

Christine Montanti, Photography by Don Fitzgibbon



It's hard to believe that Labor Day weekend has arrived marking the end to the Hamptons summer season. It feels like just yesterday we kicked off Memorial Day weekend. For many of us, the summer flew by faster than usual as we anxiously awaited the easing of COVID-19 restrictions. For others, the season was extended when many homeowners made the Hamptons their primary residence and retreated to their summer getaway location earlier than anticipated. Regardless, every day spent amongst family and friends in the Hamptons is truly a gift, and residents and visitors alike continue to relish the countless activities, the pristine ocean beaches, and the natural beauty of the East End's landscape.

This Labor Day issue we celebrate American businessman and philanthropist James C. Metzger, Founder and CEO of The Whitmore Agency- the leading insurance brokerage and financial services firm on Long Island. Metzger's company is known for providing a full range of insurance services including property and casualty insurance, life insurance, health insurance, real estate insurance, estate planning, financial services and a specialized funeral services program. Unfortunately, due to the unprecedented pandemic, many

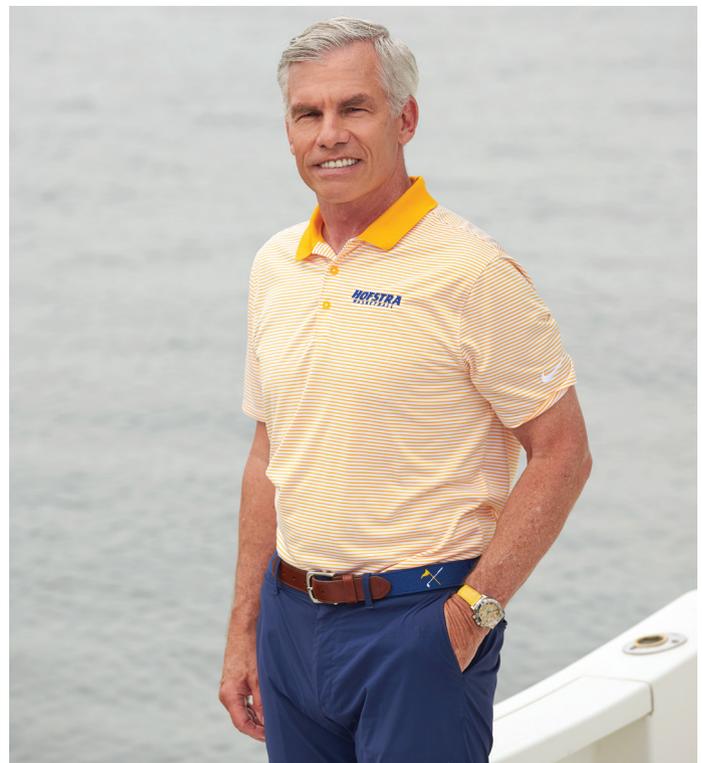
of Metzger's valued clients, especially those in the restaurant and hospital-ity industries, have suffered substantial financial losses to their businesses. Additionally, the prominent entrepreneur's roster of clients includes a large percentage from the funeral industry, which also has been affected by the pandemic. Despite the risk, funeral homes have been extraordinarily busy and are doing their share during COVID-19; these essential workers have repeatedly put not just their own but their family's health at risk by uninterruptedly providing services to their patrons. The philanthropist admits, "The pandemic has been a whirlwind every step of the way." Read more about Jim Metzger's compelling story featured on the cover and found on the pages in this Labor Day issue.

As fall is undoubtedly upon us, I am pleased to announce we will be launching an autumn issue exclusively in the Hamptons. As you know, the fall season is one of the most beautiful, magical times of year on the East End bringing cooler temperatures, breathtaking foliage, and wonderful seasonal activities. So, I am looking forward to connecting with you this fall as we continue to enjoy the beautiful lifestyle of this spectacular place, the Hamptons!

Warm wishes,

*Christine Montanti*

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