

Council Bids Fond Farewell to Mayor Bramson

BY STEPHEN E. LIPKEN

Outgoing New Rochelle Mayor Noam Bramson, along with departing Councilmembers Liz Fried and Ivar Hyden, convened the December 12 City Council Regular Legislative Meeting.

On the Consent Agenda, a Resolution authorized the City Manager to negotiate a retention incentive of up to 1% for officers in the Police Department. Then the City Collective Bargaining Team negotiated a Stipulation of Agreement between City and Uniformed Fire Fighters Association, Inc. and International Association of Fire Fighters (I.A.F.F.) for period of January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2026.

Increased salaries as follows: Effective 1/1/2021, increase annual salaries by 1.75%; 2022, 2%; 2023, 2%; 2024, 3%; 2025, 3%; 2026, 3%.

With Councilwoman Yadira Ramos Herbert's election as Mayor and Bramson's becoming Executive Director of Sustainable Westchester, Councilmembers stepped up to bid Mayor Bramson a fond farewell.

"This past four years I have learned a lot and one thing that is very important to say is



that everyone who ever runs for office and gets elected is because they really do love their city," Councilwoman Martha Lopez said. "Noam, thank you for always bringing everyone together, explaining and teaching us how we can work together. I wish you the very best in your future job."

"Noam and I have been on this Council 16 years together," Councilman Albert Tarantino observed. "We have had our ups and downs over the years, but I truly believe that we had a mutual respect. We learned to disagree and move on to the next issue."

Councilman Ivar Hyden thanked Bramson for his 28 years of service to the Council and Councilwoman Liz Fried remarked that Bramson's vision for the development of the City "has been extraordinary."

Bramson rendered some parting remarks: "As you might imagine, my thoughts and emotions range in many different directions," Bramson began. "There is a temptation to review all that has been achieved, all that has been overcome, all that has fallen short..."

"I thank all of my colleagues for their very kind words, and I thank you for the time we have spent together as stewards of this City."

Students Get Insight into Criminal Justice System

On November 16, 31 New Rochelle High School students attended a symposium at Sarah Lawrence College on the criminal justice system hosted by African American Men of Westchester.

Through a series of interactive workshops and speakers, the students learned about various aspects of the criminal justice system, including law enforcement, the criminal court system, the district attorney's office and the probation department. The students also learned about career opportunities.

Specific attention was also presented covering an individual's civil rights under the law. Students engaged with presenters in reviewing the merits of a case study that focused on their rights as juveniles and future adults. Gaining valuable insight as to how to best conduct themselves during a traffic stop with law enforcement, the purpose of bail, the interworking of probation and more.

The African American Men of Westchester creates innovating and valuable solutions to societal problems affecting all community members and promoting social inclusion and empowerment.

The students who attended the symposium are enrolled in a variety of business classes as well as those focusing on the law; Business Law and Law and Government.

"This was a fantastic opportunity for students to learn about the criminal justice system," said business teacher and My Brother's Keeper advisor Zachary Crisp who organized the excursion.

"Every student should know their rights as citizens. However, given the historical context and history between African American communities and law enforcement it is especially important that students of color understand their rights," he added.

The event concluded with a Q&A session that provided students the opportunity to ask questions to accomplished members of the Westchester community consisting of law enforcement officials, lawyers, district attorneys and judges.

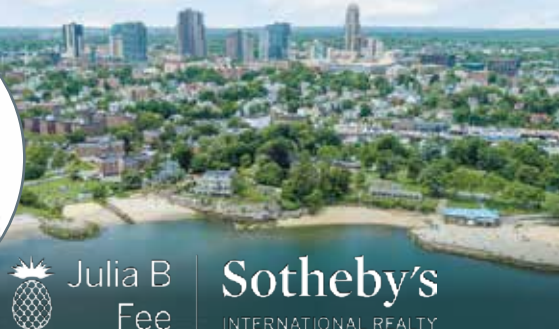


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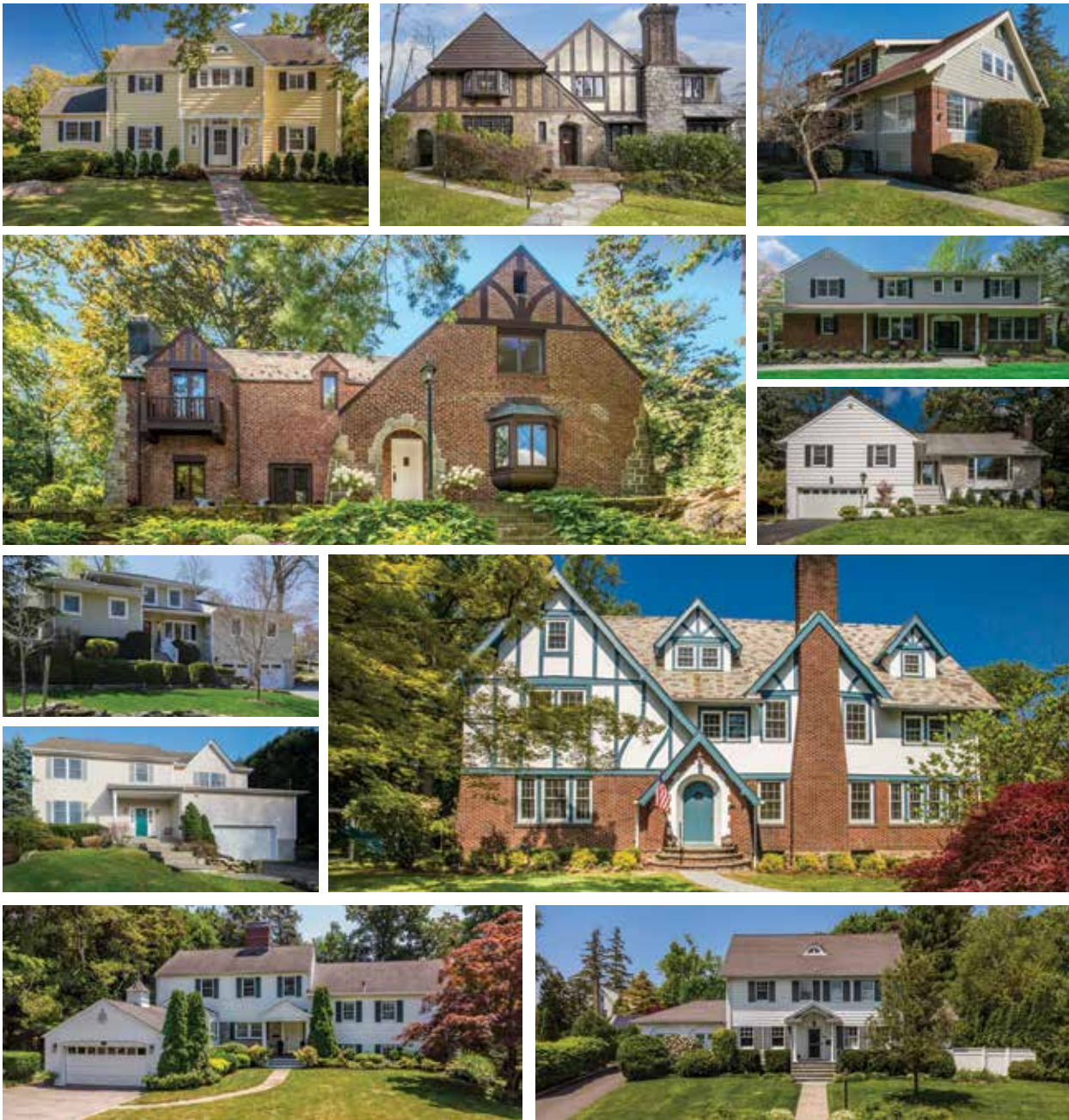
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Source: OKMLS, 2022, total dollar volume of single family homes sold by Houlihan Lawrence agent, New Rochelle school district. Jocelyn ranks in the Top 1% in Westchester County by single family homes sold, total dollar volume, 2022. Top 1.5% in the US by Real Trends, America's Best.



A SELECTION OF JOCELYN'S 2023 NOTABLE NEW ROCHELLE SALES

15 TREVON PLACE	On the market for 7 Days	Sold for \$101,000 over asking
76 ABERFOYLE ROAD	On the market for 10 Days	Sold for \$100,000 over asking
304 PINEBROOK BOULEVARD	On the market for 2 Days	Sold for \$200,000 over asking
107 CRAWFORD TERRACE	On the market for 6 Days	Sold for \$175,000 over asking
30 BLOOMINGDALE DRIVE	On the market for 4 Days	Sold for \$305,000 over asking
14 SUNNYSIDE WAY	On the market for 8 Days	Sold for \$165,000 over asking
118 VICTORY BOULEVARD	On the market for 3 Days	Sold for \$255,000 over asking
537 STRATTON ROAD	On the market for 7 Days	Sold for \$100,000 over asking
159 PAINE AVENUE	On the market for 5 Days	Sold for \$161,000 over asking
32 OLD ORCHARD ROAD	On the market for 8 Days	Sold for \$190,000 over asking

News from the New Rochelle City Manager

As 2023 comes to an end, it is my honor to reflect on the remarkable progress and achievements that have defined our city this past year. As your City Manager, it has been a privilege to witness and participate in the resilience, collaboration, and collective spirit that make New Rochelle truly exceptional.

As our downtown growth and revitalization continues, our business climate continues to improve along with it. Over the last 12 months, we have provided targeted support for local businesses, and have worked to establish a talented local workforce, as evidenced by the opening of the New Rochelle Forward workforce development program.

Affordable housing remains a priority, with several lotteries completed for 276 units in the downtown and 561 more in the works from new development under construction, while our First-Time Home Buyer Down Payment Assistance Program has made the dream of homeownership a reality for a number of local families this year.

Throughout this year we also reinforced the strength of our community bonds, with a number of new events from summer concerts and recreational activities to cultural and neighborhood activations as well as new programming for youth



Kathleen Gill

and seniors. We are proud that over 500 young people were employed in a variety of jobs this summer through our Summer Youth Employment Program, including a special needs cohort who for the first time were able to bring home a paycheck through a Learn-and-Earn-program. These along with community-led projects, volunteer efforts, and partnerships with valuable organizations such as the City School District are making the fabric of our community strong.

As we look to the year ahead, our 2024 budget includes investments in public safety, critical infrastructure, stormwater management and sustainability, all serving to reinforce our foundation and set the stage for even greater accomplishments.

It is my sincere hope that the spirit of collaboration, innovation, and community engagement continues to guide our city towards prosperity. I am grateful to the residents, community leaders, dedicated city employees and colleagues in government who have contributed to the success of New Rochelle in 2023, and I am confident that together, we will continue to shape a future that reflects the essence of our remarkable city.

Wishing you all a healthy and happy New Year!

Board of Legislators Bestow Distinguished Service Medals



Departing Legislators Damon Maher, Catherine Borgia, and Symra Brandon Receive Awards

At the final Board meeting of 2023 on December 11, the Board of Legislators honored three outgoing Legislators with the Distinguished Service Award, the highest recognition the Board can bestow on an individual who has significantly benefited the general welfare and common good of the County through dedicated public service.

Chairman Vedat Gashi issued the awards to former Board Chair Catherine Borgia, Legislator Damon Maher, and Legislator Symra Brandon.

Legislator Catherine Borgia (D - Briarcliff Manor, Cortlandt, Croton, Ossining, Peekskill) served six terms from January 2012 to the pres-

ent. Borgia has held important positions, including Chair of the Board's Government Operations Committee, Democratic Majority Leader, and Budget and Appropriations Committee Chair. She worked with fellow Legislators and the County Executive's administration to pass budgets that reduced the County's property tax levy, rebuilt reserve funds, and invested in infrastructure. Borgia was elected as the Board Chair for the 2022-2023 term, making her the second woman to hold the position and the first in twenty years.

Legislator Damon Maher (D - Eastchester, continued on page 11



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Shot Heard Through Floor

On Sunday December 17th, 2023, at about 6:53pm, New Rochelle Police responded to 132 Beechwood Avenue on a report that a gunshot had come through the floor of an apartment from the apartment below. The complainant stated she heard the shot around 12:30am but did not see the damage until later. New Rochelle Detectives responded and were able to obtain a search warrant for the apartment below the complainant. The investigation led to Detectives finding a defaced 9mm Ruger handgun with five live rounds of ammunition in the apartment.

The owner of the gun was arrested without incident. There were no injuries as a result of this incident. The reason for the shot was not disclosed by the suspect.

ARRESTED: Javier Lopez, 34 years of age, of New Rochelle.

CHARGES: New York State Penal Law Sections: 265.03 Criminal Possession of a Weapon 2nd Degree – C Felony; 120.05 Reckless Endangerment 1st Degree – D Felony; 265.02 Criminal Possession of a Weapon 3rd Defaced for Concealment – D Felony.

Arson

On Tuesday December 12, 2023, at about 12:47am, New Rochelle Police responded to the Drake Main Café, located at 1 Drake Avenue, on a report of an Arson that had just occurred. The bar owner told police that a dispute occurred earlier in the evening between the arson suspect and Drake Main Café staff at which time the suspect left the premises. The suspect returned shortly thereafter with a gas can and began to pour gas on the exterior walls of the café as well as the entryway before lighting it on fire and fleeing. The bar owner was able to quickly extinguish the fire and responding officers located the suspect attempting to flee in an Uber. There were no injuries reported at this time. The suspect was taken into custody without incident.

ARRESTED: Freissy Batista-Pereya, female, 32 years of age, of the Bronx, NY.

CHARGES: NYS Penal Law Sections: 150.15 Arson 2nd Degree -B Felony; 120.25 Reckless Endangerment 1st Degree – D Felony; 145.05 Criminal Mischief 3rd Degree – E Felony.

DWI

On Saturday December 16th, 2023, at about 7:36pm, New Rochelle Police responded to the area of Mayflower Avenue and Pelhamdale Avenue on a report of an erratic driver who struck multiple parked vehicles. Responding Police lo-

cated 16 vehicles that appeared to have been hit. After further investigation Police located the driver involved with these collisions and placed him under arrest without incident.

ARRESTED: James Tozzo, 71 years of age, of New Rochelle.

CHARGES: NYS Vehicle and Traffic Law Section 1192 Driving While Intoxicated – E Felony.

Robbery

On Friday December 8th, 2023, at about 2:30pm, New Rochelle Police responded to Snipes Clothing, located at 440 North Avenue, on a report of a robbery. The store manager told police that three suspects entered the store and began to load Nike clothing into a garbage bag. As the suspects began to flee, one of them pushed the store manager out of the way of the door before running South on North Avenue and then onto Morris Street. Witnesses on Morris Street observed the commotion and were able to assist police by obtaining the license plate of the suspects' car. With the help of the Westchester County Police Real Time Crime Center, Yonkers Police and Mount Vernon Police, New Rochelle Detectives were able to develop leads that eventually led to the capture of the three suspects. No injuries were reported from this incident.

ARRESTED: Richard Bailey, 32 years of age, of Mount Vernon – charged with NYS Penal Law 160.10 Robbery 2nd Degree – C Felony

Charles Moye, 39 years of age, of Yonkers – charged with NYS Penal Law 165.45 Criminal Possession of Stolen Property 4th – E Felony

Curtis Thompson, 40 years of age, of Mount Vernon – charged with NYS Penal Law 160.45 Criminal Possession of Stolen Property 4th – E Felony

Co-Founder of New Rochelle Charity for Autistic Children Sentenced for Stealing \$24,000 from Nonprofit

Westchester County District Attorney Miriam E. Rocah announced that the co-founder of Christopher's Voice, Inc., a New Rochelle-based charity for autistic children, was sentenced after pleading guilty to stealing approximately \$24,000 from the not-for-profit organization named after his son.

DA Rocah said: "After stealing money for more than five years from a charity he founded, this defendant has admitted his wrongdoing. Thanks to the hard work of our Public Integrity and Law Enforcement Integrity Bureau this defendant is being held accountable for his criminal conduct and betrayal of trust. We were able to secure the return of the stolen funds and insured that they will be used to support a reputable organization that helps children in need."

The defendant, Christopher Greco, 52 of New Rochelle, a 25-year veteran of the New Rochelle Police Department who retired in August 2021, pleaded guilty on Nov. 29 before Judge Eileen Songer McCarthy in New Rochelle City Court to Petit Larceny, a misdemeanor. The defendant was sentenced to a one-year conditional discharge.

As part of his plea agreement, the defendant paid full restitution to Christopher's Voice,



Inc., and was required to transfer the charity's remaining funds of \$49,750, which includes the restitution, to Elizabeth Seton Children's Foundation, a Westchester-based nonprofit that provides long-term care for children with severe medical conditions.

The defendant is also required to file for the dissolution of Christopher's Voice, Inc., with the New York State Attorney General's Office, and is further prohibited from performing charitable activity and accepting any charitable donations while awaiting final dissolution of the

organization.

The defendant admitted in court that he spent money intended for Christopher's Voice, Inc., on himself and his family for personal purchases made between Jan. 1, 2018 and May 31, 2023 in the form of debit transactions, cash withdrawals and checks written to himself.

The Westchester County District Attorney's Office arrested the defendant on Sept. 21, following its investigation.

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

Officers Graduate from County Police Academy

Fifty-eight recruits recently graduated from the Westchester County Police Academy and are headed off to work at 15 law enforcement agencies in Westchester and one in Putnam.

The new officers, who completed 21 weeks of training at the police academy in Valhalla, received their diplomas before a packed house at the SUNY Purchase Performing Arts Center.

County Executive George Latimer, Deputy County Executive Ken Jenkins and Acting Public Safety Commissioner Terrence Raynor presented the graduates of the 156th Session of Basic Recruit School with their diplomas and congratulated them for mastering the physical and academic demands of the Academy.



County Executive George Latimer

Latimer described law enforcement as a calling, not just a job or a career, and he saluted the graduates for being willing to put themselves in harm's way to serve their communities.

"It is my responsibility, and the responsibility of elected officials, to have your back. We must provide you at budget time with the resources and equipment, sufficient manpower, and all of the things you need in order to be successful. That's what

I think about -- how I can make sure that the decisions we make are backing you up."

Invoking the words of the national anthem, he said, "We can only be the land of the free because of the brave."

Raynor urged the graduates to treat all members of the public with fairness and

respect in the performance of their duties.

"The state of policing in this country demands that you embrace the concept of police and community working together. I encourage you to engage your communities with humility and respect. Treat people with fairness and empathy, no matter their race, religion or socio-economic status. Converse with others the way you would like your loved ones spoken to. The instruction you received at the Academy enables you to be the guardians your community seeks."

The new officers and their local departments are: Harrison: Christopher Buffone, Michael Dragone, Robert Forgione, Gregory Lucien, Matthew Mohr, Brian Rodriguez; Larchmont: Keisel Pedr; Mamaroneck Village: Lili-ana Mendoza; New Rochelle: Brandon Guizar, Kenneth McLean, Merton Pessoa; and White Plains: Laura Dalava, Timothy Williams Jr.

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Cappelli Announces the Opening and Commencement of Leasing at Encore

Building on the momentum of success of its 3THIRTY3 luxury residential tower in the heart of downtown New Rochelle, Cappelli Development Company has announced the opening and commencement of leasing at Encore, a 28-story residential tower directly across Centre Avenue from 3THIRTY3 featuring 241 spacious luxury apartments and an extraordinary array of best-in-class amenities and services.

Encore's spaciouly designed apartments feature luxury vinyl plank flooring, quartz countertops and full height backsplashes, stainless steel appliances, full-size washers and dryers, run-quiet dishwashers, porcelain tile showers and baths and walk-in closets with built-in shelving. Floor-to-ceiling windows provide panoramic views of Long Island Sound and New York City. Apartments boast a smart home technology package with keyless entry, central heat & air conditioning, programmable smart thermostats as well as cable and high-speed internet connectivity. Monthly market rents for apartments at Encore start at \$1,910 for studios; \$2,540 for 1-bedroom units and \$4,250 for 2-bedroom units.

Encore offers an abundance of luxury amenities including a health club with cardio and weight training equipment; indoor/outdoor pool; full-swing multi-sport simulator;

indoor putting green; multimedia lounge; rollerball mini bowling alley; ping pong lounge; co-working spaces and a children's play room. For entertaining, there's a professional chef's event kitchen as well as an outdoor grilling area with pizza oven.

Luxury services include 24/7 concierge with package room; dry cleaning service; on-site garage parking; electric vehicle charging stations and exclusive access to two Tesla vehicles. Encore, which is pet friendly, provides a pet spa and grooming station. There is also a bike repair and storage room. Common areas have complimentary high-speed wi-fi service.

Conveniently located at 325 Huguenot Street, Encore is just 3 blocks from New Rochelle's Train Station with Metro-North and Amtrak service. Encore is also minutes from New Rochelle's wealth of dining and shopping options.

"Encore will build on the tremendous leasing success we have enjoyed with 3THIRTY3 while continuing to elevate luxury living to new heights in downtown New Rochelle which is experiencing an extraordinary renaissance," said Louis R. Cappelli, Chief Executive Officer of the Cappelli Organization. Encore is being developed by Cappelli Development and built by a Cappelli affiliate, LRC Construction.

Visit www.encore325.com.

High School Forges Connection with Iona University

High school students in the business department's college entrepreneurship class recently enjoyed a visit by two representatives from Iona University in what is the beginning of a multi-tiered collaboration for New Rochelle High School with Iona's business schools.

Dr. Alison Munsch, an associate professor in Iona's LaPenta School of Business who also serves as the school's Chief of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Belonging, together with the Riana Khan of the Hynes Institute for Entrepreneurship & Innovation met with about 18 college entrepreneurship students on November 28 to share their business experience in corporate America and discuss opportunities for the students.

The students engaged in a simulation project and were enthralled by Dr. Munsch's insight into AI and its place in education.

"This was just the first of what we hope will be a robust relationship between the high school and the university," said social studies teacher Laurie Collins-Thomas, who teaches the College Entrepreneurship class and arranged the visit.

"It would be fabulous for our students to meet college professors and receive mentorship from college students – some of whom may well be NRHS graduates," she added.

The college entrepreneurship course is a semester-long elective, conducted in association with Westchester Community College, in which students may earn three college credits. It also serves as the economics requirement for seniors.

"This first contact between the two neighboring schools has been a long time coming," said the high school's social studies and business chairperson Gustavo Barbosa, who welcomed the development. "This powerful partnership will continue to grow as NRHS has been invited to visit and experience LaPenta School of Business and the Hynes Institute for Entrepreneurship and Innovation to see the facilities in person and learn more about the fields of entrepreneurship and business."



RXR Honored by New York Housing Conference for Development Work in New Rochelle



Leading real estate developer RXR was recently honored by the New York Housing Conference for its development work in the city of New Rochelle. The award – given by the nonprofit affordable housing policy & advocacy organization for excellence in providing affordable housing for New Yorkers – recognizes the work RXR has done in the city since being named its Master Developer in 2014, with a plan calling for the support of 2.2 million square feet of commercial, medical and non-medical office space, 5,500 units of residential housing, 1.1 million square feet of retail and restaurant use, 300,000 square feet of hospitality space and 2.3 million square feet of student housing, adult care and institutional space. You can view the NYHC video with more specifics on RXR's New Rochelle at <https://vimeo.com/892722607>.

RXR's recent New Rochelle work includes the late-2022 opening of residential tower One Clinton Park, which is nearly fully leased. The team also celebrated the topping out of Two Clinton Park in March 2023. These two buildings bring a total of 742 units of mixed-income housing and 20,000 square feet of local retail to the downtown area. In a joint venture with Georgica Green Ventures, an expert supportive housing developer, RXR is also currently developing Highgarden Tower at 11 Garden Street in downtown New Rochelle. The 21-story tower will consist of 219 affordable rental units with 77 units set aside as supportive housing for survivors of domestic violence.

New Rochelle National Guard Soldier Receives New Rank, New Responsibilities

Major General Ray Shields, the adjutant general for the state of New York, announces the recent promotion of members of the New York Army National Guard in recognition of their capability for additional responsibility and leadership.

Edgar Irizarry from New Rochelle, and assigned to the Battery A, 1st Battalion, 258th Field Artillery Regiment, received a promotion November 6, 2023 to the rank of staff sergeant.

Army National Guard promotions are based on a Soldier's overall performance, demonstrated leadership abilities, professionalism and future development potential.

These promotions recognize the best qualified Soldiers for a career in the New York Army National Guard.

Army National Guard Citizen Soldiers

who serve our state and nation are eligible for monthly pay, educational benefits (from the state and federal government), travel across the globe, technical and leadership training, health and dental insurance and contributions towards retirement programs similar to a 401(k).

For more information about the New York Army National Guard, visit www.dmn.ny.gov or www.1800goguard.com

The New York National Guard (New York State Division of Military and Naval Affairs) is the state's executive agency responsible to the Governor for managing New York's Military Forces, which consists of nearly 20,000 members of the New York Army National Guard, the New York Air National Guard, the New York Naval Militia and the New York Guard.

Drive-Thru Vaccine Center Opens at Westchester Medical Center

The drive-thru vaccine center at Westchester Medical Center, 100 Woods Road, Valhalla, NY is open on the following days and times: Fri, 1/5/2024: 9am – 1pm, and Mon, 1/8/2024: 9am – 1pm.

The Westchester Medical Center Health Network (WMCHealth) is a 1,700-bed healthcare system headquartered in Valhalla, New York, with nine hospitals on seven campuses spanning 6,200 square miles of the Hudson Valley. WMCHealth employs more than 13,000 people and has nearly 3,000 attending physicians. The Network has Level I (adult and pediatric), Level II and Level III trauma centers, the region's only acute care children's hospital, an academic medical center, several community hospitals, dozens of specialized institutes and centers, Comprehensive and Primary Stroke Centers, skilled nursing, assisted living facilities, home-care services and one of the largest mental health systems in New York State. Today, WMCHealth is the pre-eminent provider of integrated health care in the Hudson Valley. For more information about WMCHealth, visit WMCHealth.org or follow WMCHealth on [Facebook.com/WMCHealth](https://www.facebook.com/WMCHealth) or [Instagram.com/WMCHealth](https://www.instagram.com/WMCHealth).

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PXG and Westfair Communications Hosted “Golf 101 - Demystifying Golf” with LPGA Professional Golfer Anya Alvarez

PXG in New Rochelle recently hosted a Golf 101 Clinic with LPGA Professional Golfer Anya Alvarez. Attendees were all new to the sport and had a unique opportunity to work one-on-one with Alvarez as well as the Master Fitters at PXG. Business executives who don't play golf often miss out on the valuable networking opportunities that come along with the sport. The goal of the event was to provide an introduction to golf as well as an opportunity to learn about how to swing a club and putt on the green.

“Many people are intimidated by golf and we want to change that. It is a fun sport that almost anyone can enjoy once they understand the basics and have a chance to swing and understand how and when to use the different clubs. I had a great time teaching the participants and look forward to returning for more clinics,” stated Alvarez.

PXG in New Rochelle is also hosting a series of free clinics through January focusing on irons and short game instruction. The clinics are for any level of golfer and are offered free, but spots are limited and reservations must be made in advance using this link <https://tinyurl.com/pxgclinics>

In addition to being an LPGA professional, Anya Alvarez is a sportswriter and producer for outlets such as ESPN and CBS Sports. She started playing at the age of five and as a professional, qualified for the 2011 U.S. Women's Open in her first try. She also qualified for the LPGA Tour's final stage of the LPGA Qualifying School. In 2012, Alvarez qualified for the U.S. Women's Open for the second year in a row, played the Symetra Tour and finished her season with a 64 at the Champions Golf Club, in Daytona Beach, Florida.





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In His First Labor Endorsement, CSEA Throws Support Behind George Latimer for Congress

CSEA, the Civil Service Employees Association, today announced the union's endorsement of Westchester County Executive George Latimer in his campaign for the Democratic nomination for New York's 16th Congressional District seat.

"As a progressive Democrat, I have always believed that government must be a force for good with real results. And as an elected official, I know that I could not have achieved the results I have without the hard work of CSEA's members, the women and men in public service who make government function," said Latimer. "Together, the members of CSEA and I have made Westchester the most progressive county government in New York, and it is an honor to receive their endorsement."

CSEA President Mary E. Sullivan said, "George Latimer has a proven track record at every multiple levels of government, with a history of consistent leadership and success throughout his career. It is clear that George will best represent the needs, not only of CSEA members residing in the 16th District, but of all middle and working-class families."

CSEA Southern Region President Anthony M. Adamo said, "As current Southern Region president and former chair of the CSEA Statewide Political Action Committee, I've interacted with George in his roles as assemblymember, state senator, and now county executive. There is no doubt that George is the most qualified candidate to represent the 16th District and will hit the ground running, no learning curve required."

CSEA Westchester County Local President Hattie Adams said, "In working with George in his role as county executive, he has been a true partner who has advocated strongly for county workers and residents. Sending him to Congress will benefit the 16th District and the country at large."

CSEA is Local 1000 of AFSCME, the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, which in turn is one of the largest affiliates of the AFL-CIO. In Westchester County and the Bronx, CSEA represents thousands of union members providing vital services.



George Latimer

Susan Cacace Announces Candidacy for County District Attorney

On a blustery day last month, in front of the Richard J. Daronco County Courthouse and over 100 supporters, long-serving former Westchester County Court Judge Susan Cacace formally announced her candidacy for the position of Westchester County District Attorney.

"From protecting the most vulnerable in our society from domestic violence and child and elder abuse, to holding our government officials to the highest standards, to eliminating political corruption on all levels, to prosecuting the most heinous of crimes, sex crimes and homicides, every case will be given the attention it requires under my leadership and at the capable hands of the outstanding people who I will bring to serve in the Westchester DA's office," Cacace said.

Cacace has worked for over 30 years as a prosecutor, defense attorney, and judge in Westchester, with nearly 15 years serving in the Westchester DA's office and nearly 20 years serving as a Westchester County Court Judge. She resigned from that position, as the currently longest serving County Court Judge earlier this month to dedicate herself entirely to this endeavor. The Democratic Primary will be on June 25th, 2024.



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2023 Legislative Update from Assemblywoman Amy Paulin

Protecting Reproductive Rights

This year I authored and passed the Birth Control Access Act, which greatly expands access to birth control by allowing pharmacies to more easily dispense birth control (Ch. 128 of 2023). In light of the draconian actions being taken by the U.S. Supreme Court to limit abortion access, it is more important than ever to ensure that NYS is a safe haven for women. I plan to continue fighting for women to have the right to control their bodies and lives.

Fighting Human Trafficking

In the past I've passed several landmark human trafficking laws, including writing and sponsoring the law that eliminated the statute of limitations for rape and sponsoring the landmark Trafficking Victims Protection & Justice Act, which dramatically toughened penalties for human traffickers while also providing support to the victims of human trafficking to help them rebuild their lives.

This year, I passed 6 bills (Chs. 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495 of 2023) that became law to continue the fight to end human trafficking. These laws require informational signs or cards to be placed in lactation rooms at Port Authority airports, Port Authority bus terminals, NYS Thruway service areas, truck stops, commercial airports and MTA terminals. These transportation hubs are where victims are shepherd through and often are the only places where they are left alone for a few moments and can reach out for help.

Combating Sexual Assault

This year I passed 2 important laws to address sexual assault. "Deepfakes" are sexual and pornographic images and videos created using AI. They are often used to harass and control women. The bill I authored and which was signed into law this year makes it a crime to disseminate deepfake images (Ch. 513 of 2023).

Also signed into law this year was the bill I authored creating a statewide electronic evidence collection tracking system for rape kits, which will help victims and authorities track the rape kits submitted for evidence (Ch. 31 of 2023). Passed last year and this year passed an amendment to strengthen it.

Keeping Children Safe

Recently, my bill which increases the age that children can operate ATV from 10 years old to 14 was signed into law (Ch. 539 of 2023). We've seen too many tragedies with young children driving ATVs, and I'm proud to have passed this law.

Also passed was my law which strengthens school safety by requiring school districts to consider incorporating designs for healthier and more secure school facilities (Ch. 529 of 2023).

Safeguarding Health

The Lead Pipes Right to Know Act requires public water systems to inventory service lines and make the information public (A.6115/S.5512).

This new law is an important step in getting lead out of pipes and the water we drink – because it will allow all of us to know where the lead is.

Paramedics are our beacon of light in our darkest moments. I'm proud to have passed a bill expanding Community Paramedicine by allowing paramedics to continue providing the additional in-home and other vital services they provided throughout the pandemic.

By serving the needs of the elderly and immunocompromised, our paramedics kept more people at home and healthy, while reducing the burden on hospitals (Ch. 137 of 2023).

Making sure newborns across New York State receive top quality health care is critical. This year I passed a bill which requires glucose-6-phosphate deficiency testing for all newborns (A.7338/S.6542). This simple test can detect key issues in newborns, and needs to be mandatory.

Public health clinics are key access points for healthcare for many throughout NYS. This year I passed a bill which allows these clinics to more easily continue to serve communities with less red tape (A.2400/S.6219). We need to concentrate the funds clinics spend on people not paperwork.

Protecting Consumers

Just last week 3 of my bills were signed into law which will protect New York consumers:

Legislation that prohibits hospitals, health care professionals and ambulances from reporting medical debt to credit agencies (Ch. 727 of 2023).

Legislation that requires companies to notify customers of automatic subscription renewals and to provide clear instructions for canceling said services (Ch. 728 of 2023).

Legislation that requires businesses to post the price of any credit card surcharge they are charging (Ch. 723 of 2023).

Environmental Legislation

I'm an advocate and sponsor of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) legislation, which places the cost of recycling a product on the manufacturer instead of on municipalities and counties – which is ultimately borne by the taxpayer. Right now, if a company packages something in a container that is not recyclable, like Styrofoam, you the taxpayer are paying for the disposal of that item. If the container can be recycled, however, there is both a cost savings and an environmental benefit. EPR legislation therefore not only beneficially shifts the costs of recycling but incentivizes a manufacturer to utilize items that are recyclable.

I was a proud sponsor of NY's EPR paint recycling bill which is now in effect throughout NYS and happening in my district. I'm also sponsoring an EPR mattress bill which would provide mattress recycling to every New Yorker.

For more, visit newrochellereview.com

Board of Legislators Bestow Distinguished Service Medals

continued from page 3

New Rochelle, Tuckahoe) served three terms as a legislator from January 2018 to the present. He chaired the Labor and Housing Committee, supporting affordable housing and advocating for several acts. Maher was also a member of the Westchester County Police Reform and Reimagining Task Force, which conducted a review of the County Department of Public Safety and developed a modernized plan to improve the department.

Legislator Maher said, "I am so grateful that, at age 61, I had the best job I have ever had. We are privileged to serve our constituents and the people throughout Westchester. That is what it is really about. I am particularly proud of certain accomplishments on the Board, such as helping to pass the Immigration Protection Act, the Salary History Ban, advocating for increased funding for quality daycare, the ban on the exhibition and performance of exotic animals, and raising the age for the sale of tobacco and related products from 18 to 21."

Legislator Symra Brandon (D - Yonkers) chaired the Parks and Recreation Committee

and was a member of several other committees, including Budget and Appropriations, Human Services, Human Rights and Equity, and Public Safety. She is also actively involved in various boards and organizations, such as Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Terrace City Chapter #26, Black Democrats of Westchester, the NAACP, the National Council of Negro Women, and the Westchester Black Women's Political Caucus. Brandon also serves on the Board of Directors of Saint Cabrini Nursing Home and is Vice Chair of the Yonkers Charter Revision Commission.

County Executive George Latimer said, "Westchester County extends our deepest gratitude to Legislator Catherine Borgia, Legislator Symra Brandon, and Legislator Damon Maher for their commitment and dedicated service as members of the Board of Legislators. Their tireless efforts have left a lasting impact on Westchester County - improving the lives of our residents both collectively and in their respective districts. As they bid farewell at the end of the year, we recognize and appreciate the work they've done for our community."

Westchester Parks Foundation Announces Record Breaking Numbers for 2023

Due to an unprecedented number of volunteers, the Westchester Parks Foundation (WPF) has announced record-breaking numbers for the 2023 calendar year. The year-end numbers show a 32% increase in the number of volunteer projects and a 3x increase in the number of trees planted in 2023 funded through various generous partners throughout the year that helped propel the non-profit to complete major cleanup efforts and beautification enhancements in the over 50 parks in the Westchester County Parks system. Highlights include:

- 3,953 Volunteers
- 473 completed projects in 38 parks throughout Westchester (*2022 projects: 356)
- 12,462.25 hours toward enhancing Westchester County Parks
- 2,432 Trees planted (*2022 trees planted 699)
- 22,211 lbs. of aquatic invasive species removed
- 7,438 trash items removed from the Bronx River

Since 2015, over 25,000 members of the community have contributed over 75,000 hours of service to Westchester's incomparable parks.

Westchester Parks Foundation volunteers are students earning volunteer credits for school or religious education requirements, scouts on the lookout for a great project, local businesses interested in a team building activity, or anyone looking to put their skills to good use to help out our county parks.

For more information visit: www.thewpf.org. VIDEO LINK: <https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/leg823t5ryinr1me3q6zd/Pitch-in-for-Parks-Video-2.MOV?rlkey=r0oz2cfvkzaooofk9txt55rxrq&dl=1>. Courtesy of WPF.

Westchester Parks Foundation is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit, philanthropic organization which provides private support to preserve the County's Park system and improve the quality of life in our communities. Westchester Parks Foundation's mission is to invest in, advocate for, and enhance the over 50 parks of the Westchester County Parks system. For more information, visit <http://www.thewpf.org>



Iona Prep High School Students Deliver Christmas Cheer



School buses loaded with generosity and a contingent of Iona Preparatory Upper School students brought joy and some Christmas cheer to the Hawthorne Country Day School (HCDS) in Hawthorne, which provides academic and vocational skills to children with autism and other intellectual disabilities.

Iona Prep students met with elementary, middle and high school students at the day school and provided Christmas gifts that the Iona Prep community purchased and wrapped over the last few weeks. The outreach first began with Eileen Bisordi, a parent of a 1991 Iona Prep graduate and the founder of the Hawthorne Country Day School (originally the Margaret Chapman School).

The now 37-year partnership has HCDS providing a Wish List of student presents, which are then purchased by the Iona Preparatory community. The Iona Prep Mothers' Auxiliary then joined students over two days in wrapping the more than 350 gifts that were hand-delivered to the HCDS students before Christmas. In return, the Gaels received a number of creative and grateful thank you cards, as well as some first-hand perspective on what the Christmas season should really be about – spreading hope, peace, joy and love.

This initiative aligns with Iona Prep's mission to develop young men into moral and ethical leaders who are dedicated to Christian service and who strive for spiritual, intellectual, and physical excellence.

Video Link: <https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/ww8igos6gadly57rac9zl/h?rlkey=gak90ytxoioqlbrpsjlt31tvr&dl=0>. Video courtesy of Iona Prep.

Applications Being Accepted for Seasonal Park Rangers

The Westchester County Department of Public Safety is accepting applications for seasonal park rangers to patrol County parks this summer. Applications are due by February 17 and are available online at the Department of Public Safety's web pages: <http://publicsafety.westchestergov.com>.

Uniformed park rangers work under the supervision of County Police officers to maintain a safe and enjoyable atmosphere in the county's parks. They assist park users, provide information on park rules and procedures, help in searches for lost children, perform basic first aid on occasion and make regular security checks of buildings and facilities.

First-time park rangers are paid \$17 hourly. Salaries are higher for those who have worked as a ranger for the County before.

To qualify, applicants must be a high school graduate, at least 18 years of age, a U.S. citizen, and possess a valid New York State driver's license by the time of appointment. Preference in hiring may be shown to Westchester residents. The application form may be found in the Employment: Seasonal Park Rangers section of the Department website.

Accepted candidates must complete a 162-hour peace officer training program at the Westchester County Police Academy. Park rangers are paid during this Academy training.

Public Safety Commissioner Terrance Raynor said persons interested in law enforce-

ment careers often benefit greatly from the experience gained by working as summer park rangers.

"By working under the supervision of Westchester County Police officers, park rangers get a unique view into the law enforcement field and the potential career opportunities that exist," Raynor said.



Public Safety Commissioner Terrance Raynor

Westchester County, located in the heart of the historic Hudson Valley, covers 500 square miles and has a population of just over one million. Originally home to Native Americans, who were members of the Lenape tribe, it is today a rich mix of many cultures and landscapes. The County is a blend of bustling cities, quaint villages and picturesque towns as well as open spaces and a network of beautiful parks. Westchester is made up of 6 cities, 19 towns and 20 villages. Westchester County is known for top-notch

public schools, and a high quality of life. The County is also an intellectual capital, boasting a highly educated workforce, competitive colleges and universities, Fortune 500 companies, world changing non-profits, and cutting-edge research centers. Westchester is led by County Executive George Latimer, who took office in January 2018 as the ninth County Executive. Using inclusion and openness as a foreground, Latimer is fighting to make Westchester a destination for all people to live, work and enjoy. Learn more about Westchester County by visiting www.westchestergov.com

Westchester Community College Foundation Gala Raises Nearly Half-Million Dollars in Sold-Out November Gala

At the sold-out Westchester Community College Foundation "Transforming Futures Together" Gala on November 8, 325 guests packed Tappan Hill in Tarrytown. More than \$480,000 was raised to support student scholarships, emergency aid, and other critical programs at SUNY Westchester Community College.

The event marked the start of the 10th anniversary year of DR. BELINDA S. MILES as President of SUNY Westchester Community College.

Longtime Westchester Community College Champion VANESSA WILLIAMS emceed the event. Ms. Williams is one of the most respected and multi-faceted performers in the entertainment industry today, selling millions of records worldwide. Her work in music, film, television, and the Broadway stage has been recognized with 4 Emmy nominations, eleven Grammy nominations, a Tony nomination, three SAG award nominations, and seven NAACP Image Awards.

Students told their compelling personal stories and introduced the five stellar leaders in Westchester County who were honored:

County Executive GEORGE LATIMER received the Public Service Award in recognition of his 36 years of service to the people of Westchester County and New York State. Latimer became the ninth Westchester County Executive in 2018 and was elected to a second term in 2021, never losing an election during his three decades in public office.

DORRY SWOPE received the Westchester Community College Foundation's Philanthropy Award. Over the years, Dorry and her family have made significant contributions to SUNY Westchester Community College as well as to conservation, arts, and healthcare organizations.

SINFOROSA "ROSE" TAN & WILLIAM H.P. KAUNG received the Westchester Community College Foundation's Community Leadership Award. Rose and Bill are recognized for their

decades of volunteer service to SUNY Westchester Community College and the community. Rose is Professor Emerita of Mathematics at SUNY WCC.

DAVID BERRY, a SUNY Westchester Community College alum, received the Westchester Community College Foundation Viking Voyager Alumni Award. David is the founder of NomadCIO LLC, which provides interim Chief Information/Technology Officer and M&A leadership globally.



Philanthropist Honoree Dorry Swope (NYC/Ossining), Emcee Vanessa Williams, Helen Williams (Chappaqua), SUNY WCC President Dr. Belinda S. Miles (New Rochelle)

‘Tis the Season

BY BERNARD A. KROOKS,
CERTIFIED ELDER LAW ATTORNEY

I find it quite interesting how many articles I have read about how to get along with family members during the holidays. One article even suggested what to say, or what not to say, if someone at the Thanksgiving dinner table says something that upsets you or that you find offensive. While it may not be a news flash that family members sometimes do not see things the same way, it does seem like family relationships are now more strained than ever. In fact, in our law practice, we are seeing an increasing number of families that are not getting along or where one or more relationships are problematic. In fact, it has been reported that a shift in American family values is at least, in part, responsible for growing levels of estrangement between parents and adult children. While it is not uncommon for those who live in the same household or are part of the same family, to have different views; sometimes, the differences are so great that they are causing clients to consider disinheriting a child or other family member because of it. Before you proceed with this drastic step, please keep in mind that there may be a better way to accomplish your goals that does not involve disinheriting your child completely.

In our experience, families are generally fairly tolerant of varying views, whether they are political or otherwise. However, in recent years it seems as though things have gotten far more fractured. Typically, parents and children just agree to disagree, and the vast majority of parents leave their property equally to their kids, regardless of differing viewpoints. But some parents might be genuinely concerned about the use of the inherited funds if they

leave property to a child with extreme views (in their mind). The assets they have worked hard for may end up funding purposes to which they are opposed.

While almost every state in the U.S. has some protections for spouses, children are generally not given the same heirship rights. In all states except Louisiana (in certain circumstances), children have no inheritance rights. In New York, while you are not required to mention the child you are disinheriting, it may be a good idea to do so to make it clear that the child has been intentionally omitted and that it was not an oversight. You may also consider leaving a reduced amount to this child and stating that if he or she challenges the will that their share will be reduced to nothing. If done properly, these types of “no contest” clauses can be very effective in making sure that your wishes are carried out after you pass away.

So, now that we know you can disinherit a child if you want to, the question becomes: should you? When clients indicate that they are considering drastic action like disinheriting a child, we often try to dig deeper and ask why they want to do this to get a better understanding. For example, the parents may have been estranged from the child for many years or the child may be abusive towards the parents, or some other reason that might arguably justify a disinheritance. Other times, however, the relationship between parents and children is fine but parents have a concern about how the inheritance might be spent when they are no longer around. The concerns could emanate from a child’s bad marriage, poor spending habits, or perhaps divergent political views. The parents think their children have gone too far and do not know what to do and the knee-jerk reaction might be to disinherit the child. Sometimes

they consider leaving the child’s inheritance to a sibling with instructions that the sibling do the “right thing” if the rogue child comes around. The third, and often better option, is to leave the child’s inheritance to a trust.

Leaving an inheritance in trust has several benefits, one of which is the ability to create a plan that is specifically tailored to your needs and the needs of your children. The trust can specify what funds should be used for and when. Parents can add as many specifics as desired. The trust could even provide that if things improve over time, the child could receive the entire balance. Or that, if the child remains extreme, no money is ever disbursed to the child. Someone other than the child should be the trustee and make decisions regarding investments and distributions. Often clients choose other family members, but a family friend or professional (such as a bank or trust company)

might also be viable options.

As you can see, a trust might be just what is needed if you and your children don’t see certain things the same way and you are concerned about how your money will be spent when you are gone. With a trust, you do not have to disinherit your child and you can control how the funds are spent after your death.

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.

Westchester County Historical Society Receives Federal Grant to Transcribe and Digitize Significant Revolutionary War Collection

The Westchester County Historical Society was recently awarded a federal grant from the National Historic Publications and Records Commission, a part of the National Archives, to make an important collection accessible to the public of over 1,100 pages of hand-written interviews with Westchester County residents who endured the impact of the Revolutionary War.

Named after the compiler of the documents, The McDonald Papers consists of over 1,100 pages of hand-written interviews conducted between 1844 and 1850 with eyewitnesses to the Revolutionary War. The \$75,875 grant will provide funding for a professional archivist and librarian to transcribe the interviews from long-hand, annotate the accounts (to provide contemporary perspective of place names, for example,) and digitize the entire collection, allowing for greater accessibility on the websites of WCHS, the County Archives and New York Heritage, a repository for hundreds of digital collections from different libraries and organizations.

This collection contains rare primary-source information: first-hand accounts of individuals experiencing the American Revolution as it unfolded in the geographically-significant area of the war, which is now Westchester County. These accounts allow researchers and the public to gain a better understanding of life in the late 18th century, and how men and women, from various walks of life, survived the struggle for independence. These include enslaved individuals, those who formed a military unit, and those who took up arms to defend their enslavers’ properties from British and colonists of Loyalist persuasion. Among those interviewed were Andrew

Corsa, one of the Westchester Guides who led American forces through the county, and John Peterson, an African American soldier who participated in several actions in Westchester. “As the country engages in America 250, these records graphically reveal a realistic perspective of life and opinions during the Revolutionary War, profoundly felt through real-person accounts,” said WCHS Co-Director Barbara Davis.

The compiler of the documents, John M. Macdonald (1790-1863), was a former attorney who devoted much of his life to the study of the Revolutionary War. Macdonald recorded, by hand 407 interviews with Westchester residents who participated in or witnessed the Revolutionary War. Although the original papers in Macdonald’s handwriting were lost in the late 1800s while housed in the Lenox Library in NYC, they had been hand-copied into a book by John English. This copy, now in possession of the Westchester County Historical Society, was acquired by local historian Otto Hufeland in 1925.

The transcribed, annotated and digitized records will be an invaluable asset to thousands of individuals, including historians and curators of Westchester’s historic house museums, educators, students and the general public. The project is anticipated to take 12 months.

In announcing the grant, WCHS Co-Director Susanne Pandich said, “Westchester County endured the travesties of the Revolutionary War for seven long years as the colonies fought for their independence from English rule. For the first time, the story of the length, severity, and impact of that war on our County and its residents will be told through the voices of those who endured it.”

Table Hopping with Morris Gut

It has become an annual rite of the culinary world. The prestigious Michelin Restaurant Guides have been published for the 4th year, in Westchester.

The ‘Bib Gourmand’ designations (reasonably priced eateries of merit), and Stars (high-end restaurants), can be meaningful to a restaurant’s bottom line. Here are the local spots that made the list for 2023-24.

‘Bibs’ in Westchester include:

- Dubrovnik, New Rochelle, Croatian-Adriatic cuisine
- Maria, New Rochelle, Italian-global
- Tredici Social, Bronxville, regional Italian
- Café Alaia, Scarsdale, an Italian trattoria
- Burrata, Eastchester, artisanal woodfired pizza
- The Southern Table, Pleasantville, Southern specialties
- Badageoni Georgian Kitchen, Mt. Kisco, the first Georgian eatery
- RaaSa, Elmsford, regional Indian cuisine
- Rafele, Rye, Neapolitan Italian cuisine
- Boro6 Wine Bar, Hastings-on-Hudson, European style taverna
- The Cookery, Dobbs Ferry, innovative Italian cuisine

New additions this year: TVB by Pax Romana, White Plains, known for their fresh pastas; Chutney Masala, Irvington, modern Indian cuisine. The only star (2) recipient in Westchester was once again Blue Hill at Stone Barns.

You can access the full list including nearby Bronx online: <https://guide.michelin.com/us/en/new-york-state/restaurants/bib-gourmand>

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: 914-235-6591. Email: gutreactions@optonline.net

Nominations Needed for 2024 Westchester County Public Health Awards

The Westchester County Board of Health is now seeking nominations for the 2024 Public Health Service Awards. The Board wants to recognize adults, young people and not-for-profit programs whose volunteer efforts have demonstrated creativity and compassion, and who helped improve public health in Westchester.

The Board encourages community leaders, healthcare professionals, educators and residents to nominate worthy people or programs by January 9 using the nomination forms at <https://health.westchestergov.com/news/public-health-awards>.

The following forms can be downloaded from the link above: 2024 Dr. Harold Keltz Distinguished Public Health Service Award Nomination Form, and the 2024 J.R. Tesone Youth Public Health Service Award Nomination Form.

President of the Westchester County Board of Health Robert Baker, MD, said: "Every year, we are humbled by the creative and innovative contributions to public health in our community by busy teenagers, adults and organizations in Westchester. The Board looks forward to learning about and acknowledging the

extraordinary people and programs who make our County such a great place to call home. We hope their example of selfless volunteerism inspires others to help us promote and protect public health in our County."

The Dr. Harold Keltz Distinguished Public Health Service Award is presented annually to a person or community-based organization, whose efforts have made an extraordinary contribution to the public health of Westchester residents but who is not professionally engaged in public health work.

The J.R. Tesone Youth Public Health Service Award is an annual award to a student up to age 21 for his or her creative contribution to public health in Westchester. The award was created in 2014 in memory of J.R. Tesone, a Board of Health member with a lifelong commitment to Westchester children.

The awards will be announced and presented in April to spotlight National Public Health Week, and the honorees and their achievements will be featured on the Health Department's web pages.

First Communion and Confirmation

Iona Preparatory Lower School students received the sacraments of First Communion and Confirmation on Thursday, November 30, 2023. The Archbishop of New York, Cardinal Timothy Dolan, celebrated the Mass for five First Communicants and 27 Confirmands at the Church of the Holy Family in New Rochelle.



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www.harrisonherald.com

New Rochelle Review

www.newrochellereview.com

The Pelham Post

www.thepelhampost.com

The Bronxville Bulletin

www.thebronxvillebulletin.com

Westchester Jewish Life

www.westchesterjewishlife.com

What's Happening at the New Rochelle Public Library

All events take place at the New Rochelle Public Library, 1 Library Plaza, New Rochelle unless otherwise noted. In addition to the programs listed below, daily programs for children and teens can be found on the NRPL online calendar at bit.ly/NewNRPLCalendar. As always, all programs are FREE and open to all!

Art Exhibit: New Rochelle Art Association Adolph Grant Award Show Through January 12

The New Rochelle Art Association presents their annual Adolph Grant Award Show which feature's members' works in Acrylic/Oils, Digital Art, Mixed Media, Watercolor, Sculpture, Fine Crafts, Pastels, Graphics, and Photography. Location: Lumen Winter Gallery

Chair Yoga

Wednesdays, January 10, 17, 24 and 31, 1:00 - 2:00 pm

Mondays, January 8, 22 and 29, 12:30 - 1:30 pm

Conquer stress and fatigue, and bring renewed energy and focus to your day with a gentle yet invigorating session of chair yoga. No need to change clothing or lie on a mat. Free. Drop in. Space is limited. First come. First served. Location: Ossie Davis Theater/Meeting Room

Westchester County Dept. of Health: Healthcare Navigator Assistance

Wednesdays, January 10, 17, 24 and 31 10:00 am - 1:00 pm

Receive one-on-one assistance with open enrollment to purchase, change or renew coverage in a qualified health plan; enroll or renew coverage in Medicaid and Child Health plus; and enroll in the new Essential Plan for lower-income New Yorkers from a Health Navigator from the Westchester County Department of Health. Walk-ins are welcomed, Appointments are recommended. For an appointment, call: Elizabeth Blackwell (914) 336-0925. Location: Help and Learning Center, 2nd Floor

Gentle Yoga

January 4 and 23 from 6:00 - 7:00 pm

Join us for a 60-minute Gentle Yoga class led by Doris Eugenio. Appropriate for teens aged 16+ through adults of any age. Location: Ossie Davis Theater/Meeting Room. Registration is requested at bit.ly/NewNRPLCalendar (find the date you'd like to register, click and proceed with registration) or phone 914-813-3706

Qi Gong

Fridays, January 5, 12 and 19 from 10:00 -11:00 am

Join us for our newest wellness offering - qi gong - energy (chee) and gentle body movement (gong) for healing the body, mind and emotions. Gentle exercises are easy to learn. Drop in. FREE. Location: Ossie Davis Theater/Meeting Room.

NRPL True Crime Film Series: BlackKkKlansman Saturday, January 6 at 1:00 pm

Set in the early 1970s, this is the true story of Ron Stallworth, the first African-American police detective in the Colorado Springs Police Department, who went undercover and successfully infiltrated and became the head of the local chapter of the Ku

Klux Klan. Directed by Spike Lee – 134 mins. Starring John David Washington, Adam Driver, Laura Harrier. Location: Ossie Davis Theater. This film is part of the Winter 2024 NRPL Film Series: True Crime. In this series, New Rochelle librarian and film historian Chris Poggiali will introduce and discuss feature films that examine true crime and detail the actions of people associated with and affected by criminal events. Registration requested at bit.ly/NewNRPLCalendar



NRPL Documentary Film Series: Maya Angelou: Reflections of a Blesses Soul Sunday, January 7 at 2:00 pm

Maya Angelou: Reflections of a Blessed Soul offers an intimate portrait of one of the greatest artists/poets/activists/teachers and humanitarians of our times. In the comfort of her home, Dr. Angelou shares insights on the most controversial and pressing issues, such as racism, mother and daughter bonds, anger and bitterness, the country's first black president and more, as well as stories of her rich and colorful life. This film is a recipient of the Telly Awards; Best Documentary Film, Newark International Film Festival; and Official Selection, Garden State Film Festival. The screening will be followed by a discussion with the film's creative personnel Hafiz Farid and Shelley Grodner Seidenstein, moderated by Linda Tarrant-Reid, author, historian, freelance journalist, photographer and community advocate. Location: Ossie Davis Theater. The interview was conducted by and for Foremost Productions, an independent multi award-winning New Jersey film company with Award-winning Director Hafiz Farid and Shelley Grodner Seidenstein, both Award-winning Executive Producers and Co-writers. Registration requested at bit.ly/NRPL_Angelou

Tween Book Club

Tuesday, January 9 from 4:30 - 5:30 pm

Join us for snacks, trivia, and to chat about this month's book club pick, A Wish in the Dark by Christina Soontornvat. Registration required. Location: Children's Room. Registration for each discussion begins four weeks before each discussion date. The first ten registrants will be given a free copy of the book! Register by calling 914-813-3716 or ask at the Desk in the Children's Room.

NRPL Knitting Club

Fridays, January 12 and 26 from 11:00 am - 1:00 pm

Join professional knitter Stephanie Lieberman Paley for a drop-in knitting class. Bring a project you are working on, or start something new if you wish. Stephanie will be here to guide you through your project. Beginners welcome. Location: Meeting Room.

Tween Tuesday

Tuesdays, January 16, 23 and 30

4:30 - 5:30 pm

Come hang out with old friends and new to play board games, color, or experiment with STEM projects! For children ages 9 through 12 yrs. Location: Children's Room



Art Exhibit: "The Fine Art of Illustration" by Cedric Lucas

January 17 - February 25

Fine Art is a visual expression used to convey your own thoughts and feelings towards a subject whereas illustration is a tool of visual communication for people to visualize and understand the subject by looking at a picture rather than the accompanying text. "The Fine Art of Illustration" exhibition is the unique combination of both concepts to offer a creative approach or solution to the illustrative problem solving model. Location: Lumen Winter Gallery. Westchester based artist Cedric Lucas has been honing his skill as an artist/ Illustrator since childhood. A graduate of the School of Visual Arts, BFA and MFA from Lehman College, Cedric has 33 years of Art teaching experience in Westchester Schools and has published 12 Childrens books since 1995.



Adult Art Workshop: Escher Designs (Tessellation)

Wednesday, January 17 from 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Create hypnotic repeat patterns just like Escher using templates, markers and crayon. Drop in. Location: Meeting Room

Bokandeye African Dance Workshop

Saturdays, January 20 and 27 from 3:30 - 4:40 pm

(Additional sessions take place February 3, 10 and 17 @ 3:00, and February 24 @ 1:30 pm, followed by a final performance @ 3:30 pm) In celebration of Black History Month, join us for a 6 -week African Dance workshop where participants will learn basic traditional West African dance



movements, some which date back to the 13th century Old Mali Empire. Appropriate for children, teens and adults. All ages are encouraged to attend. Location: Ossie Davis Theater. Registration requested at bit.ly/Bokandeye_01_2024

NRPL Author Series: Reggie Marra, author of Healing America's Narratives

Thursday, January 18 at 7:00 pm

Reggie Marra tackles some big issues in his provocative, insightful and heartfelt book, Healing America's Narratives, which provides historical, psychological, cultural, and political context for the mood of America in the third decade of the twenty-first century. Marra's new book takes a hard, loving look at America, suggests that its state of affairs is inevitable, and presents a way to heal, reconcile, inspire, and move us forward. Doors open at 6:30 pm for book sales and a meet and greet with the author. Program begins at 7:00 pm. Location: Ossie Davis Theater. Registration requested at bit.ly/NRPL_ReggieMarra

How to Start a Native Plant Garden (Virtual) Monday, January 22 at 7:00 pm

Calling all garden enthusiasts! Ever wondered about pollinator gardens, native plants, and healthy gardening but felt a bit overwhelmed? This talk is to simplify things and give you the know-how to start your own native plant garden. We'll cover resources, techniques, and recommendations to demystify the process and get you on the path to a vibrant and eco-friendly garden. Let's make sustainable gardening easy and enjoyable! Presented by Mark Napier and Natali Meytin, New Rochelle homeowners with a shared passion for gardening that benefits both humans and wildlife. Mark brings an art and tech background, while Natali specializes in marketing and advertising. As self-educated gardeners, they've gained six years of hands-on experience in native plant gardening through reading, trial and error and sharing knowledge with other passionate gardeners. Registration required at bit.ly/NativePlant_01_2024

Red Cross Blood Drive

Friday, January 26 from 10:00 am - 3:00 pm

The New Rochelle Public Library will host a community blood drive with the American Red Cross. Donors with all blood types are needed, especially those with types O negative, A negative and B negative. To make an appointment to donate, sign up online at <https://www.redcrossblood.org> and enter sponsor keyword: NRPL. Location: Ossie Davis Theater/Meeting Room



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Source: OKMLS, 1/1/22-12/31/22, total dollar volume of single family homes sold by company, Westchester County