to have a grand time."

"There is always a good time in Harrison, Great to be in Harrison Day and today we lucked out with gorgeous weather and now we'll head out to the park for more festivities," Barr noted.

"Harrison residents are very proud of their community, and you really see it on a day like today when they come out in full force," Parker added. "You see all the elementary schools represented, the baseball team, football team, cheerleaders, all bands, and public safety. It makes you feel that Harrison is a very special community in Westchester County. I proudly represent Harrison and am happy to be here."



County Executive George Latimer; Legislators Catherine Parker, Nancy Barr



The Saints Brigade, Port Chester



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



Alzheimer's Association Walk Raises More than \$665,000

On October 1, more than 1,200 community members joined this year's Walk to End Alzheimer's® at Westchester Community College and raised more than \$665,000 for the care, support, and research programs of the Alzheimer's Association.

"Thank you to everyone who came to support Walk to End Alzheimer's at Westchester Community College," said Esther McCarthy, Westchester Walk Director for the Alzheimer's Association Hudson Valley Chapter. "This helps the Alzheimer's Association raise awareness and funds for families facing the disease."

On Walk Day, participants honored those affected by Alzheimer's with the poignant Promise Garden ceremony — a mission-focused experience that signifies our solidarity in the fight against the disease. The colors of the Promise Garden flowers represent people's connection to Alzheimer's — their personal reasons to end the disease.

More than 6 million Americans are living with Alzheimer's disease — a leading cause of death in the United States. Additionally, more than 11 million family members and friends provide care to people living with Alzheimer's and other dementias. In New York alone, there are more than 410,000 people living with the disease and 546,000 caregivers.

The Alzheimer's Association Walk to End Alzheimer's is the world's largest event to raise awareness and funds for Alzheimer's care, support, and research. Since 1989, the Alzheimer's Association mobilized millions of Americans in the Alzheimer's Association Memory Walk®; now the Alzheimer's Association is continuing to lead the way with Walk to End Alzheimer's.

The Alzheimer's Association is a worldwide voluntary health organization dedicated to Alzheimer's care, support, and research. Its mission is to lead the way to end Alzheimer's and all other dementia — by accelerating global research, driving risk reduction and early detection, and maximizing quality care and support. Visit alz.org or call 800-272-3900.



Habitat for Humanity New York City and Westchester County Launches New Flagship ReStore

Habitat for Humanity New York City and Westchester County Habitat for Humanity New York City and Westchester (Habitat NYC and Westchester) volunteers, board members, as well as local community leaders gathered in Yonkers last month for a ribbon-cutting ceremony celebrating the grand opening of the non-profit's regional flagship ReStore retail location at 470 Nepperhan Avenue.

Spanning 8,400 square feet, this newest ReStore, the store that builds homes and reduces waste, features gently-used and new overstock and second-hand items for the home, such as furniture, appliances, art, home décor, and building materials, at 50 to 80 percent off their original retail prices. Proceeds from sales directly benefit Habitat's efforts to build and preserve homes for people in need.

"We are excited to have the opportunity to serve this thriving, diverse, and unique county and are so grateful for the support of the local community on this journey," said Habitat NYC and Westchester CEO, Karen Haycox. "New York City and Westchester are intrinsically linked-by communities, by commuter rail lines, and sadly, by a worsening housing crisis. This ReStore will support our shared mission to advance equitable housing opportunities that enable families in our



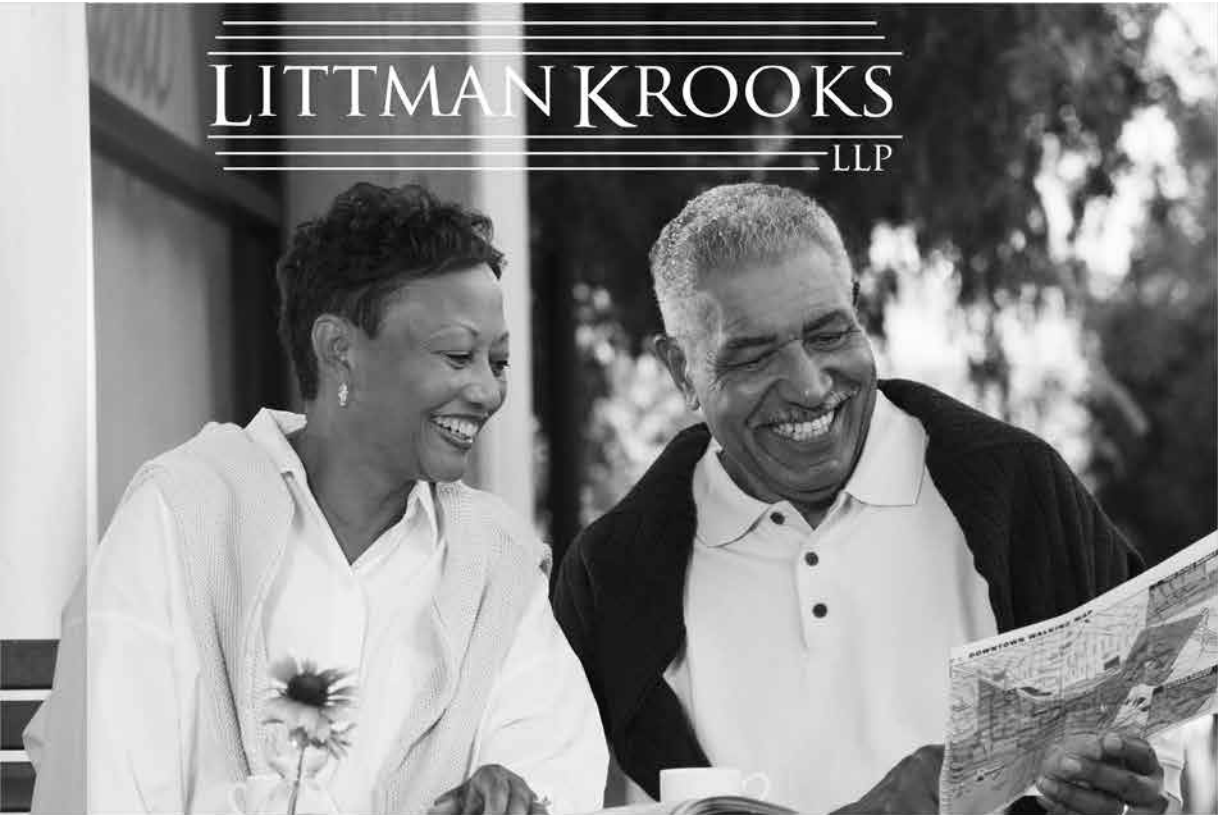
region to have a safe, stable, affordable place to call home."

ReStore merchandise is donated by individuals, local contractors, home improvement specialists, architects, and corporate donors. The store accepts drop-off donations and conducts pick-ups from donors' homes or storage locations.

The Yonkers ReStore is the second retail outlet opened by the Habitat NYC and Westchester affiliate, following in the footsteps of the New York City ReStore located on Northern Blvd in Woodside, Queens. Since its opening in 2015, the Queens ReStore alone has diverted an estimated 2,854 tons of waste from the landfill and is a favorite spot for bargain hunters and treasure-seekers across the region.

"We're so thrilled to launch an exciting new, sustainability-focused retail destination here in the heart of Yonkers," said Habitat NYC and

continued on page 4



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Harrison High School Students Rehearsing for Performance of William Shakespeare's A Midsummer Night's Dream

The Harrison High School Playhouse is proud to present William Shakespeare's A Midsummer Night's Dream.

Shakespeare's plays have been taught at Harrison High School and in classrooms around the country for years because of their exemplary use of language and timeless themes. A Midsummer Night's Dream is one of Shakespeare's most famous and beloved comedies. With mischievous fairies, forbidden love, and a ridiculous play-within-a-play, it is no wonder A Midsummer Night's Dream is one of the most-produced high school plays.

The plot is set into action when Hermia and Lysander are forbidden to wed by Hermia's father. Hermia and Lysander venture into the forest away from Athens where they can be married away from the harsh rule of the Athenian law. They are pursued by Demetrius, Hermia's intended husband, and Helena, who is in love with Demetrius.

In the woods, their lives and loves are turned upside down by the mischievous fairy Puck.

In the woods, we also encounter the King and Queen of Fairyland, Oberon, and Titania. They are arguing because Titania has adopted a human child, and she has refused to give him up to Oberon to be his servant. Oberon decides to get his revenge on Titania by putting a love spell on her. Meanwhile, a group of amateur actors rehearse a play in the woods to perform for the Duke of Athens on his wedding day. They too have their world turned upside down when Puck transforms the head of their lead actor, Bottom the Weaver, into that of a donkey. Titania ends up falling in love with Bottom the Donkey, and much comedy ensues.

Performances will take place in the Harrison Performing Arts Center at Harrison High School on Friday, November 3rd at 7:00 p.m., Saturday, November 4th at 7:00 p.m., and Sunday,



November 5th at 2:00 p.m.

Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for students and seniors. Tickets are available at the door. Reservations are not necessary.

Director: Ms. Nina Haberli

Student Assistant Director: Lana Waights

Junior Student Directors: Elias Macmillan, Luke Castellano, and Sophia Campos
Stage Manager: Hailey Helmer

Assistant Stage Managers: Callum Robertson, Alonso Rueda, Sam Potkin

The Cast: Elvis Njuguna, Neeve Kenny, Elias MacMillan, Sophia Campos, Dylan Bouteneff, Gisel Lopez, Aaralyn Gravagna, Luke Castellano, Ulysses Bravo, Lana Waights, Emily Caragliano, Gabriella Febbraio, Hikari Fujino, Shane Larkin, Kai Hickey, Rosella Paniccia, Michael Calvay, KC Onwuasoanya, Alexis Manalis, Charlotte Reville, Talia Russo, Theresa DeRosa, Aubrey LaPeter, Ella Zamek, Frances Thomas-Aurthur, Caridee Bratton, Lilliana Tesoriero, and Katrina Smith-McCann

Special Guest Musician: Beverly Kang

Crew: Hailey, Helmer, Callum Robertson, Alonso Rueda, Sam Potkin, Benji Ferris, Racquel Simmons, Siobhan Rice, Chris Decina, D'Angelo Gordon, David Drapeau, Robbie Budde, JJ Boparai, Angie Costabile, Ishaan Alas, Tahsin Pradan, Toni Reyes Hernandez, Carol Brandt, Faeryn Hunter, Michael Brandt, Kinga Kozyra, Gabriella Perez Capcha, Sophia Macmillan

Comptroller MacKenzie Renders Town, Village, and Highway Finances

BY STEPHEN E. LIPKEN

At the Harrison Town/Village Board meeting on October 18, Comptroller Maureen MacKenzie gave an update on the town's finances and stated that their audit had been better than expected. Between December 2021 and December 2022, there was an approximately 18% increase in the town/village's governmental fund balances. To listen to her complete report, visit www.youtube.com/watch?v=MtwjB1om-A.

In Actions and Resolutions, the board approved Library Director Galina Chernykh's request to allocate \$8,000 to cover a floor plan space audit at the downtown library.

During Public Comment, Democratic Mayoral Candidate Mark Jaffe questioned authorization to rescind Resolution #2023-367, to discontinue funding for and litigation of Dunkin' Donuts matter, passed at a Special Town Board Meeting on September 15. Deputy Village Attorney Andrea Rendo explained that it was a lawsuit against the town, regarding the denial by the Planning Board of Dunkin's application to expand with a drive-thru; this was appealed to a higher court, and the decision is pending.

During the Village Board meeting, Town Engineer Michael Amodeo's quest for funding to award the Harrison Boulevard Curbs and Sidewalks Improvement Project to Westchester Hills Landscaping, Inc. was approved.

SUNY WCC Students Encouraged to Apply for Cyber Service Academy Scholarship Program

On October 6, U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand joined elected officials and educators to encourage SUNY Westchester Community College (WCC) students to apply to the Cyber Service Academy scholarship program, which grants students free college in return for public service in the Department of Defense (DoD). Successful applicants will serve in roles throughout the DoD for a period equivalent to the length of their scholarship.

WCC is one of 19 New York institutions eligible to offer the program because of its designation as a National Center of Academic Excellence in Cybersecurity.

Gillibrand created the Cyber Service Academy scholarship program through her work on the Senate Armed Services Committee. With nearly 40,000 unfilled public-sector cybersecurity positions, it is more essential than ever that the U.S. create a pipeline for a talented, highly-trained cyber workforce.

Senator Gillibrand will be joined by Congressman Jamaal Bowman, Deputy County Executive Ken Jenkins, WCC Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs Dr. Vanessa Morest, and Professor John Watkins, WCC Cybersecurity Curriculum Chair.

For complete details, visit <https://www.gillibrand.senate.gov/cyberacademy/>



U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand

Habitat for Humanity New York City and Westchester County Launches New Flagship ReStore

continued from page 3

Westchester VP of ReStore Operations, Leslie Williams. "We're delighted to create both employment and volunteer opportunities within the community. And our donation pick-up services will enable residents across Westchester who are renovating, downsizing, or decluttering, to donate their household items with complete ease."

In addition to offering discounted appliances and home goods, the Yonkers ReStore will also host special events, workshops, DIY classes, and opportunities for volunteers and housing advocates to directly support Habitat's housing mission. On November 14, Habitat NYC and Westchester will celebrate their signature annual fundraising gala, the Habitat House Party, with two exceptional events in New York City and Westchester County. Honoring local leaders and volunteers, the Westchester reception will be hosted at the Yonkers ReStore, culminating in a thrilling live auction and retail experience with shoppable vignettes.

Since its founding in 1984, Habitat NYC and Westchester has served over 2,400 families through its homebuilding and housing preservation programs and revitalized more than 200 community spaces. Most recently Westchester Habitat, the local chapter organization of Habitat NYC and Westchester, has launched three programs to support seniors aging in place, homeowners seeking to create accessory apartments, and residents affected by recent extreme weather events.

"I am thrilled to join Habitat for Humanity New York City and Westchester County in celebrating the grand opening of their flagship ReStore in Yonkers, a part of my district. Habitat's commitment to equitable housing opportunities

aligns with our shared mission to ensure that every family in our region has a safe, affordable, and now, well-furnished and decorated, place to call home. I applaud CEO Karen Haycox and the Habitat team for their dedication to making this initiative a reality for our community," said Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins.

"Thank you to Habitat for Humanity for choosing our City as the home of its flagship store in the region. Yonkers is truly a volunteer City. When the community is in need, we step up. This store will provide volunteer opportunities, donation opportunities, but most of all, help our families with basic needs to feel more at home," said Mayor Mike Spano, City of Yonkers.

"I look forward to Habitat for Humanity's opening of their Yonkers Restore in my district. With the store incorporating pieces that are repurposed it educates the community on recycling, and as environmental chair, it assists in implementing the city's green initiative," said Yonkers City Council Majority Leader, Tasha Diaz.

Habitat NYC and Westchester creates, preserves, and advocates for healthy, affordable homes and the generational equity-building opportunities that homeownership provides. With the support of volunteers and supporters, we're building a more equitable New York—to address centuries of unjust, racist, housing laws and financing mechanisms that prevented communities of color from entering the homeownership market and shaped the geography of the wealth, health, and education inequality we see today. Learn more at www.habitatnycwc.org and connect with us on social media at @HabitatNYC_WC.

Table Hopping with Morris Gut Anasa Greek Kitchen Premiers in White Plains

The vibrant flavors and hospitality of Greece are served with kefi (gusto) at Anasa Greek Kitchen, the newly revamped Greek/Mediterranean restaurant on Central Ave., White Plains. Restaurant veterans Bobby Tsakarakis and Stevia Farmakopoulos took over the former Niko's Greek Taverna and imbued it with a refreshing airy, flowery décor.

A good Greek meal is a must for me from time to time, and Anasa, which refers to 'the breath of life', surpassed our expectations. Bobby and Stevia, who originally hail from Lesvos and Kefalonia in Greece respectively, are all over the room engaging with customers. The choices on the menu sound so tempting, so Bobby, who is the creative self-taught chef and artist, helped us decide on our first meal.

The waiter brought us an ample platter of tasty, warmed pita bread. An extraordinary starter was a hot meze platter of Chargrilled Octopus served with olive oil and lemon. The herbal flavors exploded in your mouth. Followed with their colorful Horiatiki Salad loaded with tomatoes, cucumbers, green peppers, onions, olives, and feta cheese, sprinkled with oregano, olive oil and vinegar dressing. Fresh and delightful! Our main course was a special hearty combo of Skewered Filet Mignon with sweet peppers, Chargrilled Shrimp & Scallops, with roasted potatoes and asparagus. A couple of glasses of traditional Greek Restina white wine was a fine complement. Service was spot on. Each course was easily sharable.

Anasa Greek Kitchen, 287 Central Ave., White Plains. Open 7 days for lunch & dinner. Seasonal outdoor patio. Bar & cocktails. Reservations accepted: 914-368-8828. www.anasagreek.com

Manhattanville College Joins Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities During Hispanic Heritage Month

Manhattanville College hosted its culminating Hispanic Heritage Month event on October 12 with the CEO and President of the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU), Antonio Flores, Ph.D. Dr. Flores delivered a keynote address as part of a ceremony celebrating the college joining this important organization.

Dr. Flores was invited to speak by Manhattanville's first Latino President, Frank Sánchez, Ph.D., who kicked off the event with welcome remarks.

President Sánchez spoke about the influence of the Latino community on the U.S. economy.

"Today our U.S. Hispanic and Latinx communities have become ubiquitous with American society," said Dr. Sánchez. "Our collective history and art, literature, music, our entertainment and sports industries, government, healthcare, education, and contemporary issues have forever been shaped by our community's presence. In fact, America's workforce and economic drivers have become dependent on the Latinx influence." He quoted a study from Arizona State that said if the U.S. Latino population was a country, it would have the fifth largest economy with a GDP of 3.2 trillion dollars.

Dr. Flores's keynote address was on "The Future of Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSIs): Serving Diverse Students While Meeting the Workforce Needs of Tomorrow."

Saying that young Latinos make up the fastest-growing share of the workforce, Dr. Flores underscored the need to better prepare them for the future. He added that 50 percent of Latino students who attend college, attend schools like Manhattanville which are Hispanic-serving institutions (HSIs). As a result, HACU has been growing by leaps and bounds and will soon be opening its first permanent headquarters in San Antonio, Texas. He said HACU is also launching a fellowship program this month with 56 fellows, the largest national internship program for Latino

students in an effort to raise the number of young Latinos accepted into medical school (only 7 percent of Latino students are accepted to medical school) and other high-level professions.

"Manhattanville College has served their students and community with an unwavering focus on ensuring success for all, and their recent designation as a Hispanic-Serving Institution highlights the expansion of that focus," said HACU President and CEO Antonio R. Flores. "Their membership with HACU will provide new opportunities, tools, and a robust network of partners and supporters that will create pathways to brighter futures for all of their students."

Manhattanville College has earned a designation as a Hispanic Serving Institution by the U.S. Department of Education, evidence of the increasingly diverse student body and commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion. This designation allows the college additional opportunities to seek federal support for Hispanic students. Hispanic Serving Institutions play a pivotal role in fostering opportunities for diverse student populations to succeed in the workforce of tomorrow. To be designated as an HSI, an institution of higher education must have a full-time equivalent (FTE) undergraduate student enrollment that is at least 25 percent Hispanic. Manhattanville's student body is 38% Hispanic.

Antonio R. Flores has served as president and CEO of the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities for more than 27 years, leading advocacy efforts for Hispanic-serving institutions across the nation and Latino higher education. His contributions to higher education have been recognized across the country. Under his tenure, HACU has tripled membership, budget, and programs, advocated for HSI legislation and funding, and secured new private funding for HSIs and member institutions.

To learn more, visit www.mville.edu and www.hacu.net

Lifting Up Westchester Unveils New Job Central Facility Funded By A Grant From KeyBank Foundation

Lifting Up Westchester (LUW) staff, clients, supporters, and community partners were on hand in mid-October to celebrate the opening of LUW's Job Central, a new facility to provide job readiness and placement services for the unemployed and underemployed in Westchester County. The new facility was made possible through a two-year, \$200,000 community impact grant from the KeyBank Foundation, originally announced in a press release issued in November 2022. The grant enabled LUW to renovate the physical space at 148 Hamilton Avenue in White Plains, hire staff, establish employment partnerships, and work with the Department of Social Services and other social welfare organizations to build a pipeline to targeted populations. The center strives to assist an estimated 175 unemployed and significantly underemployed individuals over the grant's two-year funding period.

A ribbon-cutting and brief speaking program led by Anahaita Kotval, Chief Executive Officer of Lifting Up Westchester was held earlier today for media and the community introducing the center and thanking KeyBank for their partnership.

"The opening of Job Central is an exciting milestone for us," said Kotval. "It allows us to expand our employment services to a broader segment of the Westchester community at a time when employers are struggling to find candidates. Job Central will help community members who want to work overcome challenges to finding – and maintaining – employment. We thank KeyBank for supporting our mission and helping us lift individuals out of poverty."

Additional speakers from LUW were Chief Operating Officer, Willa Brody, Director of Strategic Programs, Debbie Hertz, and Job Central Manager Paulette Madianitti. KeyBank Market President John Manginelli also gave comments.

"KeyBank is thrilled to see Job Central open its doors to the Westchester community and proud to be a partner in bringing it to fruition," he said. "Earning a living wage is essential to an individual's and family's financial health and self-sufficiency, and we are committed to supporting organizations who are breaking down employment barriers that hinder many of our unemployed and underemployed neighbors."

Lifting Up Westchester's Job Central aims to assist extremely low-income and Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed (ALICE) individuals who face a variety of unique challenges to employment stability and wage advancement. Job Central will take a comprehensive approach to providing job readiness and skills training, individual job coaching, job placement services, and other resources to help achieve living wage jobs and employment advancement. Its program will complement existing employment programs in Westchester County, while addressing the high barriers people with extremely low income face every day, such as access to computers and proper interview clothes, thus creating a centralized hub for services traditionally acquired through multiple agencies.

For more information on the services provided by Lifting Up Westchester's Job Central, visit their website



at www.liftingupwestchester.or/job-central.

Lifting Up Westchester is united by one bold and unwavering belief: that, with the right community support, people of all ages have the potential to build their lives and thrive. When everyone has a solid foundation, it allows them to build more secure and independent futures for themselves and contribute to the well-being of the community. Since 1979, LUW has provided lifelines to help people in crisis that create lasting stability and self-sufficiency by:

- Providing emergency shelter, food, and support to keep people safe.
- Facilitating employment readiness and job opportunities to increase and sustain income.
- Finding safe and affordable homes of all types and providing the support to maintain the stability of that housing.
- Coordinating and navigating community resources and overcoming barriers to obtaining unique support.
- Offering education and mentoring support to youth so they have a chance to succeed.

KeyBank Foundation serves to fulfill KeyBank's purpose to help clients and communities thrive, and its mission is to support organizations and programs that prepare people for thriving futures. The Foundation's mission is advanced through three funding priorities – neighbors, education, and workforce – and through community service. To provide meaningful philanthropy that transforms lives, KeyBank Foundation listens carefully to understand the unique characteristics and needs of its communities and then backs solutions with targeted philanthropic investments. KeyBank Foundation is a nonprofit charitable foundation, funded by KeyCorp.

KeyCorp's roots trace back nearly 200 years to Albany, New York. Headquartered in Cleveland, Ohio, Key is one of the nation's largest bank-based financial services companies, with assets of approximately \$195 billion as of June 30, 2023. Key provides deposit, lending, cash management, and investment services to individuals and businesses in 15 states under the name KeyBank National Association through a network of approximately 1,000 branches and approximately 1,300 ATMs. Key also provides a broad range of sophisticated corporate and investment banking products, such as merger and acquisition advice, public and private debt and equity, syndications, and derivatives to middle market companies in selected industries throughout the United States under the KeyBanc Capital Markets trade name. For more information, visit www.key.com/.

ArtsWestchester to Honor New York State Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins & Westchester County Executive George Latimer on Nov. 14 at the Arts Rock Gala

ArtsWestchester will celebrate the economic impact of the arts and honor NYS Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins and Westchester County Executive George Latimer at its annual gala on November 14 at The Capitol Theatre in Port Chester.

The arts council's Board of Directors will celebrate the Hon. Andrea Stewart-Cousins and the Hon. George Latimer for their leadership and support of arts and culture that have positioned Westchester County as one of the most creative economies in New York State contributing more than \$182 million in economic impact annually.

"Majority Leader Stewart-Cousins and County Executive Latimer have been instrumental in the recovery and growth of the arts and cultural community in Westchester and Rockland Counties," said Janet Langsam, ArtsWestchester's CEO. "They understand that investment in the arts sector is not only good for communities, but is great for business and cultural tourism in New York State."

New York State Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins has been widely recognized as a trailblazer in local and state government and a champion for both progressive action and the arts. In her first year as Senate Majority Leader, Stewart-Cousins led the most productive legislative session in the state's history. In 2012, she became the first African American woman to lead a New York State legislative conference. In 2019, she shattered the glass ceiling when her peers elected her as Temporary President and Majority Leader of the State Senate.

Majority Leader Stewart-Cousins has been honored with hundreds of awards for her extensive legislative work and community service in the state. Now, Westchester County's cultural community joins ArtsWestchester in thanking the Majority Leader for her extraordinary leadership and investment in the arts in the county and throughout New York State.

At a most critical time, when the arts were shuttered due to the pandemic, Stewart-Cousins had the vision to invest in the recovery of the arts sector by allocating \$1 million to ArtsWestchester for its arts and cultural regant program. She has maintained this investment in Westchester's arts community for three years and expanded her commitment to New York State's arts community by allocating \$10 million to arts councils like ArtsWestchester in Syracuse, Buffalo, the Capital Regions and others in other counties throughout the state.



Hon. Andrea Stewart-Cousins. photo credit Leslye Smith



County Executive George Latimer at AW. photo credit Leslye Smith

ArtsWestchester salutes Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins for her vision and leadership in arts and culture, for being a bright light who has helped to keep the arts alive and vibrant, and for (literally!) dancing in the streets with us as we work to share the joy and power of the arts with the residents and visitors to Westchester County.

For more than 30 years, Westchester County Executive George Latimer has been working to enhance Westchester County's economy and quality of life for residents and visitors – and the arts have always been on his agenda. Since his early days as a County Legislator, later as Chairman of the Board of Legislators, a New York State Assemblyman and New York State Senator, County Executive Latimer has been vocal about his belief that the arts are part of what makes Westchester unique and successful. As a resident of Rye for 35 years, he has always considered the Sound Shore cultural community his "spiritual home," often frequenting exhibitions at The Rye Arts Center, enjoying music at the Emelin Theatre and attending arts events at the Mamaroneck Artists Guild.

During his administration, County Legislator Latimer has increased the County's support of the ArtsWChallenge Grants program, a public/private partnership that provides matching grants to arts groups that raise new private funds, and he has also increased his investment in other key ArtsWestchester programs, including the ArtsMobile. The County Executive and his colleagues on the Westchester County Board of Legislators agree

that the future of America, and of Westchester County, comes when we invest in programs and opportunities for residents that address their quality-of-life aspirations. Thanks to decades of leadership and support by County Executive Latimer, Westchester County is poised to become one of New York's most creative economies, with fast-growing employment in the arts & culture sector and an economic impact of more than \$182 million annually.

ArtsWestchester's gala event—begins at 6 p.m. on November 14 at The Capitol Theatre in Port Chester. Guests will walk a red carpet into the theatre and enjoy live music, food and drink in this iconic cultural venue. Funds raised will support ArtsWestchester's cultural programs and services.

Tickets and further information are available at <https://artswestchester.org/gala/>.

Harrison High School Students Will Perform at Area All-State Festival



Twenty-three Harrison High School students were selected for the 2023 NYSSMA Area All-State Festival, based on their excellent performance and scores at last spring's NYSSMA Solo Festivals. This honor identifies them among the best young musicians in Westchester County. The honor ensembles, composed of 10th - 12th-grade students from across Westchester, have begun rehearsals in preparation for their performances on November 4th and 5th at New Rochelle High School. Bravo to our student musicians! CONCERT BAND: Rina Iwasaki, Hana Ashie, Hana Yamazaki, Noah Birnbaum, Mei Maehara, Alvin Wong; MIXED CHORUS: Ella Zamek, Ai Yamamoto, Kayla Sander, Elvis Njuguna, Justin Suozzo, Joey Lippie-Smetana; STRING ORCHESTRA: Michael Krachenfels, Matthew Corsino, Mizuki Horiuchi; SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA: William Pflieger, Aidan Grant, Asahi Arai, Matthew Perez; TREBLE CHORUS: Lucy Neureuther, Lucia Lammers, Stefania Verbitsky; ALTERNATE: Beverly Kang.

WCC Students Transition to Universities with Scholarships from SUNY WCC/PepsiCo Foundation Partnership

Ten students from Westchester Community College (WCC) have recently been selected to receive a S.M.I.L.E. (Success Matters in Life and Education) scholarship from the PepsiCo Foundation. This scholarship is part of the PepsiCo Foundation's Community College Scholarship Program – which was established in 2021 to address the issue of underrepresentation in high-demand fields.

The PepsiCo Foundation's community college program includes two types of scholarships – Uplift Scholarships for students seeking two-year associate degrees or trade certificates and S.M.I.L.E. scholarships for community college graduates transitioning to four-year colleges.

The PepsiCo Foundation S.M.I.L.E. Scholarship awards two-year scholarships of up to \$25,000 per year (\$50,000 total) to students from historically underserved communities. Each scholar also receives access to resources such as financial literacy courses and is assigned a professional mentor from PepsiCo to provide guidance and support along their educational journey. To qualify, students must be transitioning to complete their bachelor's degree in a business or STEM field in full-time undergraduate study at an accredited four-year college or university in the U.S.

WCC and the PepsiCo Foundation recently announced the latest cohort of 10 WCC 2023 graduates who were selected as S.M.I.L.E. Scholarship recipients. The scholars and their current schools are:

- Daniela Bloom-Pavon – SUNY Binghamton Uni.
- Wellington Castro – Pace University

- Sashawn Francis – CUNY Lehman College
- Adriana McFadden – CUNY Queens College
- Shirley Montenegro – Pace University
- Tyfanna Moulton – Kennesaw State University
- Ramon Perez – Kennesaw State University
- Jason Uyaguari – CUNY Hunter College
- Joan Waldron – Columbia University
- Khayri West – Pace University

To learn more about this opportunity, visit www.sunywcc.edu/admissions/scholarships/pepsico-foundation-smile.

"SUNY WCC is proud to continue its relationship with PepsiCo to further our shared commitment to diversity and access in higher education," said Dr. Belinda S. Miles, President of Westchester Community College. "Those of our students who were selected for the S.M.I.L.E. Scholarship have distinguished themselves for their academic excellence and dedication. They are typical of the thousands of students who come to SUNY WCC for an affordable option before continuing their studies at a four-year institution."

"Driving lasting change is our focus at the PepsiCo Foundation, and what better way to do that than to invest in the education and future of the next generation," said C.D. Glin, President of the PepsiCo Foundation and Global Head of Social Impact at PepsiCo. "A single scholarship can be the catalyst for these ambitious students to complete their education, build generational wealth within their families, and contribute to a stronger community for all."

Purchase College Opera Presents Family Favorite, Hansel and Gretel, for The Holidays

This holiday season, Purchase Opera will present a playful version of Humperdinck's Hansel and Gretel for families and adults of all ages in the Recital Hall in the Conservatory of Music.

"Hansel and Gretel is an enchanting introduction to opera for young audiences and a perennial favorite of regular opera-goers who delight in the charming folk music," according to Jacque Trussel, director of Purchase Opera and Purchase College Conservatory of Music's Voice and Opera Studies.

Performances will be held on Thursday, December 7, Friday, December 8, and Saturday, December 9, at 7:00 p.m., and a matinee performance on Sunday, December 10 at 1:00 p.m. At the Sunday matinee, children are invited to come in costume, take photos with the cast, and enjoy a special sweet treat.

Based on the popular fairytale by the Brothers Grimm, this energetic opera, composed by Engelbert Humperdinck, is fully staged with elaborate sets and costumes. The opera is performed in German with English subtitles that are easy to follow for young audience members. The performance is just under 90 minutes. Admission is free.

Hansel and Gretel will feature students in the Purchase College Conservatory of Music's Voice and



Opera Studies department—a highly selective conservatory program that has won 10 top awards for its professional-level productions from the National Opera Association.

"We are thrilled to give our students the opportunity to perform this timeless piece—and also provide the community with an approachable, world-class opera experience in a local venue," Jacque Trussel said.

This production is made possible with support from the Westchester Community Foundation - Ruddyard & Emanuella Reimss Fund; The Emily Grant Opera Performance and Production Fund; The L. Werlinich Opera Production Endowment; and the Purchase College Foundation.

For more information about the college, visit www.purchase.edu.

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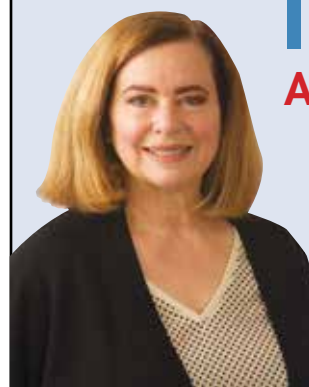
HHS Seniors to Perform with All-State Orchestra and Chorus



Noah Birnbaum, Ai Yamamoto, and Justin Suozzo

Congratulations to Harrison High School seniors Ai Yamamoto (Violin) and Justin Suozzo (Voice) for qualifying to perform with the 2023 New York State School Music Association (NYSSMA) All-State Orchestra and Chorus. Ai performs in both the HHS Orchestra and Chorus, and Justin Suozzo is a member of the HHS Chorus. Senior Noah Birnbaum, who performs in the HHS Concert Band, Marching Band, and Percussion Ensemble earned the position of alternate on Snare Drum.

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Harrison Teachers Honored at Tenure Celebration



Family, friends, and colleagues gathered at the district's annual tenure celebration on September 28 in the Performing Arts Center at Harrison High School. Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Louis Wool welcomed the attendees and honorees, and called the celebration one of his favorite events of the year because it recognizes professionals who are "dedicated to the craft of teaching and truly seeing the students in front of them." He went on to describe the many meetings, evaluations, and considerations that precede granting tenure in Harrison and recognized the recipients as professionals who embody the district's core values in their classrooms. Each school principal honored tenure

recipients, by discussing their commitment to students and dedication to their profession. Harrison High School: Christopher Grippo, Daniel Logue, Matthew Radoslovich, Anita Rodriguez-Gougherty, Rosemarie Angilletta; LMK Middle School: Lauren Cregier, Philip Gussman, Sara Hansen, Renee Kegley, Jenny Lona, Amy Price, Toby Ring, Toby Ring, Danielle Viverito; Harrison Avenue Elementary School: Elizabeth Argiro; Parsons Elementary School: Alexa Pie, Jaqueline Santore, Silje Jeffers, Kokoe Tanaka-Suwan; Purchase Elementary School: Kokoe Tanaka-Suwan; Preston Elementary School: Sharlene Ferrer, Angela Fultz, Paige Mangione, Dominique Payano.

Debate Team Posts Another Strong Start to Season

The Harrison High School Debate Team is off to another strong start. The National Speech & Debate Association currently ranks Jack Borman as the #8 Lincoln-Douglas debater nationally, with Jack Gessner at #10. In New York State our students are ranked #1 (Borman), #2 (Gessner), #4 (Reese), #8 (Samantha Ramirez), #9 (Brooke), and #10 (Jouseline Alvarez).

The team has earned four bids to the Tournament of Champions (TOC) and cleared debaters to elimination rounds at every tournament they've attended. Jack Borman has earned three qualifying bids to the TOC so far, placing 5th at the national Season Opener tournament and at Valley's national tournament in Iowa, in addition to being 2nd speaker at Greenhill's national tournament in Dallas. Jack Gessner placed 10th at Yale's tournament, where he was the 6th speaker, Brooke Schiano-Gonzalez earned her first TOC bid at Valley, and Reese Potash reached elimination rounds at the Season Opener and Bronx. Additionally, Andrew Gaffin and Adeena Naeem both reached elimination rounds at Yale, and Beverly Kang and Elizabeth Nicaj were 2nd place in their divisions at the Lexington JV Round Robin. At the Bronx NYCFL tournament, Andrew Gaffin was 1st place and top speaker, Adeena Naeem placed 2nd, Liz Nicaj placed 3rd, and Beverly Kang placed 5th in the varsity division. In the novice division, Atharv Gandhi placed 9th, Flynn Williams placed 15th, and Kayli Kyu was the 9th speaker.



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Accolades only awarded to Debra Strati-Padawer.

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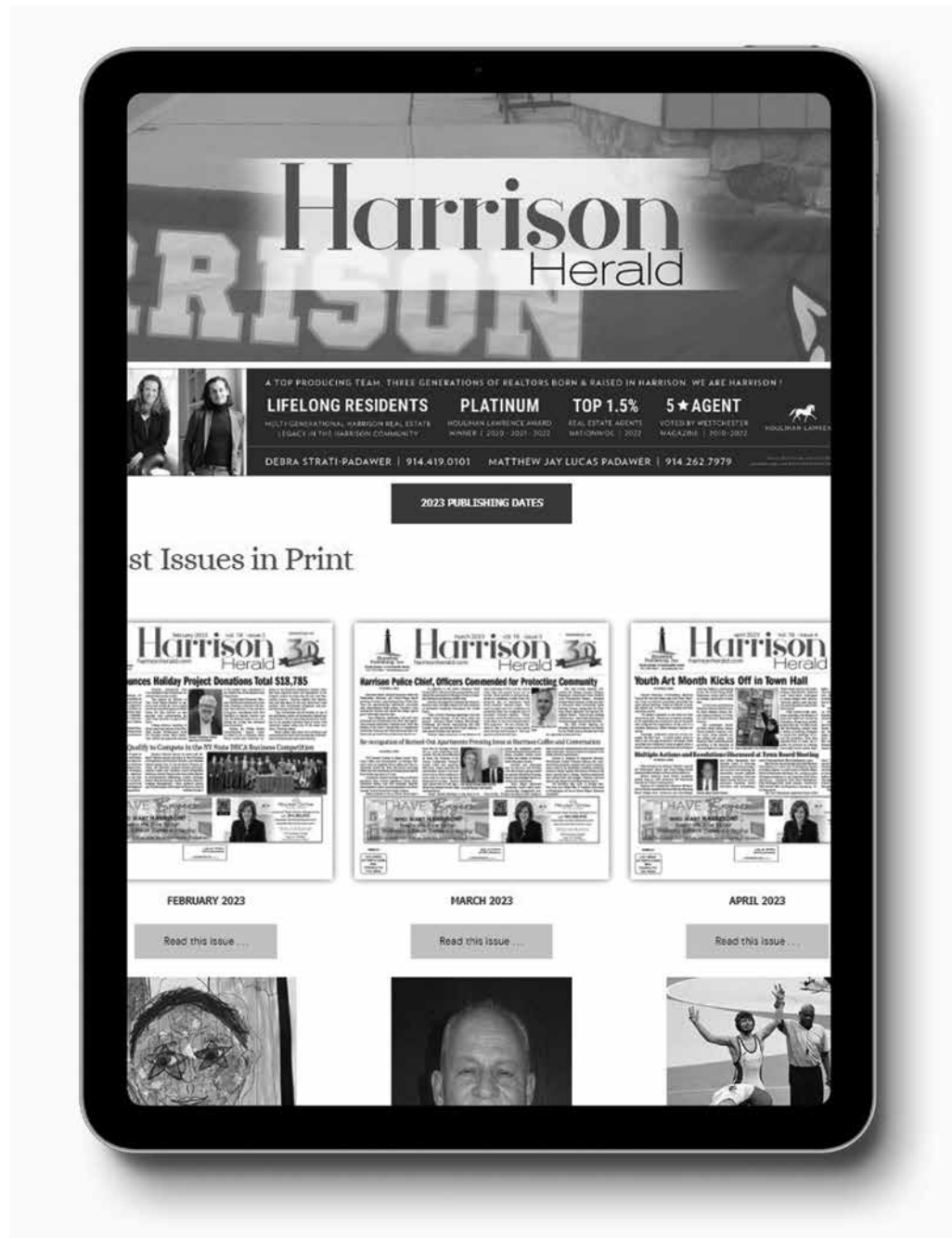


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Senator Mayer and Assemblymember Benedetto Legislation to Use Appropriate Language for People with Disabilities

New York State Senator Shelley B. Mayer announced that her legislation with Assemblymember Michael Benedetto, S.4041A/A.7258A, to replace certain instances of the words “handicapping conditions” with “disabilities” was signed into law by Governor Kathy Hochul on September 14.

This legislation modernizes New York Education Law to be consistent with Federal Law and accepted phrasing conventions. Prior to this legislation, New York Law had not modernized the language used to describe people with varying abilities since 1976, despite an update to Federal Law in 1990. With this change, New York Education Law will reflect the state’s recognition of the dignity and worth of people with disabilities.

New York State Senator Shelley B. Mayer said, “I am pleased New York is taking another step in modernizing New York Education Law by ensuring we use appropriate language for people with disabilities. Previous phrasing is outdated, and this change reflects our commitment to recognizing people with varying abilities. I thank Assemblymember Michael Benedetto for championing this legislation in the Assembly, and Governor Kathy Hochul for signing it into law. I also thank the Executive Director of the New York State Association of Counties, Stephen Acquario for your assistance in crafting this legislation.

Assemblymember Michael Benedetto said, “As a former special education teacher with over two decades of experience, I deeply understand the significance of ensuring that every individual receives dignified and respectful treatment. For far too long, our education laws have not aligned with these fundamental values. I am delighted to collaborate with Senator Mayer to rectify this situation. I extend my gratitude to Governor Hochul for signing our bill into law, and I commend the tireless efforts of the advocates who played a crucial role in pushing forward these essential reforms.”

NYSAC Executive Director Stephen Acquario said, “Words matter, and our fellow New Yorkers with disabilities deserve to have their dignity respected by the language of the laws of our state. Senator Mayer has long been a champion of legislation to modernize our state laws with respect to people with disabilities, and we’re incredibly proud to have partnered with her on this important legislation to ensure the text of our laws reflect the values of our people. This is a tremendous win for the disabled community, and we thank Senator Mayer for pushing this legislation across the finish line and applaud Governor Hochul for signing this bill into law.”



State Senator Shelley B. Mayer

Manhattanville College’s School of Nursing and Health Sciences Offers Master’s Degree in Nursing

The Manhattanville College School of Nursing and Health Sciences today announced that it will offer a master’s degree in nursing, the Nurse Leader track, as part of its efforts to prepare nurses for increasingly demanding roles in the profession.

The 36-credit, online Master of Science degree program, offered beginning this spring, will prepare students to assume healthcare leadership roles. The program is designed for nurse managers and others seeking positions in nursing leadership. Accelerated 7-week semesters will allow students to complete the program in 18 months.

“As the healthcare profession becomes more complex, we need nursing leaders who understand how to apply critical skills to improve the quality of patient care,” said Debra Simons, Dean of the School of Nursing and Health Sciences, Ph.D. “Adding the Nurse Leader track will help build a pipeline of diverse nursing leaders who will improve the culture and environment within their own workplaces and the outcomes, efficiency, and accessibility for their patients and communities. We believe that by nurturing the values of compassion, integrity, and service, our graduates will not only excel in their clinical expertise but also make a lasting impact on the well-being of our society.”

Dating back to the early 1900s, Manhattanville has been addressing critical needs in the community. “At the heart of our mission is educating ethical and socially responsible leaders,” said Manhattanville Provost Christine Dehne, M.F.A. “This program exemplifies not only our commitment to fulfilling our mission but to meeting the needs of the workforce. There is an ever-increasing demand for highly-prepared healthcare professionals in the New York area and this program will help fulfill that need.”

This is the latest offering to be added by the school since its opening in 2020. Manhattanville’s School of Nursing and Health Sciences offers another graduate degree, the Family Nurse Practitioner program. In addition to these programs, the school offers two degrees in nursing: Bachelor of Science in Nursing for traditional 4-year and transfer students as well as a Bachelor of Science in Nursing for second-degree students who already hold a bachelor’s degree and a Radiologic Technology program for students interested in careers in imaging. The nursing school is accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE).

Students interested in applying or learning more about nursing programs at Manhattanville can find more information at www.mville.edu/programs/bs-nursing.php.

To learn more, visit www.mville.edu.

Proposed County 2024 Capital Budget Released

Westchester County Executive George Latimer has submitted his 2024 Capital Budget to the Westchester County Board of Legislators for their review and consideration. The budget, which is Latimer’s sixth, includes investments in affordable housing, electric vehicles and charging infrastructure, Bronx River Parkway Rehabilitation, bridges, roads, the Westchester County Center, and flood mitigation.

Latimer said: “Westchester County’s future is built on a foundation of progress, resilience and sustainability. Our 2024 Capital Budget, the sixth of its kind under our stewardship, paves the way for a brighter tomorrow. With investments in affordable housing, electric vehicles, and critical infrastructure, we are forging a path toward a more inclusive and environmentally conscious future.”

This budget proposal requests \$473.7 million in new appropriations on an all-funds basis for 2024. This appropriations request breaks down as follows:

- \$301.6 million for general County purposes
- \$160 million for the Refuse, Sewer, and Water districts

County Budget Director Lawrence Soule said: “This Capital Budget continues the Latimer Administration’s commitment of investing in critical infrastructure, creating additional units of affordable housing, and promoting environmental sustainability.”

Housing: Affordable housing continues to be a top priority with a combined \$50 million included for land acquisition and infrastructure improvements to support the development of affordable housing within the County. An additional \$50 million is included in

2024 for the Affordable Housing Investment Fund to be funded with ARPA funds for further development of workforce housing within the County.

Planning Commissioner Blanca Lopez said: “The Capital Budget continues to prioritize financial support for the development of affordable housing based on investments to the Housing Implementation Fund, New Homes Land Acquisition, and the Affordable Housing Investment Fund, otherwise known as the Housing Flex Fund for a total of \$100 million in 2024. Furthermore, this budget also addresses the need to support our current affordable housing stock with much-needed rehabilitation assistance to local public housing authorities located throughout Westchester County.”

Environmental: Environmental conservation efforts continue with an additional \$20 million for electric vehicle charging infrastructure at County and municipal locations plus \$5 million for the EV Partnership program with local municipalities.

Director of Energy Conservation and Sustainability Peter McCartt said: “Our continued commitment to the environment and mitigation of climate change is evidenced in this budget, including the extremely innovative program to incentivize our municipalities to add on-street and public EV charging. This will be especially helpful for people living in apartments.”

- Additionally in the budget is:
- BPL26 Flood Mitigation (Local) - \$49.2 million
- Includes \$18 million appropriated for the Village of Mamaroneck, Mamaroneck, and Sheldrake Rivers (Army Corps project)

Parks: Within the County Parks System, \$25 million for County Center improvements and \$6.93 million for the Bronx River Pathway is included in the proposed Capital Budget. Additionally, \$2 million is allocated for improvements at Hilltop Hanover Environmental Center so that future generations can be educated about the benefits of environmental conservation.

Westchester County Parks Commissioner Kathy O’Connor said: “The County’s commitment and ongoing journey of rebuilding and restoring our nationally accredited parks system is reflected in the proposed 2024 Capital Budget. We are thrilled to continue improvements and reconstruction of our Parks including the County Center and the Bronx River Pathway, and we are appreciative of the support we receive from the County Executive and the Board of Legislators.”

Parkways / Bridges / Roads: Department of Public Works and Transportation Commissioner Hugh Greechan said: “As we prepare for the future, the 2024 Capital Budget reflects our commitment to sustainable transportation and the safety of our community. With \$25 million allocated for electric vehicle charging stations and related infrastructure, including \$5 million to support local municipalities in establishing their own charging stations, we are paving the way for cleaner and more accessible transportation options. Additionally, we remain dedicated to ensuring the safety and functionality of our roads and bridges, with a \$19 million request for the ongoing rehabilitation of the Bronx River Parkway. Together, we’re building a better, greener, and safer future for the residents of our County.”

Parkways

- P0024 Bronx River Parkway Rehabilitation Program; \$18.82 million in 2024 (\$81.9 million TPC); Project funds rehabilitation on the Bronx River Parkway from the Bronx/Westchester Line to the Kensico Circle. The project will provide a life span of 15 to 20 years on the asphalt roadway surface.

Bridges

- RB04J Tuckahoe Rd. Bridge, Yonkers - \$3.5 million in 2024 (\$4.4 million TPC)
- RB04N NYS Route 22 over Armonk Rd, North Castle - \$1.046 million in 2024 (\$17.5 million TPC); \$15.4 million construction programmed in 2025 includes anticipated NYS TIP \$12.4 million

- RB04P Westchester Ave over Mamaroneck River, White Plains - \$425,000 in 2024 (\$5.025 million TPC)

Roads

- RB215 Murray Ave., Mamaroneck - \$1.485 million in 2024 (TPC)
- RB219 McLean Ave., Yonkers - \$575,000 in 2024 (TPC)
- RB221 South Ridge St., Rye Brook - \$1.7 million in 2024 (TPC)
- RB222 Columbus Ave., Mount Pleasant - \$2.3 million in 2024 (TPC)
- RB225 Seven Bridges Rd., New Castle - \$2.66 million in 2024 (TPC)
- RB226 Westchester Ave., White Plains/Harrison - \$1.42 million in 2024 (\$12.2 million TPC)
- RB227 Old Mamaroneck Rd., White Plains - \$4 million in 2024 (TPC)

Transportation: Department of Public Works and Transportation Commissioner Hugh Greechan

continued on page 13

Proposed County 2024 Capital Budget Released

continued from page 12

said: “In keeping with the Latimer Administration’s dedication to environmental stewardship and passenger safety, the Department of Public Works and Transportation is thrilled to introduce an array of transformative projects. In 2024, the Bee-Line fleet will reach a momentous milestone with 100% of its buses being either hybrid or electric, solidifying Westchester County as a trailblazer in sustainable transit, setting the benchmark for bus systems nationwide.”

· Too63 New Bus Radio Systems 2023 CBA \$19.45 million Phase I - \$28.75 million TPC; To gain efficiencies in scheduling, communications, and management of the bus fleet

Refuse Disposal District: Commissioner of Environmental Facilities Vincent Kopicki said: “The Refuse District Capital Budget provides funding for solid waste and recycling infrastructure improvements, and upgrades to waste and recycling processing systems, ensuring that the County remains a leader in environ-

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mental management.”

· RD017 Material Recovery Facility and Transfer Station Rehabilitation - \$10 million in 2024 (\$73.68 million TPC); State of good repair

Sewer and Water Districts: Twelve million added for the Blind Brook Wastewater Recovery Facility biosolids handling. In Yonkers, \$17 million is included for the North Yonkers Sewer District pumping station rehabilitation, and \$25 million is included for improvements to the Yonkers Joint Treatment Plant for odor control and HVAC upgrades. \$20 million is included for the structural rehabilitation at the Ossining Water Resource Recovery Facility.

Commissioner of Environmental Facilities Vincent Kopicki said: “This Capital Budget commitment supports upgrades to the County’s sewer districts, improving resiliency and protecting the County waterways.”

Director of Energy Conservation and Sustainability Peter McCartt said: “Due to rising waters and unprecedented storms, building resiliency for our wastewater treatment facilities and other operations is another cornerstone of this budget.”

· SW033 Mount Vernon Pumping Station and Force Main 3rd Street - \$10 million existing appropriation – NYS EFC funded

Buildings: Department of Public Works and Transportation Commissioner Hugh Greechan said: “In our continuous efforts to enhance sustainability and energy efficiency, the Department of Public Works and Transportation is proud to announce ten key requests totaling \$47 million in the 2024 Capital Budget for our buildings, including parking facilities.

These initiatives underscore our commitment to environmentally responsible practices, as we invest in innovative technologies such as thermal energy storage systems and solar panel upgrades. By creating ice at night to help meet peak cooling demands and harnessing the power of solar energy, we are not only reducing our carbon footprint but also lowering operational costs. Together, we are shaping a more efficient and eco-friendly future for our communities.”

· BIT32 Mission Critical Radio Systems Replacement - \$10.4 million in 2024 (\$124 million TPC); Includes Police, Fire, and EMT communications

· Bo15E Interior Infrastructure Repairs, White Plains Complex (2021-2025) - \$8 million in 2024 (\$10.75 million TPC) MOB chillers

The Westchester County Board of Legislators will receive the proposed Capital Budget and the proposed Operating Budget and are charged with passing the County Budget by the end of December 2023.

To view the news conference, visit www.youtube.com/watch?v=gZrOZiA_NzE, and to read the budget, visit <https://www.westchestergov.com/images/stories/budget/2024/2024capitalbudgetproposed.pdf>.

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Till Death Do Us Part?



BY BERNARD A. KROOKS, ESQ.

I met with a client (Andy) last month whose wife (Mary) is very ill. She will likely spend the rest of her life in a nursing home at a cost of more than \$20,000 a month. Andy and Mary, unfortunately, had not done any advance planning and were totally devastated by her diagnosis of early-onset Alzheimer's Disease. Andy, a relatively young 68 years old was very concerned about how he and Mary would be able to pay for the catastrophic cost of her care and how Andy would be able to afford to continue to live in the family home in Westchester for the remainder of his life. After reviewing some estate planning decisions which needed to be made, Andy sheepishly asked whether divorce is a viable strategy for securing government assistance to help pay for some or all

of Mary's nursing home costs. Andy and Mary have been married for 43 years and Andy told me that he and Mary each take their wedding vows very seriously; however, Andy was a fairly successful businessman over the years, and he wanted to explore all options. Thus, the topic of divorce. Before we talk about whether divorce would be of any benefit to Andy and Mary in their situation, let's review some basics. The United States does not have a health insurance system for long-term care. If you have a chronic illness such as Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, or ALS (Lou Gehrig's Disease) then Medicare does not cover the cost of your long-term care. Some folks are able to get Medicare coverage for short-term rehabilitative care in a hospital or nursing home setting, but that type of subsidized care is time and cost limited. It will not pay for the long-term nursing home costs of Mary or anyone else. Medicaid is the only government program that will cover the costs of long-term care. However, in order to qualify, you must meet Medicaid's strict income and asset requirements. Moreover, if you are married, then you are legally responsible for the long-term care costs of your spouse. When one spouse needs nursing home care, the government counts not only the assets of the sick spouse, but also the assets of the well spouse for purposes of determining whether you meet their asset and

income requirements. Thus, moving all the assets into the name of the well spouse won't, on its own, solve the problem since the assets of both spouses are counted in the Medicaid determination. So that raises the question asked by Andy, if I'm about to put my spouse into a nursing home setting, is divorce a strategy to make her eligible for benefits, saving assets for my own future needs? Putting aside the emotional issue of getting divorced so that you don't have to pay for a spouse's care, there are other problems with this approach. For example, the divorce court, if a divorce is granted, will require an equitable distribution of your marital assets. Thus, some (approximately half, depending on the circumstances) of your marital assets would go to the sick spouse and be spent on the cost of her care. The good news is that the other half would go to the well spouse and not have to be used to pay for the sick, (now former) spouse's care. If your spouse is incapacitated, like Mary, then the court will appoint someone to look after their interests in the divorce proceedings. After discussing the foregoing, Andy asked whether he and Mary can enter into an agreement to divide assets as they wish. Some couples will enter into such agreements prior to getting married and others will do so while they are married. However, in Andy's case, Mary may not have the capacity to enter into such an agreement due to

her condition. In any event, while these types of agreements, if properly done, are generally binding on the couple, they are not binding on the government or Medicaid since they were not a party to the agreement. Thus, a marital agreement with respect to the distribution of marital assets in the event of a divorce is unlikely to protect the marital assets from the costs of long-term care. A better strategy would be to plan in advance. There are many legal strategies available, including the use of trusts that could have helped in Andy and Mary's situation. Unfortunately, many of these strategies are not effective if done while you or your spouse is on the nursing home doorstep. In addition, the rules are very complicated, and you would be well-served by seeking the advice and counsel of a Certified Elder Law Attorney prior to making any decisions. Bernard A. Krooks, Esq., is a founding partner of Littman Krooks LLP. He was 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. He was elected to the Estate Planning Hall of Fame by the National Association of Estate Planners & Councils (NAEPC). Krooks is past Chair of the Elder Law Committee of the American College of Trust and Estate Counsel (ACTEC). Mr. Krooks may be reached at (914-684-2100) or by visiting the firm's website at www.littmankrooks.com.

County Launches 'Recycle Coach' Mobile App

Westchester County's Department of Environmental Facilities (DEF) has launched a free mobile app to help make recycling and solid waste information more accessible to County residents and visitors. This app features a scanning function that uses image recognition technology to identify items. Residents will now be able to use the app to scan items in order to determine how to recycle the item. This will help residents recycling and allow for more informed purchasing decisions.

The 'Recycle Coach' app connects residents with the correct local recycling and disposal information, optional recycling event alerts, educational tools, and the tools to make purchasing decisions to reduce their waste footprint. The app includes a "What Goes Where?" search tool with local disposal information and collection requirements for common and uncommon items. It also has a product scanning feature that will let users know whether product packaging is recyclable prior to deciding on purchases, empowering residents to be informed consumers.

Local municipalities will also be able to share their municipal collection schedules, calendar of events, and provide information on service disruptions.

"Recycle Coach compliments DEF's current education efforts including the Recycling HelpLine, website, and educational flyers, offering another way for residents to access accurate recycling information," Westchester County Executive George Latimer said. "DEF looks forward to working with municipalities to begin using this free app, boost participation, and improve recycling rates countywide."

"Ultimately, the service takes the guesswork out of recycling, empowering residents to make smarter disposal decisions and take an active approach to reducing household waste," said DEF First Deputy Commissioner Lou Vetrone.

Users can access Recycle Coach for free from their desktop computers and mobile devices. The app can be downloaded from the App Store or Google Play.

For more information, visit www.westchestergov.com/recycling or call (914) 813-5425.



Coffee & Conversation at Harrison Meadows

The Town of Harrison Community Service Department held Coffee and Conversation on October 17 at Harrison Meadows County Club. The conversation was led by Harrison Police Department SRO, Joe Parello and Dr. Christopher Aloezos and Eliza Zimmer from St. Vincent's Westchester. Attendees learned the impact social media is having on our youth. SRO Parello highlighted what law enforcement sees as problematic from a safety perspective, and Dr Aloezos and Eliza Zimmerer discussed the social, emotional, and neurological impact social media can have on children. The event was very well received with about 50 people in attendance.



KIKU: Spotlight on Tradition at the NYBC

KIKU: Spotlight on Tradition, a captivating display of artfully trained Japanese chrysanthemums— known as kiku—will be on view at The New York Botanical Garden through November 12, part of NYBG Fall-O-Ween. The unique, sculptural forms of delicate chrysanthemum plants take nearly a year to grow. Visitors can marvel at this year's kiku collection in the Bourke-Sullivan Display House of the Nolen Greenhouses for Living Collections. This intimate snapshot of a generations-old artform showcases the dedication and expertise of the horticulturists at NYBG, as well as the rich cultural significance of kiku in Japanese history.

Botanical Garden experts work up to 11 months each year to grow, train, and shape the chrysanthemums. Cultivated from tiny cuttings, the plants are pinched back, tied to frames, and carefully nurtured. Flower buds develop as the autumn nights grow longer, and in October the plants burst into bloom, a true celebration of the changing of the seasons. A variety of kiku styles are featured, including small and large kengai ("Cascade"), ogiku ("Triple Stem"), edo varieties trained in the shino-tsukuri ("Driving Rain") style, and the impressive dome-shaped ozukuri ("Thousand Bloom"). Informal training styles on display will include a variety of shapes such as cones, walls, and a large bonsai tree—all made of chrysanthemums. A diversity of flower forms on view include the 13 classes of chrysanthemum, including traditional Japanese flower styles such as choji (anemone), ise/saga (brush and thistle), hosokuda (spiders), ichimonji (semi-double), and the classic higo.

For more information about KIKU: Spotlight on Tradition and to purchase tickets, visit <https://www.nybg.org/event/fall-o-ween/>



Calendar of Events

Farmers Market
Muscoot Farm
51 Route 100, Katonah
Every Sunday through November 9, 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
The weekly farmers market supports farmers and sustainable efforts in our area, featuring over 20 local vendors each week. Vendors vary every week and updates will be available on muscoot-farm.org.

Manhattanville College Performing Arts Events
A Chorus Line
November 2-5
\$5, free with Manhattanville ID. Contact BoxOffice@mville.edu for tickets.

Wine Tasting Workshop with Harrison Wine Vault
November 8, 7:00 p.m.
289 Halstead Ave, Harrison
Participants must be 21 or older and will receive a 15% discount on purchases during the event. Enjoy an evening of fine wine and good company at the Harrison Wine. The assortment to be sampled includes an assortment of wines -- white, red, rose, and orange -- perfect for holiday gatherings.
Register to reserve your spot. Call Harrison Wine Vault at 914-835-0125 for more information.

Events at the Harrison Public Library
2 Bruce Avenue, Harrison

Yoga with Angela for Adults & Teens
Thursdays, November 2, 9, 16 & 30, 4:00 p.m.
Community Room
No experience is required to join this yoga program. Dress comfortably and bring water. Mats will be available for anyone who needs one. For more information, visit www.harrisonpl.org.

Mandala Rock Painting Workshop
November 3, 3:30 p.m.
Community Room
Paint a beautiful mandala design on smooth rocks for this workshop. All materials will be provided. Teens are welcome to join us! This program is being presented in the library by the Greenwich Woods Center. Registration is recommended to reserve a spot. For more information, visit www.harrisonpl.org.

Live Performance: Reimagining the American Songbook with Abe Ovadia
November 5, 2:00 p.m.
Community Room
Join renowned jazz guitarist Abe Ovadia on a musical journey through the American Songbook like you've never experienced before. With his modern take on jazz standards, Abe will captivate audiences of all ages and backgrounds, bringing new life to classic tunes that have stood the test of time. For more information, visit www.harrisonpl.org.

"Transformations," an art exhibit of the work of Rose James
November 5-December 1.
Opening Reception, November 12, 3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
The primary focus of her art is abstracting botanica using the elements of art: line, color, shape and repetition. The gallery is open to the public during regular library hours.

Virtual Create a Masterpiece with Art Instructor Connie Manna
November 6, 7:00 p.m., Zoom Program
Artist Connie Manna will show us how to paint a masterpiece by French Impressionist artist Claude Monet. The painting is called the Magpie and depicts a lovely winter scene in shades of white and gray. No prior experience with painting is required. Registration is required to receive the Zoom link. For more information, visit www.harrisonpl.org.

Project Linus - Blankets for Babies Workshops
Tuesdays, November 7, 15, 22 and 29, 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Conference Room
Make 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. For first time knitters, librarian Giovanna Iannace will be teaching a knitting class on Thursday, November 9 at 4 p.m. For more information, visit www.harrisonpl.org.

NEW – Pilates Series
Wednesdays, November 8, 15, and 29, 4:00 p.m.
Community Room
Pilates instructor Leigh Bocchichio will be leading this new Pilates series in the library. Improve flexibility, increase muscle strength, and tone your muscles, particularly abdominal, lower back, hips, and buttocks, balance muscular strength on both sides of your body, and enhance muscular control of your back and limbs. No experience is required to participate. For more information, visit www.harrisonpl.org.

An Exciting Culinary Evening To Support New Yorkers In Need

Prepare your taste buds for an unparalleled culinary event: POTS' Harvest Dine-Around is back! Some of the most renowned Club Chefs and local purveyors in Westchester will showcase their culinary prowess, offering a diverse array of dishes catering to every palate. Featuring delicious products from Baldor Specialty Foods, there will be something to satisfy every craving.

"We are excited to organize our yearly Harvest Dine-Around event in partnership with the Club Chefs of Westchester, Baldor Specialty Foods, and Hampshire Country Club. For a decade, this event has brought together new and old friends in support of POTS' mission, and this November we will highlight the exciting new pathways we are creating for our community" said POTS' Executive Director Christina Hanson.

Amidst a vibrant atmosphere filled with mouthwatering aromas and culinary wonders, attendees will have the opportunity to contribute to the cause of fighting poverty and hunger in The Bronx. This year, the event will also be an oppor-

tunity to shed light on the incredible efforts of the organization to expand its workforce and mentoring programs to create more opportunities to break the cycle of poverty.

Proceeds from the event will directly benefit vulnerable New Yorkers. Every ticket purchased and every dish savored will make a difference in the lives of individuals and families facing food insecurity.

The Harvest Dine-Around will take place on Tuesday, November 14th from 7:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m., at Hampshire Country Club, 1025 Cove Road, Mamaroneck, New York.

Tickets to the event are \$175 and can be purchased in advance at www.bidpal.net/potsdine-around.

About Part of the Solution (POTS): For 40 years, POTS has fought poverty and hunger in The Bronx, providing emergency food, social services, and legal representation to low-income families and individuals. As one of the borough's largest non-profits, POTS serves more than 37,000 people each year. Website: www.potsbronx.org.



The Gratitude Project: Paintings and Poetry of the Poets Laureate by Hilda Demsky

Hilda Demsky has been a Larchmont artist for 50 years. She is a member of the Mamaroneck Artists Guild, has given workshops, and is very involved in the Larchmont community. On Thanksgiving 2020, The New York Times invited poets' laureate of the United States to submit, in 100 words or less, "what the people in their States would be thankful for" after the difficult year of COVID-19. More than thirty State poets laureate responded. After reading the submitted verses, Hilda felt deeply grateful to each of the poet's laureate for their beautiful words. Demsky was inspired to create a series of paintings interpreting each State poet's submission to capture visually the spirit of the poetry. Her oil paintings are on 20" X 16" canvases and contain geographic elements, symbolic use of color, and a subliminal outline of the State within it. Hilda's proposed art exhibit, entitled "The Gratitude Project," highlights The New York Times articles, the responding poet's laureate poems, and the paintings they have inspired.

The exhibit began on Wednesday, November 1, and will run through Wednesday, November 29 at the Larchmont Public Library Oresman Gallery, 121 Larchmont Ave. A reception will be held Saturday, November 4 from 2:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.

If you are interested in becoming an exhibitor, email Auriyanna Melendez at amelendez@larchmontlibrary.org or call her at 914-834-2281 x116.



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