

## Senior Citizens Tax Exemption Amended



BY STEPHEN E. LIPKEN

At the beginning of the Town/Village of Harrison Board of Directors meeting on March 20, Supervisor Richard Dionisio requested a moment of silence for Judge Pasquale Gizzo's mother, Carmela Gizzo, who passed away on March 14.

Next, the Board approved amendments to Senior Citizens Exemption, Article II, Chapter 207, of Harrison's Tax Code, which included extending the exemption from taxes, except school district taxes, beyond those 65 or older to include "persons with disabilities." To be eligible for the full exemption, the maximum income of the owner or combined income of the owners may not exceed \$50,000, an increase from the previous maximum amount of \$13,500.

Previously, those seeking the exemption were required to file an application annually in the Assessor's office on or before June 1. The new date deadline for this filing is May 1. For more information, visit [www.harrison-ny.gov/home/pages/agendas-minutes](http://www.harrison-ny.gov/home/pages/agendas-minutes) to view the minutes of the meeting or the meeting itself.

The Board also approved Police Chief John Vasta's two requests. The first was for one department member to attend a Virtual Community American Sign Language Class given by the New York School of Deaf on April 10. The second was for the department to take the mandatory Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) Certified Defensive Tactics Instruction Training Course, which will be held at the Louis M. Klein Middle School in April. The cost of the training is \$2,880.

## LMK Science Olympiad Team Advances to State Competition



The Louis M. Klein (LMK) Middle School Science Olympiad placed fourth and earned a total of twenty-five medals at the Regional Science Olympiad. The team of eighteen students worked all year to prepare for the competition, which hosted thirty-four area schools. The LMK team now advances to the New York State Science Olympiad in Syracuse.

Congratulations to the medal winners: Anatomy & Physiology - Eric Myung and Shaili Singh; Disease Detective - Eric Myung and Katharine Wong; Dynamic Planet - Raito Sekine and Atharv Gandhi; Experimental Design - Shaili Singh, Robin Barreto, and Oviya Gandhi; Flight - Robin Barreto and Katharine Wong; Fossils - Sparsh Gupta and Thomas Yan; Meteorology - Raito Sekine and Graham Regan; Optics - Katharine Wong and Edward Caruso; Reach for the Stars - Edward Caruso and Raito Sekine; Road Scholar - Kevin Iwanski and Raito Sekine; Write It Do It - Ashley Cho and Hafsat Idris.

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# Westchester County Board of Legislators Celebrates Women's History Month



On March 18, the Westchester County Board of Legislators celebrated Women's History Month with an inspirational ceremony lauding Dr. Suzanne D. Phillips, a prominent longtime educator and Elmsford School Board member, and Elizabeth Rotfeld, Deputy Clerk and Senior Citizen Coordinator for the Village of Rye Brook.

Board Chair Vedat Gashi said, "I am pleased to say that eight of our 17 outstanding Legislators are women, which is reflective of the demographics of our country and the world. This is a positive and significant step forward. It is heartening to see women holding positions of power and influence in Westchester County, as mayors, supervisors, lawyers, doctors, district attorneys, commissioners, and judges. We have come a long

way from the days when women were confined to traditional roles."

"Tonight, we have the pleasure of honoring two exceptional women – Dr. Suzanne Phillips and Elizabeth Rotfeld. Their contributions to our communities are immeasurable, and we are deeply grateful for their efforts."

Legislator Jewel Williams Johnson presented the first proclamation to Dr. Suzanne D. Phillips. She said, "I am grateful to gather this evening, to pay tribute to an individual with unwavering dedication and tireless advocacy who has left an indelible mark on our community, and on numerous students across our nation. It is with great honor and deep admiration that we recognize Dr.

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# Youth Board Recognizes Four "Sheroes" at 2024 Award Ceremony

In honor of Women's History Month, the Westchester County Youth Bureau and Youth Board celebrated four extraordinary "Sheroes." These remarkable women, through their unwavering vision and tireless dedication to Westchester County, have enhanced the lives of countless youth and families in our community.

- The 2024 award recipients are:
- Anahaita N. Kotval: As the Chief Executive Officer of Lifting Up Westchester, Anahaita has been a beacon of hope, compassion, and empowerment for those in need.
  - Judy Troilo: Serving as the Chief Executive Officer of The LOFT, Judy's leadership has transformed lives and created safe spaces for our youth.
  - Lori Stephens: The Founder and Executive Director of G.O.O.D. for Girls, Lori's commitment to empowering young women is truly inspiring.
  - Jackquelyn Harris Young: As the Program Director of G.O.O.D. for Girls, Jackquelyn's dedication has shaped futures and fostered resilience.
- County Executive George Latimer said: "Westchester is the home of many remarkable people, and particularly the women selected due to their positive contributions and commitment to serving children, youth, and families. These Sheroes exemplify the spirit of service and compassion which resonates in their immediate communities and far beyond our county borders."

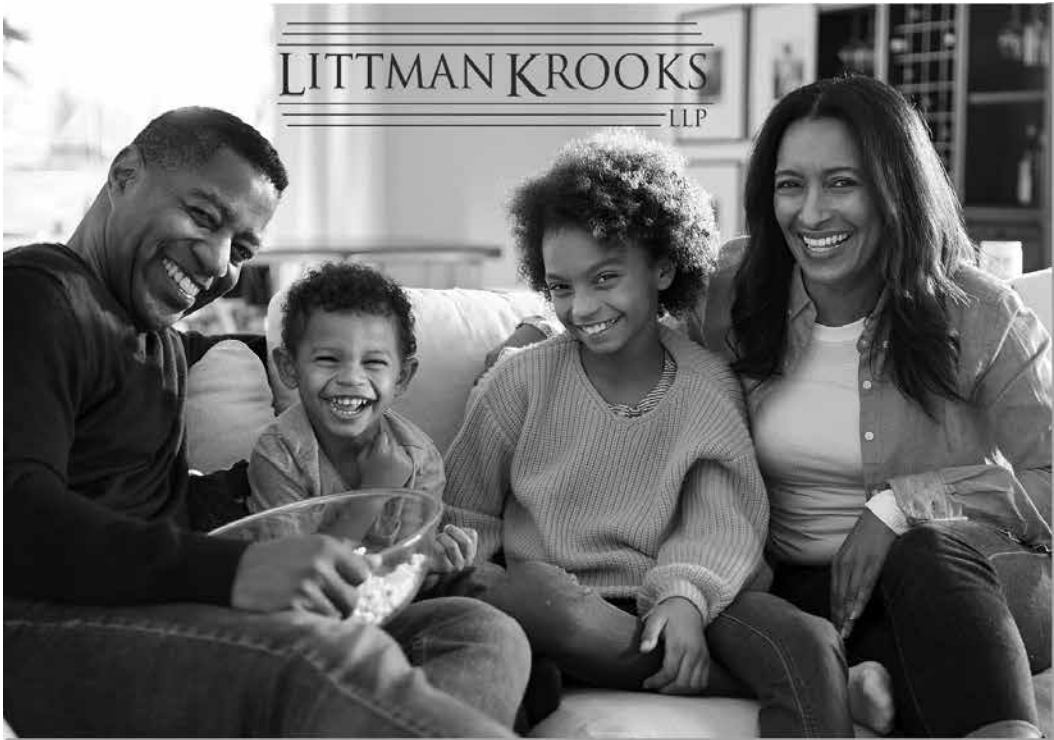


Youth Bureau Executive Director Dr. DaMia Harris-Madden said: "In their tireless pursuit of positive change, these 'Sheroes' have demonstrated what it means to lead with purpose and heart. Having worked closely with Anahaita, Judy, Lori, and Jackquelyn, and witnessing their impact, I am inspired."

Youth Board Chair Dr. Alexandria Connally said: "I would like to express my gratitude and admiration for the 2024 Sheroes. They are making significant contributions to their community, particularly in their dedication to supporting young people. Their commitment, sacrifice, and dedication undoubtedly make a positive impact on the county, enriching the lives of those around them. It's wonderful to recognize and commend their efforts in making the world a better place to live."

Anahaita Kovtal said: "I am so proud to ac-

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# House Passes \$14.6 Million for Rep. Bowman’s Community Project Funding for NY-16



On March 6, Congressman Jamaal Bowman, Ed.D. (NY-16), announced that the House successfully passed \$14.6 million in funding for 11 community projects in New York’s 16th Congressional District. He advocated for these projects as part of the FY2024 Federal Appropriations package. These funds will be used to support communities and organizations in Westchester and the Bronx with much-needed green space, climate investments, community programming, economic development, affordable housing, and so much more.

“I am so proud to deliver over \$14 million in federal funding for critical resources and supports across our district,” said Congressman Bowman. “My team and I worked closely with constituents, our local governments, and community groups to submit funding requests that align with the most urgent needs of our neighbors. From improving the Yonkers Greenway to securing clean buses for Westchester to revitalizing our downtown areas, each of these projects will uplift our community and provide everyone with the resources they need to thrive. I will keep fighting to bring federal funds back to Westchester and the Bronx and deliver for our incredible district.”

The eleven Community Project Funding requests in alphabetical order are as follows:

\$500,000 to the County of Westchester to secure clean, climate-friendly hybrid and electric buses for the Bee Line Bus System.

\$1,650,000 to Environmental Leaders of Color for the Mount Vernon Green Tech Park, a community facility space that will include mixed-income housing, art space, and commercial space.

\$100,000 to the Hispanic Resource Center of Larchmont and Mamaroneck to renovate the

Mamaroneck Community Center for flood mitigation after Hurricane Ida and provide critical social and legal services like workforce development, violence prevention, and youth enrichment programs.

\$1,150,000 to HOPE Community Services to support the construction of the New Rochelle Community Center that will create capacity for wraparound services like nutrition, child mental wellness, after-school help, and more.

\$240,620 to Lifting Up Westchester to create the Westchester Housing and Employment Center which will assist unhoused and low-income individuals searching for employment to end the cycle of homelessness.

\$2,000,000 to the Town of Mamaroneck for the Mamaroneck Town Safety and Economic Renaissance Project to create more efficient traffic systems, improve pedestrian safety, and enhance infrastructure in the area.

\$4,119,279 to the City of Yonkers to rehabilitate the Yonkers Greenway and roads and connect jobs, community resources, and greenspace.

\$977,827 to the Village of Ardsley to revitalize the downtown area and promote economic growth, mobility, and pedestrian safety.

\$959,752 to the Village of Rye Brook for the Rye Brook Sewer Rehabilitation Initiative.

\$1,000,000 to the Village of Tuckahoe to improve the Tuckahoe Square and Main Street signal and transform the business district around the Metro-North station into a modern, safe public space.

\$2,000,000 to WestHab, Inc. to develop sustainable, affordable housing and invest in small businesses in Yonkers.

## Youth Board Recognizes Four “Sheroes” at 2024 Award Ceremony

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cept this award on behalf of my Lifting Up Westchester colleagues who – with our students - work tirelessly to make sure that housing instability doesn’t hijack our students’ academic and career opportunities.”

Lori Stephens said: “It is with a humble heart

that I receive this Sheroes Award from the Westchester County Youth Board; however, I share this honor with all the women (the real unsung sheros), who volunteered their time and shared their expertise to help GfG fulfill its vision of mentoring young girls into confident young women!”

## Westchester County Board of Legislators Celebrates Women’s History Month

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Suzanne Phillips, a true pillar of strength, compassion, and leadership.”

The Board declared March 26, 2024 “Dr. Suzanne D. Phillips Day” in Westchester County.

Legislator Nancy Barr presented the second proclamation to Elizabeth Rotfeld, saying, “They say if you want something done, give it to a busy person. And nine times out of ten, that person will be a woman. And no one is more busy and more committed to helping people than Rye Brook’s Senior Citizen Coordinator and my friend, Elizabeth Rotfeld. She is always putting others before herself, and residents in Port Chester and Rye Brook are the beneficiaries. Currently, she is the Senior Citizen Coordinator for the Village of Rye Brook. In that capacity, she organizes and implements a comprehensive set of programming to engage and nurture the Senior residents. If not for Liz and the programs she organizes, hundreds of people would have lives that were less fulfilling, less social, less healthy, and less enlightened.”

Ms. Rotfeld shared, “As a woman, I believe it is very important to lift other women up and give them a chance, just like the Village of Rye Brook

did with me. They took a chance on me when they hired me and there is not a day that goes by that I don’t feel thankful and appreciative. My Village Administrator and Elected Officials believe in me and in our seniors program and because of that, I feel very valued. Not everyone can say that - I am truly blessed. I will never be complacent in my position, as I constantly strive to go even further and make a greater effort.”

“In Rye Brook, we focus on healthy aging, lifelong learning, and friendships. We have members from age 55 on up, from all walks of life. In 2019, we opened up our membership so that non-residents can join as members. When I see the way our members interact and care for one another, I realize that we are a model for all Senior Centers.”

“To paraphrase Fred Rogers, ‘Look for those helpers – they are out there and do your best to be a helper.’ This has been a guiding principle in my life. Thank you for recognizing me tonight!”

The Board declared March 23, 2024 “Elizabeth Rotfeld Day” in Westchester County.

Learn more by visiting [www.westchesterlegislators.com](http://www.westchesterlegislators.com).

## White Plains Hospital Named One of the World’s Best Hospitals by Newsweek for the Third Straight Year

White Plains Hospital has been recognized as a “World’s Best Hospital” by Newsweek for the third consecutive year. Named a “3-Year Champion,” White Plains Hospital is one of just 15 hospitals in New York, and the only one in Westchester County, to be included on the prestigious list.

Newsweek teamed with market data research firm Statista to develop a rigorous methodology to ensure the quality and validity of the rankings. Four data sources were used for the evaluation, including an international online survey of more than 85,000 doctors, hospital managers, and healthcare professionals; patient experience surveys measuring patient satisfaction; hospital quality metrics on outcomes, hygiene measures, patient safety, and staffing; and patient-reported outcome measures. The World’s Best Hospitals 2024 list recognizes the best medical institutions across 30 countries, with 412 based in the United States. This year, White Plains Hospital was also recognized as a global leader in Infection Prevention & Patient Satisfaction.

“Being named as a World’s Best Hospital for a third year in a row is an incredible honor and speaks volumes about the exceptional care we provide to our community,” said Dr. Michael Palumbo, Executive Vice President and Chief Medical Officer at White Plains Hospital.

White Plains Hospital has been awarded numerous accolades over the past few years, including earning a prestigious five-star hospital rating from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) — the highest distinction offered by the federal agency — for the second consecutive year last summer.

For more information, visit [www.wphospital.org/](http://www.wphospital.org/).



Dr. Michael Palumbo

## Westchester County Parks’ Conservation Division to Host Solar Eclipse Events

Westchester County Parks’ Conservation Division will host solar eclipse events county-wide, on Monday, April 8, where participants can safely view the solar eclipse and learn more about this astronomical marvel.

A total solar eclipse is where the moon will briefly cover the sun, leaving the sun’s outer corona visible. This eclipse will also fall over more places in the United States than usual.

Westchester County Parks was able to obtain viewing glasses for all events as it is not safe to look directly at the solar eclipse.

Westchester County Executive George Latimer said, “It is rare for a total solar eclipse to be viewable to so many people and it’s exciting that it will be partially visible in our area. Experiencing it safely at our parks is

a great way to mark this special phenomenon.”

Westchester County Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation Commissioner, Kathy O’Connor said, “Our Conservation Division does an incredible job of hosting educational events that inform the public of seasonal environmental happenings, and this event is sure to be both fun and informative.”

The following locations will host solar eclipse events: Cranberry Lake Preserve in North White Plains, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.; Edith G. Read Wildlife Sanctuary in Rye, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.; Lasdon Park, Arboretum, and Veterans Memorial in Katonah, 2:30 p.m. to 4 p.m.; Lenoir Preserve in Yonkers, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.; Trailside Nature Museum at Ward Pound Ridge Reservation in Cross River, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Events and parking are free.



## Etain Opens Its First Co-located Adult-use and Medical Dispensary in White Plains



On March 1, Etain hosted a historic grand opening celebration for its first co-located adult-use/medical dispensary. As New York's first women-founded medical cannabis brand Etain sells high-quality cannabis products from its premium Etain brand and other women-founded companies like House of Puff.

The grand opening was an opportunity to introduce Etain's gallery-inspired dispensary to the community and educate customers on the company's approach to education and product curation.

Thomas Roach, the mayor of White Plains; Chris Alexander, the executive director of the Office of Cannabis Management; and representatives from the White Plains Business Improvement District and the White Plains Common Council joined Etain's Founders and executives for the day-time ribbon-cutting ceremony.

Over 200 guests attended the evening celebration including Etain patients and customers and members of the White Plains and New York cannabis community. The event also supported other local White Plains businesses, which included lunch catering and party sweets by Iron Tomato and bites and mocktails by Little Drunken Chef.

"Westchester has been Etain's home for many years, and the significance of unveiling the first co-located dispensary in this community holds a profound meaning," said Hillary Peckham, Co-founder of Etain and VP of Marketing. "Since our founding in 2015, we have been ingrained in the cannabis community, consistently uplifting and empowering fellow women-led brands in the industry. We are ecstatic to introduce the Etain brand, featuring our exceptional cannabis products and fellow standout brands, to the White Plains community."

"Etain's commitment to New York and the creation of an inclusive, safe, and thriving market has never wavered. White Plains was selected as the first Adult-Use and Medical Dispensary for the Etain brand, and we are excited to unveil a new,

remodeled store layout to elevate the cannabis retail experience and embrace the unique needs of Etain's adult-use customers and medical patients alike," said Mike Totzke, COO and interim CEO of RIV Capital.

The White Plains dispensary's open floor plan welcomes visitors blending integrative wellness offerings, personal consultations, and premium products to create an inviting space for medical patients and adult-use consumers. The gallery-inspired space features a curated menu of Etain's branded adult-use and medical cannabis products, as well as a selection of cannabis brands showcasing women-founded and locally rooted New York brands.

Honoring Etain's female-founded roots, the centerpiece of the space is a bespoke mural by renowned street artist Claw Money. Inspired by her Etain Limited Edition Motif Vape Battery design and custom Balance Blend Pod, debuting exclusively at the dispensary's opening, the vibrant mural features Claw Money's distinctive claw insignia amidst sharp graphic lines, complemented by locally sourced plants and flowers.

Adjacent to the mural stands another notable feature - an innovative display featuring House of Puff. Customers are immersed in the captivating world of House of Puff, where they can explore their artist-inspired luxe accessories and a new Spritz cannabis product. This space will serve as a focal point to update with additional brands and showcase products and artists from New York.

For medical cannabis patients, a Very Important Patient (VIP) experience awaits, complete with priority access, a dedicated check-out line, and exclusive access to Etain's on-site pharmacist - ensuring continued access to premium medical cannabis products and maintaining the essence of a concierge medical experience. Etain's commitment to providing a unique and enriching environment sets the stage for a new era in cannabis retail.

For more information, visit [www.Etain.com](http://www.Etain.com).

## Alec Udell Places Second in Junior Science & Humanities Symposium and Qualifies for Nationals



Harrison Science Research students earned multiple awards at the Upstate Junior Science & Humanities Symposium (JSHS). For the first time in Harrison High School history, Alec Udell presented his research in the Environmental Science/Pollution category, An Investigation of The Hydrolytic Degradation of Biodegradable Plastic Products in Natural Aquatic Conditions, to more than 300 people and placed second, qualifying for the National Competition in Albuquerque, New Mexico, in May. In addition, Emma Jonisch placed third in the Medicine and Health category, Filipa Rasmussen placed 3rd in the Behavior category speaker competition, and Stella O'Connell finished 3rd in the Poster competition. The JSHS symposium is an opportunity for high school juniors and seniors to present original research in science, technology, engineering or mathematics as they pursue a chance to compete at the regional, state, and national level.

## More than 300 HCSD Students Perform at the Ninth Annual String Extravaganza



On Tuesday, March 19th, the Harrison Central School District 5th-12th grade orchestra students gathered together on the stage of the high school's Performing Arts Center for the Ninth Annual String Extravaganza.

The focus of this year's concert was the 2024 Olympics, featuring works from around the world to honor the international spirit the Olympics represent. All 322 orchestra musicians from Harrison Avenue, Parsons, Preston and Purchase Elementary Schools, LMK Middle School, and Harrison High School, conducted by the district's orchestra teachers, Mr. Bastone, Mr. Bennett, Ms. Galletti, and Dr. Tanaka-Suwan, delighted a full house of family and community members with their performances.

# [www.harrisonherald.com](http://www.harrisonherald.com)

# Manhattanville College Announces New Resources in Response to FAFSA Form Delays

Manhattanville College is offering prospective students new resources in response to the recent changes to the U.S. Department of Education's Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Because of the redesigned forms, colleges won't get critical information about students' financial needs until mid-March or later, leaving many students with longer waits for financial aid and less time to make decisions about attending college as they may not have crucial information until early April or later.

"Our prospective students and their families have a major decision to make, and we want to ensure they have the time, the tools, and the information they need to make the best decision for them and their future," said Frank D. Sánchez, Ph.D., president of Manhattanville. "At Manhattanville, we believe in providing students with the support they need to excel in college and beyond starting with the decision to enroll. The measures we are taking are the first step to providing that support."

As of February 26, Manhattanville began providing "Financial Aid Award Preview" letters to



Frank D. Sánchez, Ph.D.

newly admitted students that provide a detailed award estimate based on information provided from their 2022 taxes. These "Financial Aid Award Preview" letters are meant to assist families with determining the cost of attendance but will not be an official financial aid award package. They will provide students and their families with an esti-

mate of the federal, state, and institutional aid that will be offered to them for the 2024-25 academic year (as calculated by Manhattanville using an internal financial aid estimator). Official Financial Aid Award packages will still be mailed home soon after the Department of Education starts releasing submitted FAFSA information to colleges/universities.

Manhattanville College is also hosting a series of informational sessions about scholarships and financial aid. The next Scholarship and Financial Aid night will take place on Wednesday, March 6, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.

## Calendar 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 is required. Registration is required. Visit [www.harrisonpl.org/events/11724116](https://www.harrisonpl.org/events/11724116) to register.

**Westchester County Clean Energy Careers Job and Resource Fair**  
Elisabeth Haub School of Law  
Pace University, 78 N. Broadway, White Plains  
April 3, 2:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.  
Connect with employers about high-paying careers, sign up for industry training, apply for jobs, and network with clean energy professionals. Free Event. Bring Your Resume. Children Welcome. Spanish Translators.

**Westchester County Parks to Hold Seasonal Job Fairs**  
Westchester County Center, White Plains  
April 6, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. AND  
Muscoot Farm, Katonah  
April 13, 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
Westchester County Parks will hold two job fairs for those who want to learn more and apply for seasonal jobs at its parks. Attendees can apply on the spot to the numerous positions in the Westchester County Parks Department including Naturalists/Educators, Nature Camp Counselors, Lifeguards, and Recreation Attendants. Locations span the entire Westchester County Parks system at our 50+ facilities. Visit [www.parks.westchestergov.com/job-opportunities](https://www.parks.westchestergov.com/job-opportunities) for job descriptions.

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-win-

ning children's story as well as two of the author's companion tales, Rainbow Fish Discovers the Deep Sea and Rainbow Fish – Opposites. Running time: 60 minutes. Recommended for ages 4-8. Visit [www.emelin.org/book-online/72201/](https://www.emelin.org/book-online/72201/) for tickets. For more information, visit <https://emelin.org/upcoming-shows/> or call 914-698-0098.

Register at [www.mville.edu/visit/](https://www.mville.edu/visit/).  
Ninety-eight percent of undergraduate students receive some sort of financial assistance in Manhattanville, and thirty-nine percent of Manhattanville's undergraduate students are eligible for Federal Pell Grants.  
At this time, Manhattanville College is not planning to change enrollment deadlines but will be flexible with deadlines for families who have outstanding questions about financing students' education. Should there be an additional announcement from the Department of Education, enrollment dates will be re-evaluated. Anyone who has questions about financial aid or enrollment deadlines at Manhattanville can reach out to the Office of Admissions by emailing [admissions@mville.edu](mailto:admissions@mville.edu) or calling 914-694-2200.

# SUNY Westchester Community College Collegium for Lifelong Learning Celebrates 20 Years

The Collegium for Lifelong Learning at SUNY Westchester Community College (SUNY WCC) proudly announced its Twentieth Anniversary Spring Session, marking two decades of empowering retirees and lifelong learners with enriching educational experiences. Founded by Edith Landau Litt, the Collegium has become a cornerstone of intellectual exploration in the Westchester community.

To commemorate this milestone, the Collegium is offering a vibrant lineup of courses and discussions designed to engage and inspire participants. The Spring Session will run for six consecutive weeks, with Wednesday classes scheduled from April 3 to May 8, and Friday classes from April 5 to May 10. Additionally, a bonus class will be held on Wednesday, May 15, available to all spring registrants at no additional cost.

Registration for the Twentieth Anniversary Spring Session is currently open. Participants can choose from a variety of courses covering diverse subjects such as architecture, literature, music, and current affairs. The streamlined online registration process introduced in the previous session ensures a hassle-free experience for all.

- Highlights of the semester include:
- The Architecture of New York City: Explore the city's evolving skyline with architect Michael Molinelli.
  - The Historical Novel: Delve into the significance of historical fiction with WCC English department legend Linda Ching Sledge.
  - The Bible: Investigate differing interpretations of Scripture with instructor Michael Malina.
  - Opera: Embark on a journey through the history of opera with expert Susan Grunthal.
  - Theater on Film: Learn firsthand about the tumult and chaos that goes into making films about musicals from former Broadway star Meg Bussert.
  - Women in the Arts: Examine the contributions of women in poetry led by esteemed faculty member Joseph Sgammato and painting led by art history professor and author Jane Roos.
  - Animated Films: Enjoy a series of animated films curated for adult audiences by WCC Professor Will Costanzo.

In addition, the Collegium offers dynamic discussion groups, including Short Story led by Christine Bobkoff, Great Decisions Discussion Group led by Robert Fischer, The Human Condition led by Andrew Bausili, and A la Carte providing six weeks on diverse topics.

As a special Anniversary Bonus, all spring registrants are invited to participate in an interactive program led by BraverAngels on May 15. BraverAngels specializes in fostering constructive dialogue on ideologically opposing viewpoints, promoting civil discourse and understanding.

"We are thrilled to celebrate two decades of lifelong learning at SUNY Westchester Community College Collegium," said Clare Ahern, Collegium's Board Chair. "Our commitment to intellectual curiosity and community engagement remains unwavering, and we look forward to welcoming participants to another enriching semester."

For more information and to register, visit [www.sunywcc.edu/collegium](https://www.sunywcc.edu/collegium).

Harrison Public Library  
Halperin Building - Community Room  
Saturday, April 13, 2:00 p.m.- 4:00 p.m.  
**"Uncanny" by Susan Kaufman**  
Enjoy an open reception for "Uncanny," the Library's latest Juried Art exhibit by Susan Kaufman, which will be on display until May 3 during library hours. Visit [www.harrisonpl.org/events/harrison](https://www.harrisonpl.org/events/harrison) for all events at the Harrison Public Library.

SUNY Purchase  
Recital Hall  
The Performing Arts Center, Purchase College  
735 Anderson Hill Road, Purchase  
April 11, 12, 13: 7:00 p.m.; April 14: 1:00 p.m.  
**Purchase Opera: Hamlet**  
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## HUB Veterinary Group Celebrates Grand Opening



HUB Veterinary Group celebrated the official grand opening of its revolutionary new veterinary clinic on March 7, 2024. This marks a significant milestone in pet care for pet owners in Westchester County and the surrounding areas. With a commitment to excellence and innovation, HUB Veterinary Group sets a new standard in comprehensive and compassionate animal healthcare.

HUB Veterinary Group's mission is to make it easier to get the care pet owners need for the furry friends they love – whether that means regular checkups, emergency visits, surgery, affordable spay neuter, advanced dentistry, and everything in between. HUB is your neighborhood vet who is passionate about creating a new kind of veterinary partner that cares for all your pets' health needs under one roof. HUB will be open 7 days a week and is here to bridge the gap between General Practice and Specialty/Emergency care.

HUB's founder, Courtney Bellew, is also the founder of SNARR Northeast (Special Needs Animal Rescue & Rehabilitation), which was founded in 2011.

At HUB Veterinary Group, advanced technology, modernized protocols, and a deeply passionate team ensure high-quality care because pets' lives are precious, and they deserve the best.

Located at 316 Boston Road, Port Chester, HUB Veterinary Group is open every day from 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM, with walk-ins accepted, offering convenience and accessibility for pet owners in the local area.

For more information, visit [HUBVetGroup.com](http://HUBVetGroup.com).

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## Rye Supervisor Gary J. Zuckerman and Senator Shelley B. Mayer Break Ground on New Crawford Park Ballfield

Rye Town Supervisor Gary Zuckerman and State Senator Shelley B. Mayer held a ceremonial groundbreaking last month, to kick off the reconstruction of the Crawford Park ballfield. This ballfield will provide the Rye town communities of Port Chester, Rye Brook, and Rye Neck with an upgraded, refreshed, and safe environment for play.

Senator Mayer secured \$200,000 in state funding to enable the Town of Rye to reconstruct Crawford Park ballfield, which will be used for baseball, soccer, lacrosse, softball, and volleyball games.

Supervisor Zuckerman and Senator Mayer were joined by Deputy County Executive Ken Jenkins, Assemblyman Steve Otis, County Legislator Nancy Barr, Town Council Member Pamela Jaffee, and Rye Brook Village Trustee Stephanie Fischer.

Senator Shelley B. Mayer said, "I am delighted to join Rye Town Supervisor Zuckerman to break ground on the reconstruction of Crawford Park ballfield. It is so important that children and teenagers have the space to run, play, and learn the value of sportsmanship and teamwork. I am proud to have been able to secure \$200,000 funding from the State Senate to bring this ballfield to life."

Assemblyman Steve Otis said, "Congratulations to Supervisor Gary Zuckerman and the Town Board for another fantastic improvement at Crawford Park. Year after year the Town of Rye has enhanced the buildings, gardens, athletic fields, and trails of a rejuvenated Crawford Park. The success of these projects has been affirmed by the increased use and enjoyment of the park by area families. Senator Mayer and I know that state funding here, and at Rye Town Park, go to worthwhile projects."

Westchester County Executive George Latimer said, "I am proud to be a part of the groundbreaking on the revitalization of Crawford Park's ball field, once again showing this County's commitment to quality recreational spaces for our community. With my colleagues Senator Shelley Mayer, Assemblyman Steve Otis, and Town Supervisor Gary Zuckerman, we're showing what can happen when all levels of government work together with the goal of building opportunities for all to enjoy what Westchester has to offer."







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*Source: Westchester Magazine. Accolades only awarded to Debra Strati-Padawer.*

## “Pathways to Public Service” Panel Discussion at Manhattanville College

Manhattanville College hosted “Pathways to Public Service” on March 13, a panel discussion aimed at sharing career insights with students interested in public-sector jobs.

Organized by Manhattanville’s Center for Career Development, the panel featured former Noam Bramson, executive director of Sustainable Westchester; Joanne Fernandez, chief of staff to New York’s Secretary of State; Deputy County Executive Ken Jenkins; and Wilson Kimball, president and CEO of the Yonkers Housing Authority.

“Careers in public service can be rewarding and are a great place for young people to make an impact on the betterment of society,” said Frank D. Sánchez, Ph.D., President of Manhattanville. “Manhattanville places a strong emphasis on service and giving back to our communities and is proud of the work done by our students in the college’s Clark Center, many of whom would be perfect candidates for careers in public service. We thank these accomplished public servants for coming to campus and sharing their experiences with our students.”

The event’s panelists reminded students that any career that they want to pursue in the private sector can be found in the public sector.

“No matter what your passion is, you can actually find that opportunity inside of government,” said Jenkins.

Kimball shared that her initial career choice out of college was a bad fit. “I was making a ton of money in real estate, it was ridiculous, and yet at the end of every month, I was totally unfulfilled. So, I started working for the governor, and I loved every minute of it.”

## The Rye Arts Center Wants You to Party with a Purpose

On Saturday, May 4th, at 7:00 p.m., The Rye Arts Center will host its annual fundraiser at The Capitol Theatre in Port Chester. The Capitol will be transformed into RAC Studio 51, their version of the iconic 70’s nightclub, and an homage to their historic building at 51 Milton Road.

Enjoy an unforgettable evening of glitz and glamour reminiscent of a “night out in NYC” at The Capitol Theatre as The Rye Arts Center honors five individuals who have made an indelible impact on the community. This year’s honorees are Kate & Paul Conn, Aida & Julian Koski, and the recipient of The RAC’s first-ever “Visionary Artist Award,” Meera Agarwal.

Exploding with creativity, this singular “party with a purpose” amplifies The Rye Art Center’s mission of creating Arts for All while shining a light on self-expression, individuality, and inclusivity. The party features renowned local artists, including a live pop-art creation by Lynn Mara, live portraits by David Abrevaya, culinary creations by OnTheMarc, top-shelf hand-crafted cocktails, wine, and beer at our open bar, a vibrant disco floor to bring out your Saturday Night Fever, and a bespoke Jazz Lounge on the mezzanine for those seeking a “chill vibe.”

This year, in place of a traditional journal, Studio 51@The Cap will feature the “Corridor of Joy,” “Glitter Grams,” and “Love Notes” as means to highlight sponsors and local businesses digitally, providing visual recognition on multiple video screens throughout the event at the Capitol Theatre.

You don’t want to miss this unique and fun evening, which will ignite the power of the arts while raising critical funds to sustain The Rye Art Center’s world-class arts education programming that the Westchester and Fairfield communities have benefited from for over 60 years.

To buy tickets, purchase a “Glitter Gram” (our version of a digital journal ad), donate, or learn more about the event, visit [www.givebutter.com/c/Studio51](http://www.givebutter.com/c/Studio51) or call 914-967-0700.



Fernandez encouraged the students to use internships and fellowships as opportunities for networking and self-discovery.

“You might be at the stage where you are not sure if a particular area might be of interest. I would highly recommend and strongly encourage utilizing internships and fellowships as part of your learning experience,” said Fernandez.

Bramson, former mayor of New Rochelle, warned that public service is not the realm of instant gratification, noting how the transformation of downtown New Rochelle happened slowly.

“It was the product of many, many years of patience and persistence, which I would say are probably the qualities one needs most in order to succeed in a field like government,” said Bramson.

The Business Council of Westchester (BCW) co-sponsored the panel after outreach from the college.

BCW president and CEO Marsha Gordon reminded the students that they represent the future. “What we hear from our members, from our businesses, from our public sector tonight is that we really need young, creative people to enter the workforce,” said Gordon.



## 32nd Annual Youth Awards Highlight Area Students



Standing front, left to right: Katherine Dyer, Siena O’Brien, Shaila Diaz Furment, Jiyu Kim, Kathleen Heraty, Ava Kellner, Sophia Levy, Faria Ahmed. Stella O’Brien, Nigel Presume, Amelia Brooks, Emma Gornstein, Clara Gornstein, and Grace Villar. Standing back, left to right: Guest speaker Manuel “Manny” Homem, Charles Szeliga, Ojilvy Sanchez, Jordan Prado, Caralyn LoConte, Owen Master, Sien Wang, Rishi Shadaksharappa, Jonathan Durinda, and Bernadette Kingham-Bez, Senior Vice President, St. Vincent’s Hospital Westchester. Not pictured – Melody Sapione

Officials from St. Vincent’s Hospital Westchester, a division of Saint Joseph’s Medical Center, and the St. Vincent’s Auxiliary Board joined together on March 7 to celebrate the winners of the 32nd Annual Youth Awards.

Twenty-two high school students from schools in Westchester County, Rockland County, and Fairfield County, CT were on hand to receive their awards. Joining them were the students’ families, high school guidance counselors, and school representatives. In addition to the St. Vincent’s Youth Award, the students received U.S. Congressional Certificates of Achievement.

St. Vincent’s Annual Youth Awards were established in 1993 by the Auxiliary Board to recognize young people who support St. Vincent’s values, and to promote lifelong patterns of volunteerism. Every year they honor students from area high schools whose volunteer service best exemplifies St. Vincent’s values.

Some of the local students who were honored are: Faria Ahmed, Harrison High School; Melody Sapione, Port Chester High School; Amelia Brooks, Rye High School; Rishi Shadaksharappa, Scarsdale High School; Shaila Diaz Furment, School of the Holy Child; Charles Szeliga, Salesian

High School; Jonathan Durinda, Rye Neck High School; Katherine Dyer, Byram Hills High School; Clara Gornstein, The Leffell School; Caralyn LoConte, The Ursuline School; Owen Master, Mamaroneck High School; Kathleen Heraty, Bronxville High School; Siena O’Brien, Maria Regina High School; Stella O’Brien, Maria Regina High School; Jordan Prado, Archbishop Stepinac; Sophia Levy, White Plains High School; and Nigel Presume, Iona Preparatory School.

“We are incredibly proud to recognize these outstanding young individuals who have demonstrated a deep commitment to service and embody the values of St. Vincent’s Hospital,” said Michael Spicer, President and CEO. “Their dedication to making a positive impact in their communities is an inspiration to us all.”

“These remarkable students have shown exceptional compassion and selflessness through their volunteer work, and they truly represent the spirit of St. Vincent’s. We applaud their efforts and are confident that they will continue to make a difference in the lives of others as they pursue their future endeavors,” said Bernadette Kingham-Bez, Senior Vice President.

To learn more visit [www.saintjosephs.org](http://www.saintjosephs.org).

## Friends of White Plains Hospital’s Annual Luncheon to Feature Best-Selling Author Laura Schroff

Laura Schroff, best-selling author of *An Invisible Thread*, will be the featured speaker at The Friends of White Plains Hospital’s annual luncheon, to be held on April 3 from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at Fenway Golf Club, located at 384 Old Mamaroneck Road in Scarsdale.

A former advertising sales executive who worked at several major media companies and publications, including *Time Inc.* and *People*, Ms. Schroff’s book, *An Invisible Thread: The True Story of an 11-Year-Old Panhandler, a Busy Sales Executive, and an Unlikely Meeting with Destiny*, became a #1 New York Times and international bestseller. The theme of her address at the Friends’ luncheon is “How the Power of Friendship Can Make a Difference.”

Throughout the year, the Friends of White Plains Hospital is instrumental in reinforcing the Hospital’s mission through volunteer work, fundraising, and outreach around the Hospital’s life-saving programs and initiatives. Annual events of the Friends of White Plains Hospital include the spring luncheon, G3 – Girls Got Game, and the Hospital’s Fall Gala.

Individual tickets for the event are \$150. For more information on ticket pricing and sponsorships, visit [www.wphospital.org/luncheon/](http://www.wphospital.org/luncheon/), call 914-681-2264, or email [plaine@wphospital.org](mailto:plaine@wphospital.org).

For more information, visit [www.wphospital.org/](http://www.wphospital.org/)



# Rye HS Senior Wins Brain Bee at Burke Rehabilitation



Nicolas Echlov, a Rye High School Senior, came in first place at the Westchester County Brain Bee, held on March 7 at Burke Rehabilitation. This local neuroscience competition for high school students is designed to encourage students to learn more about the brain while inspiring them to pursue careers in neurology and neurological research. Nicolas has now qualified for the 2024 USA Brain Bee in Florida this April.

Pictured left to right: Rachel Feld-Glazman, OT, Director of Brain Injury program, Burke Rehabilitation; Nicolas Echlov; Dr. Erika Trovato, Associate Chief Medical Officer, Burke Rehabilitation

## ArtsWestchester Announces CEO Janet Langsam to Move on After 33 Years of Stalwart Leadership

After 33 years leading ArtsWestchester, nurturing artists and bolstering the county's cultural infrastructure, Janet Langsam will transition from CEO to CEO Emeritus effective June 30.

An American cultural advocate, artist and journalist with more than 50 years' experience as an arts administrator, Langsam is a former Deputy Commissioner of Cultural Affairs for New York City. A seasoned arts executive with an exceptional track record, Langsam's leadership has been transformative for ArtsWestchester since taking the helm in 1991. She guided the organization to unprecedented accomplishments, including the acquisition and adaptive reuse of the organization's neo-classical landmark headquarters, the launch of the ArtsMobile, the commissioning of more than 30 works of Public Art throughout Westchester County and the successful management of the organization's grants program and overall operations throughout the pandemic.

"Janet leaves an indelible mark on New York State. Over her career to date, she has raised hundreds of millions of dollars for the arts as a tireless advocate for arts in our communities," said John Peckham, Chair of ArtsWestchester's Board of Directors. He continued, "We are grateful to Janet for her leadership and more than three decades of contributions that have kept the arts alive and vibrant in the Hudson Valley. But more importantly, Janet has fought tirelessly to support the key goals of diversity, equality and inclusion for decades - and that is her proudest legacy."

Throughout her tenure at ArtsWestches-

ter, Langsam spearheaded fundraising efforts that secured more than \$75 million for the arts, highlighting her unparalleled dedication to the cultural vibrancy of the region. The arts council flourished under Langsam's leadership, seeing its annual budget grow from \$1 million to nearly \$7 million. During the pandemic, she rallied for the broader arts community by securing \$10 million annually for upstate arts councils and \$1 million in state funds for ArtsWestchester's Restart the Arts Program.

A pivotal moment in Langsam's tenure came in 1998 when under her visionary leadership, ArtsWestchester acquired the historic 12-story bank building in White Plains, transforming it into an arts incubator with new offices, galleries, artist studios and spaces for creative businesses. The investment created a signature home for the organization as well as an income stream. Significantly, this bold vote of confidence in the city's future played a crucial role in fostering the revitalization of the city's downtown.

Westchester County Executive George Latimer said, "Janet Langsam leaves an extraordinary legacy of cultural enrichment in Westchester County. Her visionary leadership at ArtsWestchester built the leading cultural organization from the ground up and made it the beacon that it is today. She helped shape the cultural landscape of our region, and for decades has shown her tireless dedication to the arts."

A nationwide search for Langsam's successor is underway with a selection expected to be announced this spring.

## County Executive George Latimer Delivers 7th Annual State of the County Address

Westchester County Executive George Latimer delivered his 7th State of the County Address, highlighting the County's achievements, ongoing initiatives, and vision for the future. The address, delivered in the Board of Legislators Chamber - "the People's Chamber" - was attended by lawmakers and community members, and underscored the County's commitment to progress, innovation, and inclusivity. In the speech Latimer declared the state of Westchester County to be, "firmly rooted in strength while growing and changing for the better."

Latimer said: "Let us see the value in electing leaders who have no scandals, no hate, no conspiracy theories, leaders who aren't breaking campaign pledges or becoming a national punchline. Together, we can build on the foundation laid by those who have dedicated their lives to Westchester."

In his address, Latimer expressed gratitude to Chairman Vedat Gashi and members of the Board of Legislators for their leadership and collaboration. Latimer also acknowledged the contributions of County officials, recognizing their dedication to serving the community.

Latimer said: "We proudly embody the essence of new faces, individuals who bring fresh perspectives and innovative ideas to the forefront. Yet, intertwined with this newness is the richness of experience and a tapestry of accomplishments that defines the very fabric of our community."

**Financial Stability** - Reflecting on the County's financial stability, Latimer highlighted the passage of the 2024 Westchester County Budget, which maintains the same County property tax levy as 2023, marking the fifth consecutive year without a levy increase.

He emphasized the County's prestigious "AAA" credit rating from Fitch Ratings, as well as its improved credit ratings from S&P Global Ratings and Moody's Investors Service. Additionally, he highlighted the New York State Comptroller lowering the fiscal stress score for the County to zero, indicating outstanding financial stability.

**Social Services** - Latimer showcased initiatives to support residents, including seasonal suspension of the Bee-Line Bus fares, the expansion of the Child Care Scholarship Program to 500% of the Federal Poverty Level and efforts to address food insecurity.

In honor of Women's History Month, Latimer announced his support of proposed legislation to provide free home lock changes for survivors of domestic violence within the county while also providing shelter for survivors while the locks are changed.

**Environment** - The new Recycle Coach app was highlighted in the speech, as well as the work of the Department of Environmental Facilities in expanding the County's existing textile recycling program by offering curbside collection and reaching record numbers in waste recovery and recycling.

Latimer also applauded the Board of Legislators for passing the single-use foodware law as well as the Lead Free Parks Act, the Addressing Asthma in Communities of Color Amendment, the Renewable Energy Database Act and the Equity in Environmental Legislation Act.

Latimer pointed out that the County has made a substantial investment of \$20 million to expand electric vehicle charging infrastructure at County parking facilities, adding that "These efforts underscore

our commitment to sustainability and community well-being."

**Affordable Housing** - Latimer said: "Since our administration first took office in 2018, affordable housing - and the availability of affordable housing throughout the County - has remained a top priority."

Since 2018, nearly six thousand units of affordable housing have been built, were under construction, or are in the pipeline for the future. Additionally, Latimer highlighted the Affordable Housing Investment Flex Fund, a new, affordable housing production tool which was created to help increase the number of units across Westchester.

**Mental Health** - Latimer announced the launch of Lives Forward, new in 2024. A collaboration between the departments of Community Mental Health and Correction, the program trains much-needed peers to help those with addiction and mental health needs. He also highlighted the County's Opioid Response and Overdose Prevention Initiative, Project Alliance, "Reimagining Policing" efforts, supporting the "988" Crisis and Suicide Prevention Hotline, and the County's Mobile Crisis Response Teams.

**Capital Projects** - For the first time in Latimer's tenure, he used the State of the County Address to sign the \$52.8-million-dollar Glen Island Bridge construction Bond Act. The Act is among the most significant construction projects in Westchester County in the past decade.

Latimer said: "Here in Westchester we support infrastructure, always, and we vote and enact legislation to support it. We just don't talk about it."

**Emergency Services** - Latimer highlighted the leadership role taken by the Departments of Emergency Services, Environmental Facilities and Consumer Protection, in developing a lithium ion battery safety program focusing on: legislation, safe disposal, firefighter training and public education. He also spotlighted The HERRO Program and legislation he recently signed aimed at supporting the essential role of volunteer firefighters and ambulance service members by creating a law that establishes guidelines for a property tax break for those who serve, have served and their spouse.

**Public Safety** - Also highlighted in the speech was the Westchester County Threat Assessment Center (WESTAC) aimed at preventing targeted violence and providing the public a direct way to report persons or groups they fear may be planning acts of mass violence or domestic terrorism.

**Health** - Latimer affirmed his commitment to support the uninsured and underinsured residents of Westchester, bolstering our Federally Qualified Health Centers with \$3 million in funding while also setting aside more than \$1 million for the County's Black Maternal Child Health Initiative, and \$1.5-million-dollars to promote tobacco prevention and cessation programs.

**Economic Development** - Latimer applauded the work of the County's Economic Development Department which established the DIG Program, a competitive program in which five municipalities were selected to undergo a market analysis on improvements to their downtowns and the Clean Energy Careers Working Group with Sustainable Westchester.

Read the entire article online at [www.harrisonherald.com](http://www.harrisonherald.com)



# Estate Planning for the Family Home



BY BERNARD A. KROOKS, CERTIFIED ELDER LAW ATTORNEY

Retirement accounts and the family home are typically two of the largest (in terms of value) assets our clients hold. Last month, we wrote about estate planning for retirement accounts. This month, we will tackle the family home.

There are a number of ways to own your home, or other real property, including tenants by the entirety, joint tenants with right of survivorship, tenants in common, individual ownership, or in some other entity such as a trust, corporation, or partnership. Community property is another way to hold real estate but that does not apply in New York.

**Tenancy by the Entirety:** Tenancy by the entirety is unique to married couples. In fact, in New York when a married couple purchases a property, it is presumed that the property is held as tenants by the entirety, unless otherwise noted. Each spouse has an equal, undivided interest in the whole property and the right to use and occupy it. From an asset protection standpoint, this is generally good news since a creditor cannot force a partition (separation) of the tenancy by the entirety unless the debt is owed by both spouses. Upon the death of one spouse, the other surviving spouse automatically becomes the sole owner of the entire property, avoiding probate, even if the deceased spouse's will says otherwise.

**Joint Tenants with Right of Survivorship:** Joint tenants with right of survivorship (JTWROS) is when two or more people hold title to real estate jointly, with equal rights to enjoy the property during their lives. The parties do not have to be married, or even related in order to hold property JTWROS. Similar to a tenancy by the entirety, upon the death of one of the joint tenants, the property passes to the survivor, avoiding probate. However, unlike a tenancy by the entirety, a creditor of one of the joint tenants may be able to force a sale of the property to collect monies owed.

**Tenancy in Common:** Under a tenancy in common, each owner of the property has a certain interest in the property. While the shares may be

equal, it is not uncommon for tenants in common to hold title to unequal shares. For example, you may own real estate as tenants in common with someone else where you own 60% and the other person owns 40%. Even in this scenario where the ownership interests differ, each tenant in common has the right to use and enjoy the entire property, not just their percentage of the property. However, unlike JTWROS, there is no right of survivorship. If an owner dies, they have the right to transfer their interest in the property to their family or friends under their last will and testament. If the tenant in common dies without a will, then their interest will pass in accordance with the laws of intestacy.

**Individual Ownership:** Plain and simple, you may own real property in your name alone and no one else's. The good news is that during your lifetime, you won't have to share it with anyone else. This can make things easier in the event you decide to sell or rent the property. You won't need anybody else's consent or input. On your death, your will controls who gets the property. In addition, your will may create trusts for beneficiaries who cannot manage real property or beneficiaries with other special needs. Setting up a trust in your will allows a third party to manage the home for the benefit of your beneficiaries without the home being titled in their name. If you wish, you can choose to transfer ownership of the residence to the beneficiary when they reach a particular age

or meet some other condition.

**Trust:** If a trust owns real property, then the terms of the trust control who has the right to use and occupy the trust during your lifetime and who gets the property on your death. As with individual ownership, you may decide to transfer the property outright or continue to hold it in trust for your beneficiaries, upon your death. Thus, you may give them the right to live in the property without actually owning it. Of course, you will need to decide who pays the ongoing expenses of the property, the trust, or your beneficiaries.

**Conclusion:** We hope this was helpful and not too much legal mumbo jumbo. The best way to own real property depends upon your individual circumstances and your own estate planning goals. One size does not fit all.

*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).*

## Westchester Community College Foundation Announces New Board Members

The Westchester Community College Foundation (WCCF) has announced the appointment of new members to its Board of Directors: Lorna Hawthorne, Robert K. McNamara, Shirley Acevedo Buontempo, and Dr. Raymond Sanchez.

"SUNY WCC has been enjoying many successes in recent years, including increasing enrollment and graduation rates, and the support of the Foundation will play an important role in maintaining this trend," said Board Chair Dr. Thomas Lee. "Thanks to the involvement of community leaders like Lorna, Shirley, Ray, and Bob, the WCC Foundation will continue to connect with the community and partner with SUNY WCC to enable students to successfully complete their studies and further their education."

Lorna Hawthorne (White Plains), co-founder of Golden Krust Caribbean Bakery & Restaurants, joins the board with a wealth of experience in entrepreneurship and philanthropy. Her commitment to education and community development, exemplified through the Lowell F. Hawthorne Foundation, Inc. will greatly benefit the Foundation's mission of supporting students in their academic endeavors.

Robert K. McNamara (Bronxville) adds a wealth of financial expertise to the board, with a distinguished career in investment banking and finance. His commitment to community engagement and philanthropy aligns with the Foundation's goals of providing financial support and resources to students pursuing higher education.

For more information about the Westchester Community College Foundation, visit [www.sunywcc.edu/foundation](http://www.sunywcc.edu/foundation).



Lorna Hawthorne



Robert K. McNamara

## ArtsWestchester Announces 2024 Arts Awards Winners

ArtsWestchester will honor nine individuals and organizations at its April 10 Arts Awards event for their contributions to the cultural landscape of Westchester County.

"Our region's outstanding quality of life would not be possible without the inspired work of these honorees," said ArtsWestchester CEO Janet Langsam. "These honorees motivate all of us to continue to support excellent creative work by Westchester artists and arts organizations."

Since its inception in 1976, the Arts Awards have celebrated vision, commitment, and leadership in the arts community. This year's winners represent a diverse array of talents and contributions:

**Artist Award:** George Otero-Pailos of Rye is recognized for his pioneering artwork and experimental preservation practices.

**Arts Organization Award:** The Neuberger Museum of Art in Purchase is a world-class museum and cornerstone of arts education and engagement since 1974.

**Sophia Abeles Education Award:** Arc Stages, in Pleasantville has demonstrated an unwavering dedication to providing contemporary theater programming and arts education to local communities.

**Community Award:** The New Rochelle Council on the Arts has been a catalyst for cultural enrichment in New Rochelle for nearly five decades.

**President's Award:** Lee Balter of Tarrytown is honored for his extraordinary support of the arts in the Hudson Valley and his tireless advocacy for arts education and access to the arts.

**Larry Salley Photography Award:** Elizabeth Diaz of Yonkers is recognized for her powerful photographic work and a portrait series celebrating the transgender community.

**Advancing Equity Organization Award:** Yonkers Arts and New Era Creative Space are acknowledged for their commitment to promoting equity and inclusion through the arts.

**Advancing Equity Individual Award:** Andromeda Turre of Katonah is honored for her groundbreaking work in using jazz as a tool for social change.

ArtsWestchester's 2024 Arts Awards will be held at 11:30 on April 10 at the Brae Burn Country Club in Purchase. For more information, visit [www.artswestchester.org](http://www.artswestchester.org).



George Otero-Pailos

# Table Hopping with Morris Gut

## Where to Dine After the Spring Orchid Show

A beautiful technicolor harbinger of spring, the annual Orchid Show at the New York Botanical Garden in the Bronx runs through April 21. I look forward to visiting NYBG, walking through the beautifully restored Enid Haupt Conservatory, and beholding the seductive floral arrangements and dramatic plantings. This year's theme: 'Florals in Fashion.' (For additional info: [www.nybg.org](http://www.nybg.org)) After taking in all that beauty, we do get hungry. Here are a few suggestions...

**Dining At NYBG:** There are themed Dining Pavilions throughout the park and near the Enid Haupt Pavilion: the casual Pine Tree Café and farm-to-table Hudson Garden Grill. Open daily. For info: 646-627-7711, or 718-817-8700. [www.nybg.org/visit/dining/](http://www.nybg.org/visit/dining/).

This year visitors can also enjoy cocktails as well as walk the runway during 'Orchid Evenings' filled with entertainment and snacks. These special evening events will take place on April 5, 6, 12, 13, 19, and 20 from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Reservations are suggested.

**Good Brews at Bronx Beer Hall:** Located inside the historic Arthur Ave. Retail Market, not far from Fordham University and NYBG, the Bronx Beer Hall is a good place to hang out for locally sourced craft beers and wines. Mike's Deli just down the aisle coordinates some of the food service with the bar, and it is good, hearty Italian. Good spot for mingling and networking. Enter-

tainment schedule. Closed Monday. Bronx Beer Hall, 2344 Arthur Ave., Bronx. 1-347-396-0555 [www.bronxbeerhall.com](http://www.bronxbeerhall.com).

**Bureks at Tony & Tina's Pizzeria:** It is a pizzeria, for sure, but this Albanian/Mediterranean-themed eatery on the corner of 189th St. is all about their popular Bureks, flaky Balkan phyllo pies with your choice of fillings: pumpkin, spinach, ground meat, or cheese. Their homemade yogurt goes well as a dipping sauce. There is homemade Baklava for dessert. Open daily. Street parking. Tony & Tina's Pizzeria, 2483 Arthur Ave., Bronx. 718-733-8094 [www.tonytinaspizzeria.com](http://www.tonytinaspizzeria.com).

**Dining With a View at the Sea Shore:** Just a short drive from NYBG. Jeffrey Weiner and his veteran crew on City Island serve abundant platters of seafood at this sprawling 94-year-old institution: Oysters Rockefeller, daily Raw Bar, Lobsters galore, Surf & Turf, Italian specialties, too. Check out all the dining areas. Daily happy hours. Multiple seating areas. Sea Shore Restaurant, 591 City Island Ave., City Island, Bronx. 718-885-0300 [www.seashorerestaurant.com](http://www.seashorerestaurant.com).

*Morris Gut is a restaurant marketing consultant and former restaurant trade magazine editor. He has been tracking and writing about the food and dining scene in greater Westchester for 30 years. He may be reached at 914-235-659 or by email at [gutreactions@optonline.net](mailto:gutreactions@optonline.net).*

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# Westchester Parks Foundation Kicks off the Spring Season with Trails Without Limits Program



Mike Owen (38), a person living with Spina Bifida, opened the 2nd Season of the WPF Trails Without Limits Program at Ridge Road Park in Hartsdale. L-R: Seth Mandelbaum, Chair, WPF; Mike Owen; Westchester County Executive George Latimer; Bill Madden, Director, Veolia

Westchester Parks Foundation (WPF) kicked off its Spring programming early this year with the opening of the WPF Trails Without Limits program at Ridge Road Park in Hartsdale. Mike Owen of Newton, Connecticut was the first participant for the 2nd season of the All-Terrain Trackchair program that allows individuals who may be living with cerebral palsy, spinal cord injury, amputation, paraplegia, arthritis, cardiac issues, joint replacements, or have other mobility concerns the opportunity to immerse themselves in Westchester County Parks. The event also included a special check presentation from Veolia for continued support of the program and a grant from the Craig H. Neilsen Foundation to expand the program.

Seth Mandelbaum, Chair, Westchester Parks Foundation stated: “We are thrilled to kick off the Spring season with our Trails Without Limit programs and continue to make County trails accessible to more people than ever. We look forward to expanding this program to additional parks throughout Westchester County this year and look forward to seeing everyone this Spring at one of our programs.”

George Latimer, Westchester County Executive said, “The Westchester County Parks system is a unique and beautiful aspect of Westchester County that everyone should have the ability to experience and the Trails Without Limits program is the perfect way to ensure that no one misses out.”

Kathy O’Connor, Commissioner of the Westchester County Parks Department said, “Thank you to Westchester Parks Foundation for continuing the implementation of this fantastic program that allows those who may not have had the capability to experience our parks enjoy them with their loved ones.”

Bill Madden, the director of communications and government affairs for Veolia’s New York operations remarked: “Our partnership with the Westchester County Parks Foundation is very important to our organization. As a world leader in the environmental services industry, our support of the Trails Without Limits program aligns perfectly with our commitment to the community and the environment. We think it is one of the most unique initiatives in the Hudson Valley that provides an important service to many of our customers.”

The WPF Trails Without Limits program is completely free for users and open to ALL not just Westchester County residents. Individuals with their family, friends, and/or caregivers, will experience a 1–2-mile hike guided by a WPF volunteer or staff person. The program will rotate throughout Westchester County Parks March–November. Slots are currently available this month at Ridge Road Park in Hartsdale, Saxon Woods Park in White Plains in April, and Muscoot Farm in Katonah in May with additional parks added throughout the season. To register for a time slot in the park of your choice, visit <https://www.thewpf.org/trailswithoutlimits>.

# Assistant Commissioner of County Department of Health Charged with Filing False Financial Disclosures

Westchester County District Attorney Miriam E. Rocah announced last month that a Westchester County Department of Health Assistant Commissioner was arrested and charged with failing to disclose to the Westchester County Board of Ethics more than \$95,000 in income he received from an environmental health consulting firm in 2020, 2021, and 2022.

The defendant, Peter DeLucia, 54, of South Salem, was arrested by the Westchester County District Attorney’s Office and charged with three felony counts of Offering a False Instrument for Filing in the First Degree. The defendant was issued a Desk Appearance Ticket for a March 27 arraignment in White Plains City Court.

As alleged in the felony complaint, the defendant failed to disclose a total of more than \$95,000 received for consulting services in checks, wire transfers, and automatic bank transfers from Retired Regulators LLC, DBA Rapid Response Environmental Health Consulting LLC, on his 2020,

2021, and 2022 forms. As mandated by Westchester County, certain employees, including the defendant, are required to file Annual Statements of Financial Disclosure with the Westchester County Board of Ethics disclosing the source and nature of any income in excess of \$1,000 related to any outside occupation, employment, business or profession while employed by the County.

The defendant allegedly received and deposited approximately \$14,000 in 2020, \$36,000 in 2021, and \$45,000 in 2022.

The DA’s Office learned of the allegations in October 2023 and launched an investigation.

The case is being prosecuted by Senior Assistant District Attorney Renee Hassel of the Public Integrity and Law Enforcement Integrity Bureau in the Trials and Investigations Division.

The charges against the defendant are merely accusations, and the defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

# County Executive and Municipal Leaders Highlight Bold Initiatives Transforming Municipalities

Under the leadership of Westchester County Executive George Latimer, a wave of transformative infrastructure initiatives has swept through municipalities across Westchester County totaling \$893,533,000.

Latimer highlighted many local projects funded by Westchester County Government including roads, bridges, parks, flooding mitigation, and housing issues.

Latimer said: “Unlike some who merely claim success, we have delivered tangible results for the people of Westchester County. Through strategic planning and relentless dedication, our administration has transformed municipalities across the region. Actions speak louder than words, and our record of accomplishment speaks volumes.”

New Rochelle Mayor Yadira Ramos-Herbert said: “Westchester County’s investments in New Rochelle’s infrastructure are vitally needed. We are grateful for the County’s support. The new Glen Island Bridge will facilitate easy and convenient use of one of our most treasured parks.”

White Plains Mayor Tom Roach said: “The City of White Plains is proud to have a strong partnership with Westchester County. We appreciate the County’s continued investment in its infrastructure and facilities located in the City of White Plains; most recently, much-needed resurfacing work on Old Mamaroneck Road and extensive renovations to the Westchester County Center. These critical investments enhance the quality of life for all White Plains and Westchester County residents. Thank you to County Executive George Latimer and his team for their diligence and commitment to building strong partnerships with the villages, towns, and cities.”

Some of the local projects for 2024 include:

2024, Noted Projects

- Bronx River Pathway Reconstruction – Multiple: \$6,900,000
- County Center Improvements – White Plains: \$25,000,000
- Glen Island Bridge – New Rochelle: \$52,000,000
- Hilltop Hannover – Yorktown: \$15,000,000
- Murray Avenue – Mamaroneck: \$1,485,000
- McLean Avenue – Yonkers: \$575,000
- Old Mamaroneck Road – White Plains: \$4,000,000
- Tuckahoe Road Bridge over Bronx River Parkway – Yonkers: \$3,500,000



County Executive George Latimer





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## Harrison School District Market Update

YEAR-TO-DATE 2024 | SINGLE FAMILY HOMES

**20**

Homes Sold

*0% from 2023*

**\$1.8M**

Median Sale Price

*+25% from 2023*

**74**

Days on Market

*+1% from 2023*

**94%**

Sale to List  
Price Ratio

*-0% from 2023*



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**83 DUXBURY ROAD, PURCHASE, NY**

Source: OneKeyMLS, 1/1/24 - 2/29/24 v. 1/1/23 - 2/28/24, All Homes, Harrison School District.