



WESTCHESTER COUNTY ASSOCIATION BUSINESS INTEL NEWS

Impacting Economic Development in Westchester!



Corazon Pineida, Shari Ascher, Westchester County; Michael N. Romita, WCA; Bridget Gibbons, Westchester County; Amy Allen, WCA; Westchester County Executive George Latimer; Jason Chapin, WCA, pictured at WCA's recent healthcare and finance career fairs.

Westchester County's recently released draft 2023 capital budget includes more than \$100 million available to the County via the American Rescue Plan of 2021. The WCA is urging the County to use those funds for four priority areas important to driving economic growth and vitality:

- Support the employment needs of our healthcare sector with additional funding for the county's successful Healthcare Talent Pipeline Program, administered by the WCA. Since launching earlier this year, over 100 students have enrolled and employer partners have reported dozens of hires, resulting in millions in economic impact.
- Create a county-wide "Connect Westchester" digital navigator program to provide basic digital inclusion services to thousands of residents in unserved and underserved communities. The WCA's pilot program in Yonkers is a model. Scaling this program to connect more people to the digital economy is community builder and economic driver.
- Target housing development by incentivizing market rate developers to build more affordable/workforce housing and rewarding local municipalities that adopt zoning and land use regulations which support those developments. See sidebar for details.
- Conduct a county-wide climate change resiliency study to assess stormwater and flood mitigation infrastructure needs and provide assistance for businesses still struggling with the impacts of the pandemic and Hurricane IDA. This effort is needed to identify and address the risks of climate change to our economy, our businesses, our communities, and our most vulnerable members.

Visit [Westchester.org/take-action](https://westchester.org/take-action) to take a stand on housing in Westchester. Take action today!



CBRE Executive Vice President, Bill Cuddy, serves as WCA's Real Estate Task Force Chair.

WCA Takes Lead on Housing Action With 5-Point Plan

Westchester's housing shortage is one of our region's principal challenges and a serious impediment to economic growth and community vitality. There's good news: Westchester County Executive George Latimer's proposed 2023 budget includes \$90 million in funds for affordable housing in our communities.

To support this proposed historic investment, the WCA's Real Estate Task Force created a 5-Point Housing Action Plan recommending strategies on how to best use those funds to encourage and incentivize both housing developers and local municipalities —many of which still have exclusionary zoning or outmoded practices which limit the opportunities to address our shared problem — to build the housing we need.

If passed, this would be the single biggest investment in affordable housing the County has ever made. Join dozens of organizations and businesses who have signed on in support of our plan. Visit Westchester.org/take-action to take a stand on housing in Westchester. Take action today!

WCA Wins Big Grant to Help Healthcare Employers Fill Open Jobs

Another feather in WCA's cap! The \$247K Healthcare Career Launch Project, funded by the NYS Department of Labor, will recruit and train 50 job seekers to fill critical healthcare vacancies. Westchester Community College will train participants for medical and nursing assistant jobs, and the Leadership Learning Group will provide service excellence and job readiness training for all participants.



Welcome New Platinum Member!

Welcome to the New York Blood Center, WCA's newest platinum member! One of the largest, independent, community-based blood centers in the world, NYBC and its operating divisions also provide an array of transfusion-related medical services to over 500 hospitals nationally. Notably, NYBC is expanding its presence in Westchester County, with a planned move to the former Avon Cosmetics facility in Rye. The new location will serve as the home of the organization's tri-state operations, which include life sciences, blood collections, and processing and cell therapy manufacturing. It will be the first-ever single campus for the NYBC.



Michael N. Romita Addresses U.S. Green Chamber of Commerce

WCA's sustainability efforts took center stage at the global 14th Annual Chambers for Sustainability conference on November 16. Hosted virtually by the U.S. Green Chamber, the event featured WCA President & CEO Michael N. Romita, who discussed WCA initiatives including our Sustainability Energy Policy Advocacy Plan, Clean Energy Portal in partnership with Pace University, and online curriculum for sustainability management in partnership with Fordham University.

UPCOMING EVENTS



Holiday Networking Reception

Connect with the "Who's Who" of Westchester and the region at this exclusive cocktail reception. Meet leading professionals from both the public and private sectors — including members of the WCA Board, as this reception follows the WCA's quarterly Board of Directors meeting.

Thursday, December 15th 2022
5:30 - 7:30pm

Westchester Country Club
99 Biltmore Avenue Rye, NY

Register at westchester.org/events

JOIN THE WCA

Visit westchester.org/member-benefits for more information or contact Melissa Luzzi, Manager Membership & Events, at 914-948-1860 or info@westchester.org

PLATINUM INVESTORS

