The Westchester Library System (WLS), along with 23 other organizations, was selected to share in a milestone award of $500,000. The award recognized the most innovative, feasible and scalable plans for promoting adult literacy using accessible technology. “We are thrilled to have this opportunity to promote the role of technology in adult learning. And we are grateful for the Communities Competition Milestone Award recognizing our efforts. Learning Upgrade is easy and fun to use for everyone. It is just one of the many digital learning tools available to anyone who lives, works or goes to school in Westchester,” said Terry L. Kirchner, WLS Executive Director.

Last week, at the Furniture Sharehouse in the Westchester County Airport, two families from Mount Vernon were surprised by members of the NY Yankees. Greeted by Yankees’ vice president of communications, along with numerous Furniture Sharehouse volunteers, the two families were expecting to choose from the wealth of donated items in the warehouse to help furnish their homes. But they were certainly not expecting the helping hands of NY Yankee players who assisted the volunteers in helping them choose from the donated items in the warehouse. Read more here.

Westchester Jewish Community Services (WJCS) welcomes new Board President Mariquita Blumberg. The announcement was made at WJCS’ Annual Board Meeting on June 3. “WJCS is one of the largest human service organizations in Westchester and its role in helping to improve the lives of thousands of Westchester residents cannot be overstated,” said County Executive Latimer. “Congratulations to Mariquita Blumberg on being appointed WJCS Board President. Westchester County looks forward to continuing to partner with WJCS under her leadership.”

NONPROFIT JOB OPENINGS

Clay Art Center is seeking:
Westchester Library System Attacked By Ransomware Virus

Jon Craig  07/10/2019 1:35 p.m.

The computer network of the Westchester Library System was attacked by a ransomware virus last week. Photo Credit: Pixabay

A ransomware virus attack on the Westchester Library System is being investigated, an IT official said on Wednesday, July 10.

Public access PCs were turned off temporarily as a precaution and restored to service on Friday, July 5 and Saturday, July 6.
In a public statement to library system patrons, WLS announced that the "virus disabled servers that control services used by PCs such as network management, printing and authentication."

"The server that contains patron data, the circulation system and online catalog was not impacted by this event and no data breach is suspected," the announcement said. "Public WiFi and online resources were also unaffected."

Public access PCs were turned off as a precaution and IT staff later restored these services.

"Following recovery from this event WLS will be working with local authorities to see what appropriate actions can be taken," the public statement said.

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GOOD THINGS HAPPENING
July 1, 2019

WESTCHESTER LIBRARY SYSTEM,
A NATIONAL XPRIZE ADULT LITERACY WINNER

XPRIZE, in partnership with the Barbara Bush Foundation for Family Literacy and the Dollar General Literacy Foundation, recently announced the recipients of the first phase of its $1 million Adult Literacy XPRIZE Communities Competition. A panel of independent judges selected Westchester Library System (WLS) along with 23 other organizations to share in a milestone award of $500,000 ($20,833 each). The award recognized the most innovative, feasible and scalable plans for promoting and implementing adult literacy using accessible technology, including tablets and cell phones.

For 60 years, the partnership between Westchester Library System and the county’s 38 public libraries has provided Westchester residents with the best in library services, open access to technology and free programming for anyone who lives, works or goes to school in the county.
Volunteer New York! is a unique and trusted community resource for individuals of all ages and abilities, and businesses looking to make a difference through volunteerism. We are here for you — in person, by phone, online. To inspire action. To tackle critical community issues. To expand nonprofit capacity. To transform lives. Call us or visit our website to find local volunteer opportunities. Call 914.948.4452 or visit our site to find local volunteer opportunities. Starting in September 2019, Volunteer New York will celebrate our 70th Anniversary (#VNY70) with a year-long campaign of special events through summer 2020. We invite everyone to participate and celebrate! Learn more at volunteernewyork.org/VNY70.

VOLUNTEER NEW YORK!
220 White Plains Road • Tarrytown • 914.948.4452 • www.volunteernewyork.org

Members of Volunteer New York!'s staff and board join with participants of their several signature community initiatives—RSVP of Westchester, RISE, Leadership Westchester—to celebrate the launch of the organization's 70th anniversary campaign #VNY70, commemorating 70 years of making meaningful local volunteer connections from 1950-2020.
Harckham, Abinanti Secure $400K Funding for Mt. Pleasant Library

Children's Room Will Be Renovated and Modernized at the Pleasantville Branch

By NANCY FINK, Patch Contributor
Sep 13, 2019 5:49 pm ET | Updated Sep 13, 2019 5:51 pm ET

L to R: Library Director John Fearon; Senator Harckham, Assemblymember Abinanti, Mayor Pete Scherer; Supervisor Carl Fugenzi

Demonstrating their strong support for public libraries, Senator Pete Harckham, 40th Senate District, and Assemblymember Tom Abinanti, Assembly District 92, announced a combined total of nearly $400,000 in funding to modernize and renovate the Children’s Room in the Mount
Pleasant Public Library in Pleasantville.

"My commitment to our public libraries is strong," said Senator Pete Harckham. Today, I'm thrilled to announce that over $140,000 in SED library construction funding is going to the Mount Pleasant Public Library, a thriving community gathering place for our children, families, students and seniors. My colleague, Assemblymember Tom Abinanti, has secured a $250,000 State Aid to Municipalities grant for the same construction project at the library. These combined funds of nearly $400,000, will be used to modernize and improve the Children's Room. In total, this year, the libraries in my district are receiving nearly $500,000 in awards and aid through the NYS Senate - including nearly $240,000 in SED library construction awards and a total of $250,000 in bullet aid funding ($13,889 for each SD40 library) that I secured for miscellaneous improvements."

Assemblymember Tom Abinanti said, "Libraries are an education center, a research center and a community center. Getting State grants to our local libraries is among the best way to lower property taxes and bring State taxes back home."

The funds awarded to the Mt. Pleasant Public Library will be used for various improvements including new LED lighting, furnishings, a new ceiling and the reconfiguration of the room for more modern uses. The library, which is a joint municipal library for the Town of Mt. Pleasant and the Village of Pleasantville, is currently surveying the community on how to use the money to further upgrade the Children's Room. The library has an active children's program including story times for infants, toddlers and preschoolers, family story times, evening "pajama" story times and musical concerts for children.

Mayor Peter Scherer, Pleasantville, said, "We're delighted that Senator Harckham and Assemblymember Abinanti have secured this new funding for our library. This long-standing model of shared services between the Village of Pleasantville and the Town of Mount Pleasant is an anchor for our community, and we deeply appreciate the support of the Senator and Assemblymember."
Carl Fugenzi, Town Supervisor, Town of Mt. Pleasant said, "The Town of Mount Pleasant appreciates the efforts of Senator Harckham and Assemblyman Abinanti in securing the funding for the essential improvements to the Mount Pleasant Public Library. All in our community, especially our children, will benefit from the upgrades made to the Children's room. We look forward to seeing this project come to fruition."

John Fearon, Library Director, Mount Pleasant Public Library, said, "The Mount Pleasant Public Library is fortunate to be jointly funded by two municipalities, the Town of Mount Pleasant and the Village of Pleasantville, that are committed to supporting top class library services. Their strong support of the Library has enabled us to grow, and to be able to successfully respond to new challenge and new demands.

However, each municipality is highly sensitive to the pressures on local tax payers. To that end, the support that the Library has received from its elected representatives at the New York State level is invaluable. The grants that have been received from New York State have supported a number of important infrastructure projects, such as a roof replacement and the upgrading the Library's HVAC system.

These latest grants continue that tradition. The Library is currently running a community-based planning process for children's services. That process will result in recommendations for improvements to the Children's Room. These grants will allow the Library Board to commit to realizing those recommendations. As a result, thousands of children across the Library's community will benefit."
Rockettes Coming To Shrub Oak Library

The Rockettes will join local kids in decorating snow globes to create a memorable keepsake.

By Michael Woyton | Sep 10, 2019 3:25 pm ET

(Courtesy of MSG)

SHRUB OAK, NY — We know it seems that we just passed Labor Day, but it's never too early to get into the holiday spirit. Before they start rehearsals for the 2019 Christmas Spectacular, the Radio City Rockettes will be visiting are libraries in September for festive arts and crafts sessions with fan and families.

Rockettes will be at the John C. Hart Memorial Library from 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 26. They are free and open to the public.

The library is located at 1130 E. Main St. in Shrub Oak.

Children and families will be able to take photos with the Rockettes, which will be instantly printed and framed inside a snow globe.

At the library, the Rockettes will join local kids in decorating their snow globes to create a memorable keepsake.

The 2019 Christmas Spectacular production features Rockettes dance numbers, costumes and immersive technology and visual effects.
The finale, "Christmas Lights," begins at the conclusion of the "Living Nativity" scene, which has been performed as part of the Christmas Spectacular since its inception in 1933.

Tickets for the 2019 Christmas Spectacular are on sale now.

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White Plains Library receives $140K construction grant for renovations

Isabel Keene, Rockland/Westchester Journal News  Published 6:30 p.m. ET Aug. 14, 2019

A grant worth $140,591 was awarded to the White Plains Public Library today to renovate the second floor’s public meeting rooms and museum gallery.

The New York State Library Construction Grant will be used for public meeting rooms, which are used as classrooms, library programs and spaces for community organizations to hold meetings.

The Library's Museum Gallery provides a space to view public art created by established and emerging artists.

Due to renovations, the auditorium, two public meeting rooms, and the Museum Gallery will be unavailable for use through March 2020.

The front exterior of the White Plains Library is pictured as work continues on a multi-million dollar renovation of the White Plains Library Plaza, April 24, 2019. (Photo: Mark Vergari/The Journal News)

This is not the first construction grant the library has received in recent years.


DMV: Application to move DMV to Barker Ave withdrawn following criticism  (/story/news/local/westchester/white-plainplains-department-of-motor-vehicles-withdrawn-amid-opposition/1920388001/)


White Plains Public Library awarded construction grant

In 2017, a $153,807 grant prompted renovations of the community room, classrooms and cafe. In 2014, a $67,400 grant allowed for the creation of a learning commons area for adults.

More funds allocated to library renovations allows for greater outreach within the community. With assistance from state delegation members, the funding for this particular construction grant was received.

"It's important to continue providing construction funds for our libraries in their emerging role as community centers," Assemblyman David Buchwald said.

Twitter: @jkeane  (https://twitter.com/jkeane)

Read or Share this story: https://www.lohud.com/story/news/local/westchester/white-plains/2019/08/14/white-plains-library-renovations/2010242001/
New Rochelle Public Library Foundation
Anniversary Gala, New Rochelle

New Rochelle Public Library Foundation hosted its anniversary gala on May 9 at the Greentree Country Club. The event celebrated the 125th anniversary of the New Rochelle Public Library (NRPL). Clockwise, from left: emcee Tony Aiello with NRPL trustee Dierdra Gray Clark; County Executive George Latimer with Theresa and Tom Legh horn; New Rochelle mayor Noam Bramson, with his wife, Catie Stern, and Terri and Alvin Bowles.
Harrison Library Play2Learn Soars for 2019

Published on Monday, 29 July 2019 13:47  
Written by Dave Donelson

The Harrison Public Library presents over 1,900 programs annually, but none have an impact like the Play2Learn Festival, which drew over 3,000 kids and parents last year.

September 7 marks another encore for the Play2Learn Festival, the award-winning Harrison Public Library celebration of childhood learning through play that has wowed kids and parents for the past three years. This year’s edition promises to take the event to new heights —literally.

“Our new activities for 2019 will dazzle the kids,” according to Play2Learn chair Fran Brescia-Coniglio. “The not-so-young folks will have plenty of fun, too!”

The Play2Learn Festival will be held Saturday, September 7, 11 AM to 2 PM at Riis Park in front of the Halperin Memorial Library in downtown Harrison.

New activities will take kids from the sea to the sky this year. Drones operated by Aviated Precision will not only provide video of the event but enable kids to take “dronies” from the sky from their asteroid booth.

The Play2Learn Festival will also feature a slate of new activities from the Whaling Museum & Education Center. Thanks to a grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, kids will learn how they can help restore and protect the health and living resources of Long Island Sound.

“These new activities exemplify what the Play2Learn Festival is all about,” says HPL Director Galina Chernykh. “Children learn by playing just like they do in classrooms. Our goal is to show them many ways to learn while they’re having fun.”

Other popular activities set to return this year include the Bubble Bus, the Cooking Crew, and Fenom Fitness. More than 40 activities will be offered in eight play zones themed for physical, music, creative, science, make believe, technology, construction, and sensory activities at the Festival. Kids who play in at least five of the eight zones will win a prize. The festival will also feature music, food, and a variety of entertainment.

To keep the Play2Learn Festival free to the public, it is entirely funded by the Harrison Public Library Foundation through sponsor donations, grants, and individual gifts. At press time,
Fidelity Investments, Smile Starters Pediatric Dentistry, White Plains Hospital, and Moving Harrison Forward are lead sponsors.

In addition, ArtsWestchester awarded the Play2Learn Festival a 2019 Arts Alive Grant, an award made possible with funds from the Decentralization Program (DEC), a regrant program of the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the NYS Legislature and administered by ArtsWestchester.

"While we always can use financial support, we also need a host of volunteers," says HPLF President Dave Donelson. "We need people to help at the activity zones, to pass out activity maps, to greet and direct the families, and to set up and tear down the facilities." Volunteers can register via email to harrisonlibraryfoundation@gmail.com.
Harckham Announces Grant Funding to 18 Area Libraries

Each library will receive $13,889

By NANCY FINK | Jul 1, 2019 4:34 pm ET | Updated Jul 2, 2019 8:19 am ET

This post was contributed by a community member.

The Mt. Kisco Public Library is one of the 17 libraries in Senate District 40 that is receiving grant funding.

Senator Pete Harckham, 40th Senate District, announced that 18 district libraries will each be receiving $13,889 in bullet aid from the New York State Senate. The aid will be used for a variety of expenditures to benefit the libraries and their respective communities including furniture purchases, a self-checkout system and A/V upgrades.
Senator Pete Harckham said, "The libraries in my district receiving New York State Senate aid will put the money to great use for important projects such as advanced technology for the hearing and visually impaired. We worked hard to bring this funding into our communities and we're pleased that we could deliver for our wonderful libraries as well as for our constituents."

Gina Loprinzo, Director, Brewster Public Library said, "The staff of the Brewster Library is thrilled to be receiving a grant of $13,889 through New York State's Bullet Aid Program. This money will be used to purchase furnishings and A/V equipment for the upcoming new addition to our library. As we expand, we'll be able to offer many new programs and services. We are so grateful to Senator Harckham for allocating these funds, which will greatly benefit our community!"

Michele J. Capozzella, Director, Mahopac Public Library said, "The money represents a substantial investment in advanced audio and video technology in Mahopac Library's Community Room which serves all ages and abilities. The enhanced video and audio will be especially helpful to our audio and visually impaired patrons. On behalf of the Director and the Board of Trustees, I extend our thanks to Senator Harckham. We are very grateful to have been chosen to receive these funds."

Stephanie Harrison, Director, Patterson Library said, "The Patterson Library Board of Trustees, staff and I are very grateful to be the recipients of $13,889 in New York State Senate Targeted Aid funding. This money will allow us to replace our aging telephone system to better communicate with our patrons, introduce new services to our users such as self-checkout and a wifi hotspot lending program, and, add to our lending Library of Things. Thank you to Senator Harckham for recognizing the vital work libraries do every day to provide materials, information services and programs to promote informed citizenship and life-long learning to our communities!"

The following SD40 libraries will each receive $13,889 in New York State Senate bullet aid:

Mount Pleasant Library
Mount Pleasant Branch Library
Chappaqua Public Library
Mount Kisco Public Library
Croton Free Library
Hendrick Hudson Free Library
The Field Library (Peekskill)
Somers Library
John C. Hart Memorial Library
Pound Ridge Library
Lewisboro Library
Ruth Keeler Memorial Library (North Salem)
Mahopac Library
Reed Memorial Library (Carmel)
Brewster Public Library
Patterson Library
Pawling Free Library
Beekman Library

The views expressed in this post are the author’s own. Want to post on Patch? Register for a user account.

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More from Chappaqua, NY Patch

Getaway Trains; Pot Possession; Fatal Crash

Fix Your Rough, Callused Feet With A Pumice Stone Soap Scrubber
# Best of Westchester

## Fun & Leisure

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<th>Movie House</th>
<th>New Bar</th>
<th>Nonprofit Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>O'Connor's Public House</td>
<td>Tarrytown Halloween Parade</td>
<td>Lucy's Laugh Lounge</td>
<td>Jacob Burns Film Center</td>
<td>The Red Pony</td>
<td>Student Advocacy's Overcoming the Odds Awards Dinner</td>
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<td>White Plains</td>
<td>Tarrytown</td>
<td>Pleasantville</td>
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<th>Library</th>
<th>Local Theater Group</th>
<th>Marina</th>
<th>Music Venue</th>
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<td>Ossining Public Library</td>
<td>Actors Conservatory Theatre</td>
<td>Westerly Marina</td>
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## Readers' Picks

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<td>After-School Program</td>
<td>Mike Risko Music School</td>
<td>Ossining</td>
<td><a href="http://www.mikerisko.co">www.mikerisko.co</a></td>
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<td>Music School</td>
<td>All About the Dress</td>
<td>Armonk</td>
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<td>Baby Clothes</td>
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<td>Lil Chameleon</td>
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<td>Tuckahoe</td>
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<td>Baby Gifts</td>
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<td>Danny's Cycles</td>
<td>Preschool</td>
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<td>Scarsdale (plus four other county locations)</td>
<td>The Chapel School</td>
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<td><a href="http://www.chapelpreschool.org">www.chapelpreschool.org</a></td>
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<td>Bicycle Shop</td>
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<td><a href="http://www.houseofsports.com">www.houseofsports.com</a></td>
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<td>Dance School</td>
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<td>Breaking Ground Dance Center</td>
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<td>Dance With Kids</td>
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PRESS RELEASE

Contact: Evania Thompson, Library Director
914-668-1840 ext. 215
Ethompson@wlsmail.org

MOUNT VERNON PUBLIC LIBRARY TO INSTALL LIBRARY MEDIA BOX™

Westchester’s Central Library to House First Media Box In New York State

Mount Vernon, NY, June 19, 2019 - Library Media™ Box, unique dispensing machine that allows library patrons to interact with the machine via a user-friendly touch screen is be coming to the Mount Vernon Public Librar. The completely secure "Box" enables persons with library cards to checkout or return most popular items once authorization has been granted.

Library trustee Board President, Oscar Davis, Jr. will cut the ribbon to officially display the newest hi-tech addition to the Library on Saturday June 22nd at 11am in Booth #2446 at the American Library Association Annual Conference in Washington D.C. The Library Media™ Box will be the first of its kind installed in the State of New York.

Trustee Davis said, "The Mount Vernon Public Library strives to provide the newest and most advanced products available for our patrons. As the Central Library of Westchester County, we are committed to focusing on developing unique and current collections utilizing technological advances to serve the diversity of patrons throughout the county. The Library Media Box™ is an example of how we use technological advances."

The Library Media Box™ manufactured by Publ Information Kiosk, a Division of International Library Services of Potomac Maryland, is a kiosk that will hold an
dispense 750 of the latest DVD's and music CD's. The complete collection will be visible on the Kiosk Monitor in the Library Main Lobby on South First Avenue and will be on the library's website where patrons can browse and reserve DVD's or music CD's in their home and conveniently pickup reservations and make returns at the kiosk.

The Library Media Box™ was purchased with funds from library construction and construction related service provided by DASNY (Dormitory Authority of the State of New York) as a part of its Community Reconstructing Program. "This technology will minimize the amount of time our staff spends cataloguing and retrieving our growing inventory and will make borrowing easier for our patrons," said Trustee Davis. "It's like renting a movie from the supermarket by using your library card instead of a credit card. It couldn't be easier or more convenient."

The Mount Vernon Public Library was built in 1905 with funds donated by Andrew Carnegie, it is the only remaining library in Westchester County operating in the footprint of the original building. It is a member of the Westchester Library System and the Central Library for Westchester County, New York, heralding the largest collection in Westchester County and the sixth largest collection in the State of New York. The Library now houses more than 350,000 items including books, periodicals, streaming media, CDs, DVDs, movies, electronic content eBooks, eMagazines, digital audio books, online databases and more, as well as providing public-use computers, museum passes, literacy programs and special events and activities for every age.

For further information, please contact Evania Thompson, Library Director at 914-668-1840 ext. 215 or email to Ethompson@wlsmail.org

Your library is FREE and opens doors to learning, relaxation and adventure.