



## Board Authorizes Funding for Police Training Courses and Fire Department Equipment Purchases

BY STEPHEN E. LIPKEN

At the Board of Trustees meeting on February 15, Harrison Town/Village Supervisor/Mayor Richard Dionisio accepted the retirement of Detective Derka Abbate, effective February 27, the cap on legal fees and related expenses was raised to \$175,000 in the matter of Willow Ridge Country Club Condemnation, and the appointment of Elizabeth Brown, Liaison between Town of Harrison and Fire District #2, was authorized.

The Board approved two requests by Police Chief John Vasta. The first was for two department members to attend Street Cop Training—Becoming the New York Traffic Law Expert on March 25 at the Putnam County Training and Operations Center in Carmel; the second was for one department member to attend the 2024 Firearms Instructor Course given by the Rockland County Police



Mayor Richard Dionisio

Academy Range in Haverstraw from April 12-26.

The Board also authorized Comptroller Maureen MacKenzie to purchase equipment for Fire District #2 from monies that were rolled into the district's fund balance at the end of 2023, Scott Air Packs for Municipal Emergency Services, and Talos Security Systems for ID Card and Access System for Downtown Fire House.

Additionally, the Board granted permission to Doreen Grozinger from the Harrison Council for the Arts to use the Municipal Building for an art reception for the Harrison Central School District's students and on April 28 from 12:00 pm. to 4:00 p.m. for the reception of Art of the Young Child, an exhibit of art and photos of the Harrison Children's Center.

Finally, the Board granted Catherine Tammaro, Director of Community Services, permission to enter into a partner agreement with Feeding Westchester.

## Harrison High School Literary Magazine Imagine Recognized for Excellence

The Harrison High School literary magazine, Imagine, received the rank of Excellent in the 2023 National Council of Teachers of English Recognizing Excellence in Art and Literary Magazines (REALM) program. Students in grades 9-12 are encouraged to submit work that is evaluated and selected for publication in Imagine by student editors. Imagine is consistently recognized among the top student literary publications in the country. The REALM program publicly recognizes excellent literary magazines produced by students with the support of their teachers and encourages schools to develop literary magazines that celebrate the art and craft of writing.



## NYC Man Sentenced to Seven Years for Illegal Gun Possession

Westchester County District Attorney Miriam E. Rocah recently announced that a New York City man was sentenced to seven years in state prison for illegal gun possession.

DA Rocah said: "This sentence is another example of my unwavering commitment to removing dangerous weapons and those who illegally possess them from our streets."

The defendant, Jose Valle, 35, of New York City, pleaded guilty on October 12, 2023, to Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the Second Degree, a felony. In addition to his sentence, the defendant will receive five years of post-release supervision.

The defendant, who has prior felony convictions, is prohibited from legally possessing firearms.

On December 28, 2022, at approximately 4:48 p.m., the Westchester County Department of Public Safety conducted a routine traffic stop on the Hutchinson River Parkway in Harrison. The defendant attempted to flee before police arrested him and recovered from the defendant's pant leg a 9mm pistol loaded with seven bullets.

The case was before Judge George Fufidio in Westchester County Court and prosecuted by Senior Assistant District Attorney Adrian Murphy of the Trials and Investigations Division.

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*Source: OKMLS, 2020-2023 individual years, total dollar volume of single family homes sold by agent, Harrison school district*



## Mastercard Executive Leads 2024 Westchester Fairfield Go Red for Women® Movement

Cara Pensabene, MD, Vice President, Global Medical Director at Mastercard, has been named Centennial Chair of the American Heart Association's Westchester Fairfield Go Red for Women movement, a worldwide initiative of the American Heart Association designed to increase women's heart health awareness and serve as a catalyst for change to improve the lives of women locally, national and globally.

This year, Go Red also celebrates 20 years of making an impact as the movement continues to make bold moves to save lives and pioneer scientific discoveries.

"I'm honored to serve as the Centennial Chair for the Westchester Fairfield Go Red for Women movement," said Dr. Pensabene. "Since 2004, Go Red for Women has addressed the awareness and clinical care gaps of women's greatest health threat, cardiovascular disease. We need to continue focusing on cardiovascular health in women because it remains the leading cause of death. The simple truth is that most cardiovascular diseases can still be prevented with education and healthy lifestyle changes."

For two decades Go Red for Women has been saving and improving women's lives by advancing equitable research and care, advocating for inclusive health policies, and raising

awareness. As women grow and change so does their risk for cardiovascular disease. Go Red for Women is here for their health and well-being at every age, stage, and season of their lives.

"The American Heart Association believes everyone deserves the opportunity for a longer, healthier life and it's been the mission to fulfill that vision and I hope we can help provide that through this campaign," said Dr. Pensabene.

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.

The 2024 Go Red for Women movement in Westchester and Fairfield Counties is nationally sponsored by CVS Health and locally by Mastercard, White Plains Hospital, Fujifilm, and Northwell Health.

This year's Go Red for Women movement and its local achievements will be celebrated on Thursday, March 21, 2024, at The Whitney Castle in Rye, NY. For more information, please visit [www.heart.org/goredwestchester](http://www.heart.org/goredwestchester).



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# Estate Planning for Retirement Accounts

By: Bernard A. Krooks, Certified Elder Law Attorney

Estate planning requires a lot of thought and involves so much more than drafting and executing a few documents. One thing you need to ensure is that your overall estate plan is coordinated with your retirement and other accounts so that your beneficiary designations do not upset what you think is a perfectly drafted estate plan. For example, if your will leaves everything to your son and daughter equally, but your 401(k) plan at work lists your daughter as the beneficiary, then she will inherit all the money in the 401(k) notwithstanding what the will says. As a general rule, a specific beneficiary designation in an account, including a retirement account, will control where the funds go upon your demise, regardless of what your will says.

Moreover, retirement account beneficiary designations present additional challenges due to the fact that, for many clients, this is where the bulk of their wealth is, and retirement plan custodians often have their own set of internal rules and policies that must be complied with; many of which don't make sense or are frustrating to deal with. Thus, in many instances, it is difficult to figure out how to complete your retirement account beneficiary designation forms, especially if you have a living trust, would like to leave money to charity, or wish to minimize income taxes. We have heard multiple horror stories from clients about some institu-

tions requiring medallion guarantees for signatures (which can be difficult to obtain), and others not allowing online beneficiary designation changes, among many others. Therefore, it is best to get your retirement account affairs in order before you become incapacitated or pass away so that your beneficiaries don't get caught up in a morass of red tape, causing delay and confusion.

If you are married, naming your spouse as the beneficiary of your retirement plan is usually (but not always, especially in a second marriage situation), the best option. This is due to the fact that a surviving spouse can "roll over" your retirement account into his/her own retirement account which typically leads to the best tax results. If you are re-married and have children from a prior marriage, there may be better options available to you that would involve the use of a trust to ensure that your children inherit the portion of your retirement account that you intend for them to have. However, this area of the law is fraught with traps for the unwary so please make sure you proceed with a competent estate planning attorney.

If you have charitable intentions, leaving



money to a charity from a retirement account is often an excellent choice since the charity will not have to pay income taxes on the distributions from the retirement account after your death. Whereas, if you name an individual as the beneficiary of your retirement account, he/she will have to pay income taxes on the distributions. Thus, if you leave your \$100,000 retirement account to your daughter, depending on her own personal tax situation, she may have to pay \$35,000 in taxes and would net only \$65,000 from your retirement account. If you left the \$100,000 retirement account to a charity, the charity would net the entire \$100,000, a much better result. You could leave your daughter \$100,000 from a non-retirement account and she would receive the entire \$100,000 since income taxes would not be owed on a non-retirement bequest.

The recently enacted SECURE Act made significant changes to retirement plan distributions, including eliminating the stretch IRA, except in the case of eligible designated beneficiaries (EDB). An EDB is a spouse, a disabled or chronically ill individual, an individual who is not more than 10 years younger than you, or a

minor child. For EDBs, the stretch IRA still lives and can result in significant financial and tax benefits to your family if all the relevant criteria are met. However, please note that the rules are complicated, especially if you want to leave your retirement accounts to a trust. A trust could be a good idea if you are concerned about protecting retirement assets from the cost of long-term care for a disabled or chronically ill beneficiary.

Retirement account beneficiary designations can be challenging, and it is important that they be coordinated with the overall estate plan. When updating your estate plan, do not forget to include a review of all your beneficiary designations, including retirement plans.

*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 a 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](http://www.littmankrooks.com).*



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# New Law Requires Merchants to Provide Clear Disclosure of Credit Card Surcharges to Consumers

Westchester County Executive George Latimer, New York State Assemblywoman Amy Paulin, and County Director of Consumer Protection Jim Maisano are working together to ensure that residents are well-informed about a new law aimed at promoting transparency in credit card transactions. This new state law, which went into effect on February 11, 2024, mandates that merchants in New York State must provide clear and conspicuous disclosure of credit card surcharges to consumers.

Latimer said, "Transparent pricing is essential for consumers to make informed decisions. This new law will empower Westchester residents by ensuring they have clear visibility into any credit card surcharges they may incur, and I thank my colleague in government Assemblywoman Paulin for her efforts on its passage and Governor Hochul for signing it into law."

Paulin added, "This new law protects New Yorkers from hidden surcharges by requiring sellers to clearly post the price of a credit card surcharge. Credit card surcharges now have to be disclosed clearly so that customers are fully aware of them upfront and not just when they go to pay. The new law also prevents businesses from charging a higher fee than what they are charged by the credit card companies. This legislation is ultimately about transparency, fairness, and preventing consumers from being misled when making purchases using credit cards. I thank Jim Maisano, Director of the Westchester County Department of Consumer Protection, for bringing this important issue to my attention. His idea is now a law which will protect



New Yorker consumers."

The new law limits credit card surcharges to the amount charged to the business by the credit card company and requires businesses to clearly display the total price inclusive of any surcharges before checkout. It aims to prevent consumers from being surprised by hidden fees and ensures that they have a clear understanding of the costs associated with credit card transactions.

Maisano said, "This law reinforces the principles of fairness and transparency in commercial transactions. We are committed to ensuring that consumers are protected from deceptive practices, and this legislation is a significant step forward in achieving that goal."

For more information on the implementation of this law and consumer rights, residents are encouraged to contact the Westchester County Department of Consumer Protection.

Learn more about Westchester County by visiting [www.westchestergov.com](http://www.westchestergov.com).

# Artistree Community Theatre Announces Second Annual Production – Guys and Dolls

The Artistree Community Theater has announced that its second annual production, the beloved musical Guys and Dolls, is set to dazzle audiences from July 11-13, 2024, at the Emelin Theatre in Mamaroneck. Following the resounding success of Bye Bye Birdie in its inaugural year, the Artistree Community Theater is poised for an even more ambitious season, under the direction of Lexie Frere, whose vision will bring this classic tale to life.

A public benefit concert for Guys and Dolls will be held on Thursday, March 14 at St. Thomas Church in Mamaroneck. The concert will feature musical performances from the cast of Bye Bye Birdie and the Artistree staff of teaching artists. Tickets are on sale now at [artistreecommunity.org](http://artistreecommunity.org) and 100% of the proceeds go to putting on the summer show.

Artistree Community Theater Founder and Executive Director, Heather Capelle, shared, "The community theater has made significant strides in its first year to unite people of all ages and abilities through the magic of musical theater. We already have incredible interest in Guys and Dolls, and we have big plans to raise enough funds to ensure we can meet the demand of everyone who wants to participate. More shows, superior sets and costumes, and strategic partnerships with community businesses are all part of the plan for our second season."

The upcoming production of Guys and Dolls represents a unique opportunity for local businesses and families to align with their mission, connecting with thousands of residents and making a meaningful impact on the success of its programming. Businesses or individuals interested in supporting Artistree Community Theater as a partner are asked to contact Heather Capelle. A goal has been set to raise \$35,000 to produce



Guys and Dolls. Donations of any size are welcome and can be made at [artistreecommunity.org/donate](http://artistreecommunity.org/donate).

Bye Bye Birdie cast member Christopher Derhammer-Hill had this to say about his experience, "Whether working on the set, shining in the ensemble, or holding down a feature role, we are nourished by that creative process. We learn to support our fellow actors, guide each other, and grow with each other – all in support of the production."

In anticipation of the summer production, the Artistree Community Theater invites the Sound Shore to mark their calendars for Guys and Dolls auditions on May 7 and 8.

Artistree Community Theater was founded in 2022 and is dedicated to creating theatrical opportunities for all interested in the performing arts, regardless of age or income. We aim to build a vibrant, creative community where the performing arts are explored and celebrated, enriching the lives of our members and our audience. For more information contact: Heather Capelle Email: [info@artistreearts.com](mailto:info@artistreearts.com)

For more information about Artistree Community Theater and Guys and Dolls, visit [www.artistreecommunity.org](http://www.artistreecommunity.org) or, on social media, go to @artistreecommunity on Instagram.

# Dan Pauletti of Rye Brook Among Scholar-Athletes Committed to Play Collegiate Sports

Three Iona Preparatory School scholar-athletes, including Dan Pauletti, 17, of Rye Brook, committed to playing collegiate sports as part of the school year's second National Signing Day on February 7. Dan, who plays Center/Offensive Line, also received offers from Merrimack College, Sacred Heart University, Hobart College, and New Haven University. While at Iona Prep, he played football for four years, baseball for two years, and was a member of the Strength & Conditioning and Sports Management Clubs.

His accomplishments include being a CHSFL Semifinalist in 2022 and 2023; a Member of the 2021 CHSFL & New York State Catholic Football Championship Team; a CHSFL All-league and All-County player; a recipient of the CHSFL Golden Eleven Award, which goes to top student-athletes in the CHSF; and a Westchester County Golden Dozen Finalist. He was also a Team Captain of the 2023 football team.

The ESPN-style event held at the Tully Gym included remarks by Athletic Director Ryan Mahoney, Varsity Football Head Coach Joe Spagnolo, and other school dignitaries, with proud parents, teachers, and fellow students watching remotely on LocalLive.

For more information on Iona Prep, visit [IonaPrep.org](http://IonaPrep.org)



On the right, Dan Pauletti, 17, of Rye Brook, NY bw

# Spring – Oil Paintings by Jacqueline Davis

The Harrison Public Library presents Spring, oil paintings by Jacqueline Davis on view March 3-29, with a Meet the Artist event on March 18 from 6:30-8:30 p.m.



Jacqueline, who creates contemporary artworks in oils, developed a love for painting with oils after studying at the Art Students League in New York and taking workshops with working artists around the East Coast, eventually painting full-time herself.

Jacqueline has a strong design background. Originally from England, she graduated with a B.A. in Design as well as a Post-Graduate Certificate in Education from Manchester (UK). She has worked in Graphic Design, led a High School Design and Technology department for several years, and then ran a ceramics business.

She began oil painting with a passion about 10 years ago and has recently returned to teaching, leading oil painting classes within Adult Education.

Jacqueline has exhibited her work locally at The Edward Hopper House, Nyack, The Blue Door Gallery, Yonkers, The Mamaroneck Artists Guild, and The Rye Arts Center.

# Westchester County Executive George Latimer Empowers Inclusion in Sports through Partnership with RISE

Recognizing the ever-changing environment for today's youth due to global political events, Westchester County Executive George Latimer is reaffirming his dedication to fostering inclusivity in sports by collaborating with school districts, athletic departments, and parks employees. As part of this commitment, Latimer is pleased to announce an event in partnership with RISE, a national non-profit organization dedicated to promoting understanding, respect, and equality through sports.

The event, titled "Identity & Perspective Taking: Uniting Youth to Break Barriers, Build Trust, and Create Pathways for Positive Communication," was a virtual session designed to empower young athletes and coaches in Westchester County. Hosted in collaboration with Section 1 Athletics, the session invited boys and girls basketball players and coaches to engage in meaningful discussions and activities aimed at promoting inclusivity and understanding.

Through this initiative, Latimer underscores the importance of creating safe and welcoming environments for all participants in sports, regardless of their backgrounds or identities. By partnering with RISE, a renowned organization with extensive experience in promoting diversity and inclusion in sports, Westchester County aims to equip its youth with the tools and mindset necessary to foster positive change in their communities.

Latimer said: "Sports have the power to unite people from all walks of life, but it's essential that we actively work to ensure that everyone feels welcome and respected. In today's charged climate, it is vital that we are taking



George Latimer

meaningful steps toward building a more equitable and compassionate sporting community in Westchester County."

The event featured interactive discussions, activities, and insights from RISE facilitators, providing participants with valuable perspectives and strategies for promoting inclusivity within their teams and communities. Attendees will have the opportunity to learn from one another, share their experiences, and develop actionable plans for creating positive change in the world of sports.

## Calender Of Events

Harrison Public Library  
Halperin Building - Conference Room  
Tuesdays, 2:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.  
Knitting & Crochet Group  
The Knitting & Crochet Group meets every Tuesday from 2 to 4 pm at the library.  
Feel free to share a project with the group or come by and learn to knit and crochet with us!  
For teens and adults. No experience required.  
Registration is required. Visit [www.harrisonpl.org/events/11724116](http://www.harrisonpl.org/events/11724116) to register.

Harrison Public Library  
Halperin Building - Community Room  
Saturday, March 9, 2:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.  
MIRA Workshop: Sales Tax & Establishing A Small Business  
Learn about the importance of starting a small business legally.  
For adults.  
For more information, contact Giovanna Fiorino-Iannace at (914) 835-0324.

Emelin Theatre  
153 Library Lane Mamaroneck, NY 10543  
Saturday, March 16 @ 11:00 p.m. and at 2:00 p.m.  
DOT DOT DOT: A NEW MUSICAL  
Cost: \$29 per person (\$24 for children under 12). Includes service charge.  
The production brings to life the beloved characters from Reynolds' acclaimed books – The Dot, Ish, and Sky Color. Adapted for the stage, the musical follows the journey of Marisol, a young artist and curator of the Musee de Marisol, as she embarks on a quest for emerging talent to enrich her gallery.  
Running time: 60 minutes. Recommended for ages 6-9.  
Visit [www.emelin.org/book-online/65401/](http://www.emelin.org/book-online/65401/) for tickets.

Harrison Public Library  
Halperin Building - Community Room  
Saturday, March 16, 3:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.  
How to Be Old by Lyn Slater ~ Author Event

In her personal memoir, Lyn Slater, known on Instagram as "Accidental Icon," brings her characteristic style, optimism, forward-thinking, and rules-are-meant-to-be-broken attitude to the question of how to live boldly at any age. For teens and adults.  
Registration is required. Visit [www.harrisonpl.org/events/11904552](http://www.harrisonpl.org/events/11904552) to register.

Harrison Public Library  
Halperin Building - Community Room  
Saturday, March 23, 2:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m.  
Impressionism with a Woman's Touch: American Impressionist Painter Mary Cassatt  
This talk, presented by art historian Mike Norris, features the American Impressionist Mary Stevenson Cassatt (1844-1926), whose oil paintings, pastels, and prints focused primarily on women and children engaged in everyday life. For teens and adults.  
Registration is required. Visit [www.harrisonpl.org/events/11563200](http://www.harrisonpl.org/events/11563200) to register.

Visit [www.harrisonpl.org/events/harrison](http://www.harrisonpl.org/events/harrison) for all events at the Harrison Public Library.

Emelin Theatre  
153 Library Lane Mamaroneck, NY 10543  
Saturday, April 6, 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.  
THE RAINBOW FISH  
Cost: \$29 per person (\$24 for children under 12). Includes service charge.  
This production from the Mermaid Theatre of Nova Scotia is an original stage adaptation of Marcus Pfister's award-winning children's story as well two of the author's companion tales, "Rainbow Fish Discovers the Deep Sea" and "Opposites."  
Running time: 60 minutes. Recommended for ages 4-8.  
Visit [www.emelin.org/book-online/72201/](http://www.emelin.org/book-online/72201/) for tickets.

For more information, visit <https://emelin.org/upcoming-shows/> or call 914-698-0098.

# Purchase College Professor Awarded Major Grant by New York State's Department of Environmental Conservation

Purchase College, SUNY, has announced that Dr. Allyson Jackson, Associate Professor of Environmental Studies, has been awarded a major grant of \$99,480 by New York State's Department of Environmental Conservation to support invasive species prevention.

The Purchase College grant is one of 43 projects awarded a total of \$3 million to reduce the negative impacts of invasive species on New York State's natural resources, economy, and communities. These grants are part of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's Invasive Species Grant Program, which provides funding for aquatic and terrestrial invasive species spread prevention, early detection and rapid response, lake management planning, research, and education and outreach.

The Purchase College grant will provide 3 years of funding to help combat invasive species in

the Blind Brook Forest on the eastern side of the campus. Parts of this forest are at least 100 years old, and it has a diverse community of plants and animals.

Due to the construction of Broadview, the new senior living community on campus, part of the forest had to be cut down to connect to the sewer line, leaving a corridor that allows invasive species to move into the forest. As invasive species can take over a forest and kill many of the trees without management, this grant will provide funding to actively remove invasive species from that area and replant native trees and shrubs.

Dr. Jackson said, "The majority of this funding is going toward hiring full-time student technicians in the summer and paid student internships during the academic year for the next 3 years. I'm really excited to be able to provide ed-

ucational hands-on work experiences for our students, while also taking care of the forest that we all love so deeply. With our help, the forest will be able to recover and regrow and we will be able to help protect this environment for years to come."

Dr. Ryan Taylor, Chair of the Environmental Studies Department, said, "The entire Environmental Studies department is eager to start implementing this restoration project. Our students come to college wanting to change the world for the better, and thanks to Dr. Jackson's visionary efforts and this generous grant, they have a tangible way they can make a significant impact."

Dr. Rudolf Gaudio, Director of the School of Natural and Social Sciences at Purchase said, "This award recognizes Dr. Jackson's commitment to scientific research and teaching that serves the needs of our campus, our community, and our planet. Environmental Studies thrives at Pur-

chase College!"

Purchase College President Dr. Milagros (Milly) Peña said, "I congratulate Dr. Jackson on this prestigious grant and on her dedication to inspiring the next generation of environmental scientists and stewards of the environment. I believe this work will have a profound impact on our students and on our community."

The grants are supported by the State's Environmental Protection Fund (EPF). The EPF is a critical resource for environmental programs such as land acquisition, farmland protection, invasive species prevention and eradication, recreation access, water quality improvement, and environmental justice projects.

The Invasive Species Grant Program is ad-

CONTINUED OF PAGE 13



# Latimer Highlights Success of CDBG Program



When County Executive George Latimer first took office in 2018, the Westchester Urban County Consortium was defunct. Westchester County's municipalities were not eligible to apply for Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) due to non-compliance with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Fair and Affordable Housing Settlement of 2010.

One of Latimer's top priorities was to reestablish the Urban County Consortium, and the ability for municipalities, primarily towns and villages, to apply for CDBG grants. The County had been missing out on millions of potential dollars in CDBG funding each year that could be used for infrastructure improvements, and community development projects. Since Latimer re-established the CDBG program in 2019, more than \$41 million in CDBG funds has been awarded across Westchester County.

To re-establish the Consortium, Latimer convened a meeting of the eligible municipalities with regional HUD representatives. The County, through the Planning Department, then worked directly with each municipality to advise them on the benefits, responsibilities, and application process for the program.

Latimer said: "Because of the previous administration's non-compliance with a legal settlement, Westchester County's communities were forced to miss out on millions of dollars in much-needed funding from this federal program. The year 2019 was the first year these grants had been received in Westchester since 2010, and I am proud to report that since that time, over \$41 million in funding has been awarded to our participating municipalities for projects like sidewalk repairs, park improvements, handicapped accessible vans, senior center programs and more. I know our local communities truly see the value in this program, which has had the power to make a real difference across Westchester County."

Since 2019, Westchester County has been eligi-

ble to apply for three grant programs:

- Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) which provides funds to local municipalities and nonprofits for physical facilities and public services;
- HOME Program which provides funds to developers of affordable housing; and
- Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) which provides funds to non-profits for homeless eviction programs.

The funding totals below are broken down by calendar year:

- 2019 - \$4,425,256
- 2020 - \$4,666,010 (annual allocation)

\$10,845,298.33 (CDBG and ESG Covid-related funds)

- 2021 - \$5,751,471 (annual allocation)
- \$4,005,057 (HOME Covid-related funds)
- 2022 - \$5,729,928
- 2023 - \$5,873,193
- Total funding since 2019 - \$41,296,413.33

Commissioner of the Westchester County Department of Planning Blanca Lopez said: "As the administrator of CDBG funds for the Urban County Consortium, the Department of Planning joins in the celebration of highlighting the good work done by Consortium municipalities using Community Development Block Grant funds. This is a special year for the program as it marks its 50th Anniversary. The Program was enacted by Congress in 1974 and provides much-needed funding to eligible municipalities for their infrastructure, housing, and economic development projects and public services. Here's to another fifty years, CDBG!"

Since 2019, 31 municipalities have joined the Westchester Urban County Consortium. Local municipalities are Bronxville, Larchmont, Mamaroneck Town, Mamaroneck Village, Village of Pelham, Port Chester, Rye Brook, Rye Town, Scarsdale, and Tuckahoe.

# Alzheimer's Association Launches AlzWell Social Club in Westchester

Free Dementia-Friendly Creative Programs

On select Sundays beginning March 10, the Alzheimer's Association Hudson Valley Chapter welcomes community members to its free AlzWell Social Club at the JCC Mid-Westchester.

The AlzWell Social Club is a fun, friendly afternoon of activities designed specifically for people with early-stage dementia or other memory impairment and their families. The program includes lunch, a choice of three creative programs, and a musical performance. The creative programs will vary and can include art, dance, or music groups; a book club; writing workshops; book making; art journaling; and a drama group that will work collaboratively on a short play.

Meg Boyce, vice president of programs and services for the Alzheimer's Association says, "Our goal is to create a welcoming place for people living with Alzheimer's or other dementia. You can meet people facing similar challenges, make new friends, and most importantly, have an enjoyable, relaxing afternoon."

The AlzWell Social Club will meet at JCC Mid-Westchester, 999 Wilmet Rd., Scarsdale, NY

10583 on the following Sundays, March 10 & 17, April 14 & 21, May 5, 19 & 26, and June 2 & 30, from 12:30-3:30 p.m.

Free, but registration is required.

For more information or to register for the Social Club, visit the Alzheimer's Association Hudson Valley Chapter, visit [www.alz.org/hudsonvalley/helping\\_you/social-programs/alzwell\\_social\\_club](http://www.alz.org/hudsonvalley/helping_you/social-programs/alzwell_social_club) or call 800-272-3900. In addition to AlzWell, the Chapter offers a range of free programs and services for people impacted by dementia in Westchester as well as Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, Sullivan, and Ulster counties.

About the Alzheimer's Association

The Alzheimer's Association is a worldwide voluntary health organization dedicated to Alzheimer's care, support, and research. Our 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. Our vision is a world without Alzheimer's and all other dementia®. Visit [alz.org](http://alz.org) or call 800.272.3900.

# Harrison High School Students Earn Top Awards at Regional Science Symposium



Members of the Harrison High School Astronomy Club (L-R): Matthew Basso, Siobhan Rice, Stella O'Connell, Julianna Blackman, Noelle Boquet Couderc, Aleshanee Sari Melendez, Brendany Gomez Portillo.

Harrison Science Research students earned multiple awards at the regional Junior Science & Humanities Symposium in January. Seven Science Research students advanced to the Upstate Competition of the Junior Science & Humanities Symposium at the University of Albany from the Regional Competition; this was Harrison's best showing ever. The following Harrison High School Students earned awards and will advance to the state competition later this month: Lucia Lammers, 1st Environmental Sciences; Stella Perini, 1st Medicine and Health; Alec Udell, 1st Environmental Sciences; Galle Blaustein, 2nd Cellular and Molecular Biology; Emma Jonisch, 2nd Medicine and Health; Filippa Rasmussen, 2nd Behavioral Sciences; Stella O'Connell, 4th Cellular and Molecular Biology. Congratulations to the following students who won in the local division: Ben Gold, 1st Bioinformatics; Katie McCann, 1st Medicine and Health; Mason Danzig, 3rd Behavioral Sciences.





## Benjamin Moore Reinvents Regal® Select Interior Paint Enhanced Formula Designed to Withstand the Mess of Modern Life

Benjamin Moore, North America's favorite paint, color and coatings brand, has reinforced its Regal® Select Interior paint to stand up to the demands of everyday life like never before. The enhanced formulation features proprietary stain-release technology, increased scuff-resistance and washes clean without compromising color or sheen integrity.

Regal® Select is the paint that generations of painting professionals and homeowners have relied on for years to deliver the premium-quality results that Benjamin Moore is known for. Its smooth application and unbeatable flow and leveling allow painters to achieve professional results every time. The durable, washable finish enables easier clean-up of common household stains such as pencil, crayon, coffee and more, across all Benjamin Moore colors.

"For more than 60 years, Regal® Select has been the brand of time-tested premium interior paint that quality-minded professionals and homeowners trust," said Alyssa Scagnelli Figiel, Senior Product Manager at Benjamin Moore. "Our R&D and product development teams sought to make this tried-and-true interior paint even better by ensuring it delivers a flawless finish that is both beautiful and functional, resisting stains, scuffs and daily wear and tear."

To commemorate the launch, the brand has also developed a new creative campaign, entitled "Lovestruck Objects", that showcases a fresh take on what consumers think of when they think of Benjamin Moore. In two new creative spots, the brand features how much objects in the home love the durable qualities of Regal® Select; maybe even, a little more than the homeowners themselves!

The campaign was developed by independent creative agency, FIG.

Available in Flat, Matte, Eggshell, Satin/Pearl and Semi-Gloss finishes, Regal® Select Interior can be tinted in 3,500+ Benjamin Moore colors and is available exclusively at locally owned retailers throughout the US, Canada and international distributors. To learn more or to locate a retailer near you, visit [benjamin-moore.com](http://benjamin-moore.com).



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## 3 Tricks to Find the Right Home



For those beginning the process of home buying, there are many factors to consider. Keep these ideas in mind as you conduct your search - whether it's online or at a series of open houses.

### Consider Future Needs

Because life is always evolving, it's important to move into a home that has enough space for your family's anticipated changes. While features and space are always prime considerations, don't forget to, look into the area schools, day care options, parks and other kid-friendly amenities if you plan to grow your family in your next home.

### Look for Flexible Spaces

Seek homes that offer rooms with multiple functions. For example, an office area may be suitable for a small child's room, or a sunroom may be converted to a laundry area down the road. Unfinished basements are also blank canvases that can be customized to meet your family's wants and needs.

### Get to Know the Area

The purchase of a home goes well beyond the property line. Be sure to examine the neighborhood in which the house is situated. From the condition of the neighbors' houses to highway access and the proximity of necessities like grocery stores and gas stations, be sure to take every factor into account to help ensure you're selecting the right location.

Find more tips to aid you in your home search at [eLivingtoday.com](http://eLivingtoday.com).



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# Questions to Ask When Considering Carpet on Your Stairs

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**If you already have an existing runner on your stairs, is there a defined area between the wood and the covering?** This will determine the width of your new runner.

**What is the appearance of the area along the stairs? Wallpaper, paint, etc.? Would the carpet pattern clash?** Consider the style of your existing flooring and the color of your walls and furniture.

**Do you want the runner carpet to continue in the hall?**

**Do your existing stairs have any curves, landings, etc.?** No matter how unique the shape

of your staircase may be, custom carpeting is available and affordable.

**Precise dimensions of the staircase, width of the steps, length of the risers and amount of steps is very important when ordering the correct amount of carpet.**

**Will your choice of floor covering need to be determined by the traffic flow?**

**Consider the style and aesthetic of your home when picking out the right floor covering.** The floor covering should complement and enhance the existing decor.


**Also consider how often the choice of flooring will need to be maintained.** Some materials may require more frequent cleaning and care than others.

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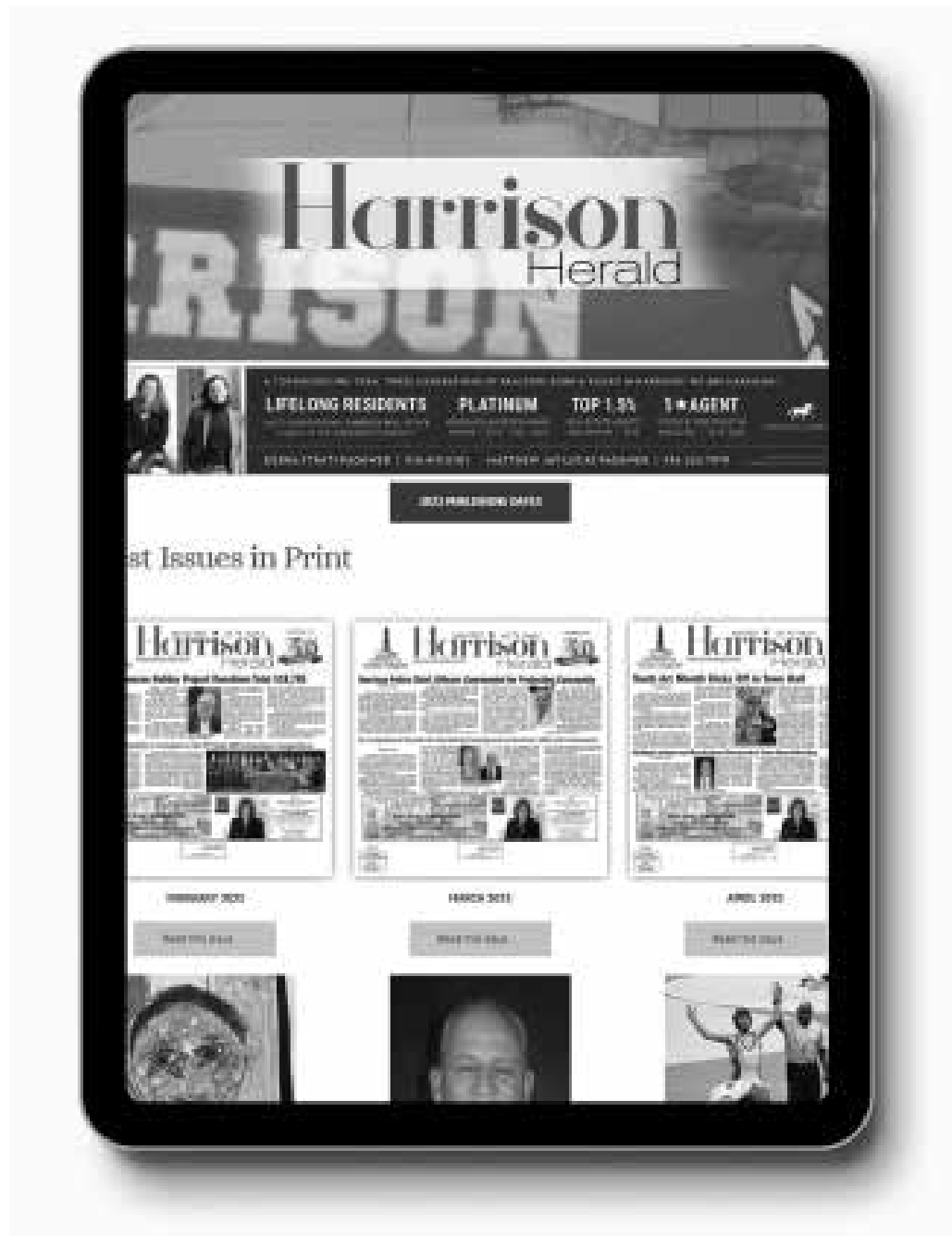
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About Purchase College, SUNY: Purchase College, part of the State University of New York (SUNY) network of 64 universities and colleges, was founded in 1967 by Governor Nelson Rockefeller. His aspiration for Purchase was to create a dynamic campus that combined conservatory

training in the visual and performing arts with programs in the liberal arts and sciences, in order to inspire an appreciation for both intellectual and artistic talents in all students. Today, Purchase College, SUNY is a community of students, faculty, and friends where open-minded engagement with the creative process leads to a lifetime of intellectual growth and professional opportunity. For more information about the college, visit [www.purchase.edu](http://www.purchase.edu).

# Houlihan Lawrence Announces Winners of Annual Emerald Awards

Houlihan Lawrence, the leading real estate firm serving New York's northern suburbs, has announced this year's recipients of the annual Emerald Awards, a prestigious honor awarded to the top 1.5% of more than 1,450 Houlihan Lawrence sales associates, by gross commission income or units sold. Individuals were recognized from across the firm's offices in Westchester, Connecticut, and the Hudson Valley. The recipients of the award include Pollena Forsman in Larchmont, Chrissy Hazelton, Joan O'Meara and Lisa Murphy in Rye, and Gino Bello and Tony Murphy in White Plains.

"As the top agents at the number one brokerage North of NYC, our Emerald Award winners represent the best of the best," says Liz Nunan,

President & CEO of Houlihan Lawrence. "We are proud of all our agents' accomplishments both for their clients and the communities they serve. We look forward to celebrating another year of achievements with our agents, who simply are the best."

Houlihan Lawrence is the leading real estate brokerage serving New York City's northern suburbs. Founded in Bronxville, in 1888, the company is deeply committed to technological innovation and the finest client service. The firm has 32 offices and 1,450+ agents serving Westchester, Putnam, Dutchess, Columbia, Ulster, and Greene counties in New York and Fairfield, Litchfield, and New Haven Counties in Connecticut. For more information visit [www.houlihanlawrence.com](http://www.houlihanlawrence.com).

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# SUNY Westchester Community College Student Honored With Hudson Valley Direct Marketing Association Scholarship Award

SUNY Westchester Community College student Monike Souza Costa has been awarded the 2023 Hudson Valley Direct Marketing Association (HVDMA) Scholarship Award, which is awarded annually to outstanding marketing students in the region. Ms. Costa was recognized for her academic excellence, enthusiasm, professionalism, and potential to add valuable contributions to the marketing industry.

"I am honored and thrilled to have received this wonderful award," said Ms. Costa of Harrison, NY. "I appreciate the support I received from my professor, Deirdre Verne, for both recommending me for this scholarship but also for furthering my passion for and knowledge of marketing. I am looking forward to continuing my marketing studies at a four-year institution."

"Monike exemplifies the high caliber of students we instruct every semester at SUNY WCC," said Professor Verne. "She is a diligent student who has tremendous potential as a marketer. I am glad that this scholarship will help her defray some of the costs of continuing her education and reaching her full potential."

The HVDMA is the go-to resource for marketing professionals in the Hudson Valley, connecting, educating, and empowering individuals and businesses in the marketing industry. The scholarship awarded to Ms. Costa is in honor of Laura L. Smith and is in the amount of \$1,000.

SUNY Westchester Community College provides over 31,000 full-time and part-time students with an education taught by award-winning faculty at one of the most affordable tuition rates in New York State. WCC offers more than 65 degree



Monike Souza Costa

and certificate programs, including innovative programs in such high-demand fields as cybersecurity, health information technology, respiratory therapy, and digital filmmaking. The college reflects the rich diversity of its region and was the first SUNY campus to be designated a Hispanic Serving Institution.

# White Plains Hospital Opens First Dental Practice

White Plains Hospital celebrated the opening of White Plains Hospital Dental Care, its first dentistry practice and the latest addition to its expanding line of services, with a ribbon-cutting ceremony on January 23. The dental practice, led by long-time White Plains community dentist and Director of Dental Services at White Plains Hospital, Dr. Joseph Leanza, DDS, is located at 79 East Post Road in White Plains, in the same location as the Hospital's Family Health Center and St. Vincent's Behavioral Health Center.

Dr. Leanza was previously the owner of White Plains Dental at 1 East Post Road in White Plains, which he founded in 1993, and has been practicing dentistry since 1984. He has served as Section Chief of White Plains Hospital's Department of Dentistry since 2010, helping to provide emergency dental treatments to patients in the Hospital. Dr. Leanza and his team began as part of White Plains Hospital at the end of 2023.

"My team and I have been part of this community for many years, providing high-quality affordable dental care to our patients," said Dr. Leanza. "We are so pleased to formally launch White Plains Hospital Dental Care, where we will continue to serve those who need it the most in a beautiful new office and with the full support of White Plains Hospital."

"White Plains Hospital Dental Care is a perfect complement to the internal medicine and behavioral health services already offered at that location. Dental health, while critical on its own, also plays an important role in general health – so going to the dentist is a great preventative health measure. In addition, having these services under one roof allows us to enhance access to care and help manage referrals for patients and families who need it most," said Susan Fox, President & CEO of White Plains Hospital.

The addition of White Plains Hospital Dental Care was made possible through a Statewide Health Care Facility Transformation Program III grant from the New York State Department of Health.

Ms. Fox and Dr. Leanza were joined at the January 23 ribbon-cutting by White Plains Hospital's Chief Medical Officer Dr. Michael Palumbo; Vice President, Organizational Performance, Karen Banoff; Jill Schulmann, Assistant Vice President; Bernadette Kingham-Bez, Executive Director, St. Vincent's Hospital Westchester; Sari Maenza, FNP, Family Health Center; Larry Smith, Immediate Past Chair of White Plains Hospital's Board of Directors; and Dr. Leanza's staff and family, including his mother Angela.

To make an appointment at White Plains Hospital Dental Care, call 914-849-3488.



## Westchester County Board of Legislators and County Executive Deliver Joint Legislative Package to NYS Delegation

On February 21, the Westchester County Board of Legislators and the County Executive submitted their 2024 Joint State Legislative Package to the New York State Delegation. The purpose of the meeting was to advocate for and support New York State legislation that impacts the issues of interest and concern for the residents of Westchester County.

This year's package included a wide range of budgetary and legislative initiatives proposed by our State Senators and Assemblymembers regarding the environment, social services, housing, and other policy areas. The annual meeting is an important opportunity for Westchester County Legislators and the County Executive to meet face-to-face with State Legislators to express the County's priorities for the new year.

In attendance from the NYS Delegation were Senators Pete Harcham, Shelly Mayer, and Natalia Fernandez, and Assemblymembers Amy Paulin, Gary Pretlow, Nader Sayegh, MaryJane Shimsky (virtually) and Matthew Slater.

County Executive George Latimer said, "Collaboration is the cornerstone of effective governance. Through open dialogue, Westchester County proudly works with our State Delegation – including State Senate Majority Leader Andrea



Stewart-Cousins - to address the pressing concerns of Westchester County residents. This annual joint legislative package serves as a vital platform where we can advocate for our community's priorities and work towards legislative initiatives that promote the well-being of all our constituents."

Board Chair Vedat Gashi (D- New Castle, Somers, Yorktown) said, "The joint legislative package is an opportunity for us at the County level to discuss Westchester's values with our partners in the State government. I am grateful to all of the members of our State Delegation for taking the time to hear our priorities, and I look forward to continuing our work delivering results for the

residents of Westchester County."

Majority Leader Tyrae Woodson-Samuels (D - Mount Vernon) said, "I'd like to thank the County Executive and his team for collaborating with the Board every year to put together a comprehensive package of critical financial and legislative initiatives. Many important items were brought up for discussion, but my personal priority now is the housing shortage. I am hopeful that the result of our dialogue will help close the gap on delivering the 11,000 units of outstanding affordable housing identified in the Housing Needs Assessment."

Legislator Colin Smith (D - Cortlandt, Peekskill, Yorktown), Chair of the Legislation Committee said, "Once again, the joint efforts of both the Board of Legislators and County Executive has resulted in supporting a robust group of state legislative and fiscal priorities for 2024. Such initiatives included increasing equitable protections for homeowners, combating climate change, flood mitigation, and addressing Westchester's housing crises, to name but a few. I look forward to continued collaboration with our State partners to

ensure we are doing all that we can to enhance the lives of our residents."

Legislator David Imamura (D - Ardsley, Dobbs Ferry, Edgemont, Hartsdale, Hastings-on-Hudson, Irvington), Vice Chair of the Legislation Committee, facilitated the meeting. He said, "I want to thank the State Delegation, represented so well here today, for standing up for the issues facing Westchester County. Among you are former County Legislators who well understand Westchester's needs. It is very productive when County government can work with such collaborative partners in Albany."

Visit [www.westchesterlegislators.com/images/PDF/2024-joint-state-legislative-package.pdf](http://www.westchesterlegislators.com/images/PDF/2024-joint-state-legislative-package.pdf) to view the 2024 Joint Legislative Package.

The Westchester County Board of Legislators consists of seventeen members and is the policy-making branch of County government, serving one million residents. The Board's primary responsibilities are to allocate funds, approve the budget, and impose taxes, in addition to passing local laws, acts, and resolutions. It is the longest-running elected body in New York, with a history of over 300 years. Learn more by visiting [www.westchesterlegislators.com](http://www.westchesterlegislators.com)



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