

New Rochelle YMCA Hosts Ribbon Cutting of the Newly Remodeled Gymnasium



On Tuesday, March 19, 2024, at 10:00 AM the New Rochelle YMCA is having a Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting Ceremony of our newly remodeled gymnasium.

The New Rochelle YMCA has endured a lot of challenges, none more difficult than COVID. It has been the home to basketball, volleyball, afterschool activities, UPK ceremonies, remote learning hubs, summer camp, chair yoga, salsa classes, and more recently pickleball.

This restoration project is the result of inter-governmental support from the city, County, NY State and Federal government, along with our community and business partners as well as donors.

"We want to thank all the elected officials, businesses, donors and our wonderful vendors

who have worked tirelessly to make sure we have a beautiful new gymnasium," said Jennifer Ryan Safsel, CEO of the New Rochelle YMCA. "This generous, heartfelt support and commitment to our YMCA gymnasium will allow it to return to being the local hub for health, wellness, and community engagement it has always been for years to come."

The ceremony will feature brief speeches, a ribbon-cutting ceremony, and refreshments. Following the short ceremony, we will have some free pickleball instruction.

Thank you once again for your support, and we eagerly anticipate your presence at the Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting Ceremony.

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City of New Rochelle Celebrates Black History Month with Ceremonial Gala at City Hall



Pictured from left to right: AAAC co-chair Minister Mark McLean, Honoree Rev. Dr. Wallace L. Noble, NYS Senator Shelley Mayer, AAAC member Kwamain Dixon, AAAC co-chair Angela Davis-Farrish, County Legislator Judah Holstein, City Manager Kathleen Gill, Council Member David Peters, Council Member Albert Tarantino, Stuart Reid, AAAC member Linda Tarrant-Reid, Mayor Yadira Ramos-Herbert, County Legislator Terry Clements, NYS Assembly Member Steve Otis, Council Member Shane Osinloye. (Photography credit: Shaylah Brickle)

On Thursday, February 29, in commemoration of Black History Month, the City of New Rochelle and the African American Advisory Committee hosted the Celebrating the Legacy of Black Culture Gala, a Black History Month event honoring the community's spirit and deep

cultural heritage.

The joyous night started at City Hall's Rotunda Gallery where attendees connected with local officials and clergy members – including Mayor Yadira Ramos-Herbert, New York State

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Source: OKMLS, 2023, 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, 2023. Top 1.5% in the United States by Real Trends, America's Best.

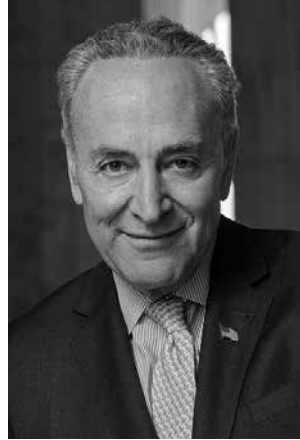
Schumer, Gillibrand Secure Historic \$16+ Million for New Rochelle Via the Inflation Reduction Act for LINC: Safety, Mobility & Economic Opportunity Project

U.S. Senate Majority Leader Charles Schumer and U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand announced that they have secured a \$16,039,888 award of highly competitive federal funding for New Rochelle's LINC: Safety, Mobility & Economic Opportunity project. This award makes New Rochelle among the first in the nation to be tapped by the U.S. Department of Transportation's (USDOT) Neighborhood Access and Equity Program, which Schumer created in the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), based on the work he and Gillibrand did in creating the Reconnecting Communities program in the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment & Jobs Law.

This major federal investment will help reconnect the central New Rochelle Lincoln Avenue neighborhood, which was separated from New Rochelle's downtown area in 1958 when the construction of Memorial Highway separated the historically black neighborhood. With funding building on the \$12 million federal investment Schumer delivered in 2021 to help reconnect the community by converting the six-lane Memorial Highway into a walkable and bikeable complete street with open space, greenery an open new elevated park similar to NYC's High Line, helping increase the quality of life for surrounding residents and better connecting New Rochelle residents to economic opportunity.

"Transforming New Rochelle's Memorial Highway and reconnecting Lincoln Avenue area

neighborhoods with lush green space, bike paths, increased safety features, new modern complete streets, and new economic opportunity is another giant step closer to becoming a reality. As majority leader I said I would make sure to deliver federal funding to make this project a reality, and I am proud to deliver this major, highly competitive \$16 million award to have New Rochelle lead the way as one of the very few projects selected in the country to serve as a blueprint for how we can reconnect communities that have been separated by highway construction," said Senator Schumer. "When Memorial Highway was built it cut through the heart of New Rochelle, it fractured and bulldozed parts of a vibrant neighborhood and left scars of systemic inequality that are felt to this day. Federal policies led to the creation of the concrete walls of Memorial Highway that divided New Rochelle's Lincoln Avenue neighborhoods and constricted downtown access, but, today the federal government is stepping up to right that historical wrong. With this funding, we are laying the foundation for the future of transportation in and mobility in New Rochelle,



Senator Charles E. Schumer

and putting the next generation of Lincoln Avenue families on the road to a better more equitable future."

"The construction of highways like Memorial Highway devastated communities of color across our state," said Senator Gillibrand. "Today, we are taking a massive step to right the wrongs of the past and build a more vibrant, livable, and equitable New Rochelle. I helped create the Reconnecting Communities Pilot and Neighborhood Access and Equity programs to support projects like this one all across our state, and I'm proud to be delivering this major \$16 million grant for New Rochelle. I am committed to seeing this project through and will keep fighting to bring federal resources to Westchester to rejuvenate our neighborhoods and create economic opportunity for all."

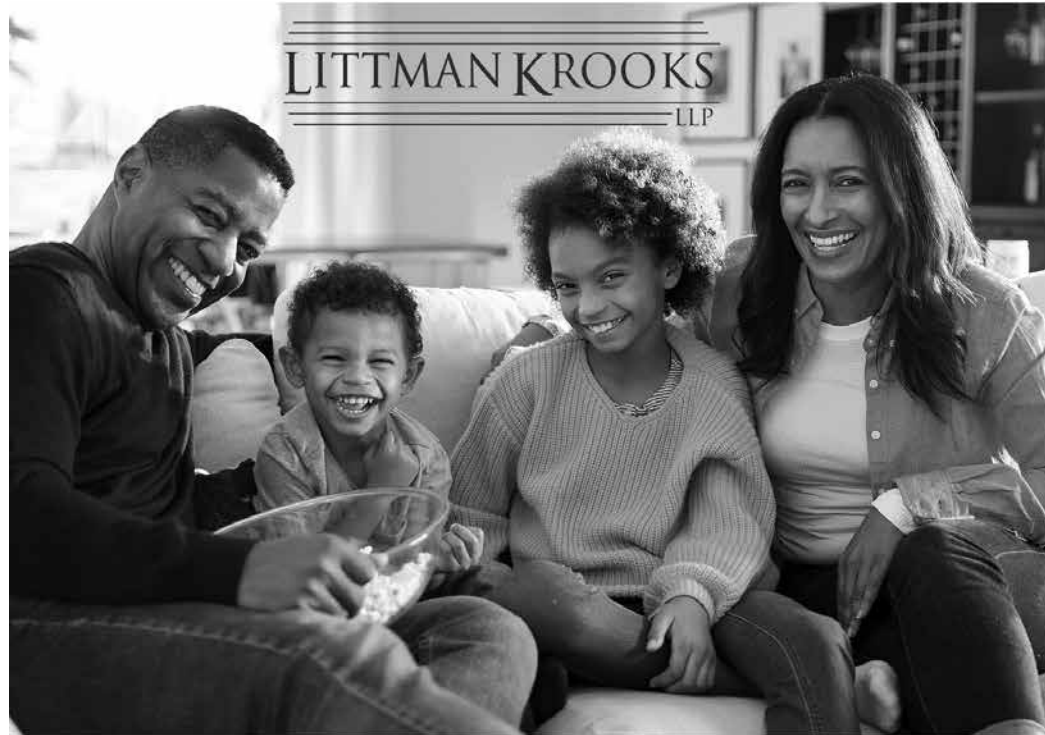
"We thank Senator Schumer for his commitment to New Rochelle for this incredible project that will unify our community," said Elder Mark McLean, President of the New Rochelle NAACP. "For decades, the neighbors of Lincoln Avenue were separated in the name of a misguided project that was done under the

guise of progress. Unfortunately, that progress happened at the expense of black neighbors and frayed the fabric of the larger community. Thanks to this funding, we can make real progress by reunifying this community so we can collectively work towards a brighter and more inclusive future."

"We are thrilled to be the recipient of this very prestigious grant," said New Rochelle Mayor Yadira Ramos-Herbert. "This very generous resource will allow us to create a once in a generation community space that prioritizes green infrastructure and space to incubate black owned businesses. We thank Senator Schumer for his tireless advocacy on behalf of New Rochelle residents and all New Yorkers"

Schumer, advocated for years to deliver federal funding to New Rochelle for this project, and personally spoke to Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg to advocate multiple times for this project—starting from their first meeting in December of 2020 before he was in office and many times since on the importance of converting Memorial Highway from a six-lane highway to nowhere to a vibrant walkable, bikeable city street with open green space. In 2021, Schumer delivered a nearly \$12 million RAISE grant to jumpstart the long-desired project and today's major funding will work in concert with that funding to help make this project a reality.

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Forcible Touching Arrest

On March 9th, 2024, at about 9:19pm, New Rochelle Police Officers responded to the New Rochelle Train Station on a report of possible sexual assault. The victim, an 18-year-old female, reported that while she was walking across the pedestrian foot bridge leading from Station Plaza to Burling Lane, she was approached by a group of 4 Hispanic males. One of the men then put his hand down the back of her pants before fleeing with the group Westbound on Burling Lane.

Detectives developed leads and on March 10th, 2024, at about 4am a suspect was located and brought into New Rochelle Police Headquarters for questioning. He was subsequently charged for this crime as well as for an outstanding warrant related to a domestic assault that occurred in 2022.

ARRESTED: Rudy Osbaldo Garril-Lopez, 20 years of age, of New Rochelle, NY.

CHARGES: New York Penal Law Sections: 130.52 Forcible Touching – A Misdemeanor. For the 2022 Warrant of Arrest not related to this incident: 120.00 Assault 3rd Degree – A Misdemeanor; 240.26 Harassment 2nd Degree – Violation and 260.10 Endangering the Welfare of a Child – A Misdemeanor.

Shooting at Burger King

On March 1st, 2024, at about 7:50pm, New Rochelle Police received multiples calls about an altercation at the New Roc City Burger King restaurant located at 33 LeCount place. There were multiple reports of a large altercation inside as well as gun shots fired outside the restaurant. Officers responded and found 9mm shell casings on the sidewalk outside the restaurant. Witnesses reported that several groups of males were running from the scene.

New Rochelle Detectives were able to locate the suspect in the shooting several blocks from the scene. As Detectives approached the suspect he began to flee on foot, while reaching into his waistband. After a brief foot pursuit Detectives were able to apprehend him. He was found to be in possession of a Taurus 9mm handgun. Detectives placed him under arrest and transported him to New Rochelle Police Headquarters. Further investigation revealed that this incident stemmed from a physical altercation involving two groups of males inside the restaurant. The suspect, who was found to be a 17-year-old juvenile, sustained a laceration in the melee and then shot multiple rounds at the fleeing group. There were no reports of anyone being hit with the gunfire at this time.

ARRESTED: Male Juvenile (name withheld due to Juvenile status), 17 years of age, of the Bronx.

CHARGES: New York State Penal Law Sections: 265.03 Criminal Possession of a Weapon 2nd Degree – C Felony; 265.02 Criminal Possession of a Weapon 3rd Degree – Defaced Firearm – D Felony; and 120.25 Reckless Endangerment 1st Degree – D Felony

Skimming Device Arrests

On Thursday February 29th, 2024, at about 8:15pm, New Rochelle Police were alerted that a vehicle associated with a felony case from Garden City, Long Island, was possibly in New Rochelle. At around 9:00pm, New Rochelle Police Officers located the vehicle, parked and unoccupied, on Huguenot Street near the New Rochelle Post Office. Shortly thereafter, two male parties were observed getting into the vehicle. As Officers approached them to investigate, one male was observed to begin destroying a cell phone by hitting it against a metal railing next to the vehicle. The parties were stopped, and further investigation led to finding multiple computer devices used for “skimming,” or fraudulently taking personal and financial information from credit or debit cards. New Rochelle Police Officers took them into custody without incident.

ARRESTED: Fabian Serban, 49 years of age, of Rego Park. Viorel Borm, 51 years of age, of Flushing. CHARGES: New York State Penal Law Section: 190.85 Unlawful Possession of a Skimmer Device 2nd Degree – A Misdemeanor

Illegal Masseur Sex Crime

On March 7th, 2024, at about 11:45pm, Detectives from the New Rochelle Police Criminal Investigation Division arrested one Ascencion Rojas-Quintero for posing as a professional masseuse and therapist. He is accused of performing a criminal sex act on an unsuspecting victim during a session. Rojas-Quintero is believed to have developed a client base for his unlicensed business and was preying on female clients out of his Church Street home that he utilized for his business.

New Rochelle Detectives are asking that anyone who may have been a victim of Rojas-Quintero to contact New Rochelle Police at 914-654-2300.

ARRESTED: Ascencion Roja-Quintero, 45 years of age, of New Rochelle.

CHARGES: New York State Penal Law Section: 130.40 Criminal Sexual Act 3rd Degree – E Felony. New York Education Law Section: 6512 Unauthorized Practice of a Profession – E Felony.

Yard Waste Collection Began April 1

The Department of Public Works, Bureau of Streets and Highways began Yard Waste Collection on Monday, April 1, 2024. Residents are reminded that in order to be collected, yard waste must be placed at the curb by 7 a.m. (6am during summer months) on the scheduled collection day, or after 10PM on the night before. Observe the following guidelines:

- **Brush and branches:** No longer than 4 feet in length with a diameter of no more than 3 inches, tied in bundles. DO NOT tie with nylon line, tape or metal wire.
- **Grass, twigs, leaves and other loose yard waste:** Place in open containers or biodegradable paper bags weighing no more than 75 lbs.

- **Logs, stumps, stones, dirt, fruit, seaweed, clumps of grass, treated wood chips, root balls, acorns and other large debris WILL NOT BE COLLECTED** and must be disposed of by the homeowner. See www.newrochelleny.com/debris for further information.

Collection days and areas are as follows:

Monday: North side of Quaker Ridge Road to Scarsdale border

Tuesday: North side of Eastchester Road, Beechmont Drive, and Barnard Road, to the south side of Quaker Ridge Road

Wednesday: North side of Metro North Railroad to the south side of Eastchester Road, Beechmont Drive and Barnard Road

Thursday: South of the Metro North Rail-

road

When a holiday occurs on any of the collection days, Friday is the alternate collection day. Yard waste collection will continue until the last week in October.

For further information, visit www.newrochelleny.com/DPW or contact the Bureau of Streets and Highways at (914) 235-4029 during business hours 7:00 AM to 3:30 PM.

Landscapers are reminded that the organic transfer station is still closed for drop-offs but will open early summer 2024.

LEAF BLOWER REMINDER: City Code allows for use of leaf blowers up until May 31. Permitted hours are weekdays between 8AM-5PM and Saturdays and Sundays 10AM-5PM.

Driver Sentenced for Stealing Semi-Tractor Trailer Containing More than \$32,000 Worth of Alcohol

Westchester County District Attorney Miriam E. Rocah announced that a truck driver from New Rochelle was sentenced to six months of incarceration for stealing a semi-tractor trailer containing more than \$32,000 worth of alcohol from a lot off Interstate-87 in Yonkers.

The defendant, Kelvin Garcia Liriano, 28, pleaded guilty on Nov. 20, 2023, to Grand Larceny in the Second Degree, a felony. The defendant was also sentenced to five years of probation and is required to pay \$42,793.76 in restitution.

On March 21, 2023, at approximately 1:15 a.m., the defendant stole a \$45,000 semi-tractor trailer containing 1,560 cases of Mike's Hard Lemonade, a liquor-based beverage, worth \$32,793, from a lot in Yonkers located off I-87. The defendant drove the vehicle to Brooklyn where the vehicle was later found by police abandoned and empty on Atlantic Avenue.

New York State Police from the Hawthorne Barracks arrested the defendant in the Bronx on April 17, 2023, following a joint investigation with the Westchester County District Attorney's Criminal Investigator Squad. The Yonkers Police Department and the New Rochelle Police Department assisted with the investigation.

The case was before State Supreme Court Justice James McCarty in Westchester County Court and prosecuted by Senior Assistant District Attorney Adrian Murphy, Auto Crimes Coordinator in the Trials & Investigations Division.

Alternate Side Enforcement Resumed April 1

Enforcement of alternate side of the street parking restrictions will resume Citywide on April 1. Please observe posted signs and relocate vehicles to allow for street sweeping.

Westchester County Parks' Conservation Division to Host Solar Eclipse Events

Westchester County Parks' Conservation Division will host solar eclipse events county-wide, Monday, April 8, where participants can safely view the solar eclipse and learn more about this astronomical marvel. Westchester County Parks was able to obtain viewing glasses for all events as it is not safe to look directly at the solar eclipse.

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

The following locations will host solar eclipse events:

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

Events and parking are free.

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

For more information, visit www.Etain.com.

NRCA to be Honored as a "2024 Star of the Arts"

The New Rochelle Council on the Arts will be honored as one of the "2024 Stars of the Arts" at ArtsWestchester's annual awards luncheon on Wednesday, April 10th. The festive luncheon will be held at Brae Burn Country Club, with CBS TV anchor Tony Aiello acting as emcee. Tickets cost \$125 and are available at <https://artswestchester.org/arts-award-celebration/>

Each spring, ArtsWestchester recognizes individuals and organizations for their extraordinary impact on arts and culture in Westchester. The Arts Award has been presented since 1976 to celebrate those who have enriched Westchester's communities and its citizens. This year NRCA will receive the Community Award, which is given to an artist, individual group organization or agency that has demonstrated extraordinary vision and leadership in using the arts to enhance community life, increase access to cultural experiences, or to enrich the county's cultural heritage.

The New Rochelle Council on the Arts was created by the New Rochelle City Council in 1975 to encourage the study and presentation of the performing and fine arts; for nearly 50 years the NRCA has worked to fulfill that mission by sponsoring art exhibitions, public art, theatrical productions, dance recitals, film screenings, lectures, and concert series. NRCA's signature programs include the NRCA Rotunda Gallery at City Hall, the Summer Sounds Concert Series at Hudson Park (drawing 400 to 600 people every week for an eclectic lineup of live bands) and ArtsFest, a weekend-long celebration every fall with 40 venues representing the work of 250 visual and performing artists. NRCA has also taken the lead in bringing public art to New Rochelle: NRCA's most recent projects include the #NRNY Murals -- 20 high impact large-scale works installed in two phases (eight murals in 2019 and 12 more in 2022) - and a life size bronze statue commemorating long-time resident author E.L. Doctorow installed last October.

To learn more about NRCA visit the website at www.newrochellearts.org.

Schumer, Gillibrand Secure Historic \$16+ Million for New Rochelle Via the Inflation Reduction Act for LINC: Safety, Mobility & Economic Opportunity Project

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Memorial Highway was originally proposed to connect I-95 to the Hutchinson River and Cross County Parkways. However, only the first phase of the antiquated highway project was ever built, leaving an overabundance of infrastructure that delivers traffic from Exit 16 of I-95 to New Rochelle's local community roadways. The current six-lane highway just stops at Lincoln Avenue, effectively making it a highway to nowhere that damages the community and exacerbates systemic inequalities.

The \$16 million in federal funding will support the overall LINC project to help reconnect the community with modern complete streets, implement new signalization at key intersections, and construct the new bike and pedestrian areas on Memorial Highway, including on the Memorial Highway Overpass from the Cedar Street (Exit 16) ramps to the roundabout on Memorial Highway. These complete street improvements and the new bicycle, pedestrian, and open space on Memorial Highway will help transform a burden on the community with a unique green asset; enhance safety, and build stronger economic linkages between the Lincoln Avenue corridor and the employment and transit assets of the burgeoning downtown, helping achieve equity across New Rochelle. In addition, the project will improve flood mitigation and storm resiliency by improving drainage

along roadways in the area which is prone to flash flooding.

This major award is the culmination of years of work by Schumer and Gillibrand. As majority leader, Schumer led the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment & Jobs Act to passage with projects like New Rochelle's at the top of mind. After introducing the Reconnecting Communities Act in the Senate, Schumer and Gillibrand created and delivered the Reconnecting Communities Program in the bipartisan Infrastructure Law to remove barriers like old highways and create more connected communities.

At Schumer's urging when negotiating the Inflation Reduction Act, he was able to create the Neighborhood Access and Equity Grant Program - a program similar to Reconnecting Communities - funded at \$3.2 billion. Today's funding comes from this program and is a direct result of Schumer's efforts to increase funding for reconnecting communities' initiatives in the IRA so that places like New Rochelle could have the robust federal resources they need to make these transformational projects a reality.

New Rochelle finalized schematic designs and detailed plans for the park elements of the LINC project this past year. New Rochelle expects the completed design and environmental review to be completed in the next year and construction to begin in 2025.

County Announces Matching Grants Benefiting Arts Groups

Westchester County Executive George Latimer and the Westchester County Board of Legislators joined with ArtsWestchester to announce that 85 Westchester arts organizations are the recipients of matching funds from the Art\$WChallenge grant program.

In what has been a record-breaking year, participating arts organizations raised \$819,759, the greatest amount raised in a single year, in new private funds from 1,234 donors through the program which ended Dec. 31, 2023. These private funds were matched with \$463,325 in Westchester County support, providing in total \$1.28 Million in financial support for the arts community at a critical time where arts groups are working to build back arts audiences lost during the pandemic.

County Executive George Latimer explained: "Since the inception of the Art\$WChallenge in 2007, this powerful public/private program has raised nearly \$7 Million to support Westchester's arts and cultural sector, matched with over \$3 million in County support. The County's arts community has weathered a difficult few years. In fact, there has never been a more important time to help the arts make a comeback and to allow them to work their magic to bring people and communities back together than now."

Grantees included arts organizations in every corner of Westchester such as: Downtown Music at Grace (receiving a matching grant of \$8,500), presenting free live music weekly in Downtown White Plains; Songcatchers in New Rochelle (receiving a matching grant of \$8,500), providing free and low-cost music instruction for kids of all ages; and New Era Creative Space (receiving a \$1,500 matching grant), providing visual, performing arts, and STEM/STEAM instruction in Peekskill.

Janet T. Langsam, CEO of ArtsWestchester said: "On behalf of ArtsWestchester, I would like to thank the individual arts donors to this program, the County Executive and the Westchester County and the Board of Legislators for their long-term investment in a matching grant program that over sixteen years has paid dividends for the economy. With Westchester's cultural sector generating more than \$182 Million in economic activity post-pandemic, this vital grants program plays an important part in ensuring Westchester's cultural infrastructure for the future."

For more information about ArtsWestchester, visit artswestchester.org.



Westchester County Executive George Latimer, left, with members of the Westchester County Board of Legislators and ArtsWestchester CEO Janet Langsam. Photo courtesy of ArtsWestchester

Westchester County Launches Gun Violence Prevention Taskforce

Westchester County Executive George Latimer and Westchester County Legislator Shanae Williams are joining together to announce the Westchester County Gun Violence Prevention Taskforce (WCGVPT). The taskforce, which will fall under the Office of the County Executive, will be aimed at unifying efforts across Westchester County to combat gun violence.

Latimer said: "Gun violence is not a major problem in Westchester County, but one death or injury due to gun violence is one too many and we are focused on getting to the root of the problem. The WCGVPT will serve as a critical platform to address the root causes of gun violence while advocating for effective prevention strategies."

Williams said: "Yonkers is a relatively safe city for its size, but gun violence is still an issue. A few years ago, there was a shooting in front of my building at Getty Square. This incident made me consider ways to address the problem holistically in my community. I am



thrilled to partner with County Executive George Latimer and his team in this effort and look forward to working with stakeholders to identify solutions that will eliminate gun violence."

County Legislator Terry Clements said: "I approach the issue of gun violence prevention from two perspectives -- as Chair of the Board's Committee on Public Safety, and as an educator committed to the safety of Westchester's students. The Westchester County Department of Public Safety, expertly run by Acting Commissioner Terrance Raynor, utilizes Community Resource Officers (CROs) and School Resource Officers (SROs)

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Former New York Giant David Tyree Makes Special Guest Appearance at Iona Prep Father-Son Breakfast



Iona Preparatory School in New Rochelle hosted former New York Giants wide receiver David Tyree at their annual Father-Son Breakfast on Sunday, March 10, inside the Willima J. Tully Gymnasium in New Rochelle. Speaking to more than 300 boys, dads, uncles, and grandfathers, Tyree spoke about what it was like to play for the NY hometown team, his personal journeys of faith and family in reaching the pinnacle of his profession, and of course, his iconic catch in the final two minutes of Super Bowl XLII in 2008 – the ball trapped inexplicably between his hands and his helmet – that led to the Giants hoisting the Lombardi Trophy.

The Father-Son Breakfast first began as a community builder some 60 years ago with former owner and Iona Prep parent Wellington T. Mara P'72,'75,'76,'78 getting Giants players to attend the breakfast when his four sons attended during the 1970s. Previous speakers have included Marcus McKethan and Elerson Smith (2023), Xavier McKinney (2022), Rhett Ellison (2019), Darian Thompson (2018), Will Tye (2017), Zak DeOssie (2016) and Devon Kennard (2015), of recent memory.

Mara famously used to sit with his friend, Michael A. Ward '51, P'78,'79,'81, GP'13, HOF'10, on "The Hill" between the field now bearing his name and the school, watching Gaels football.

For more information visit, IonaPrep.org
Photo Courtesy of Iona Prep

City of New Rochelle Celebrates Black History Month with Ceremonial Gala at City Hall

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Senator, Shelley Mayer, and Assemblyman Steve Otis. Local New Rochelle small businesses and restaurants offered a diverse culinary sampling featuring dishes from restaurants like Suggarplums, Ray's Empanadas, Chef Ed, Jolos, D'Bay Café, Sweet Potatoes, and Sweet Spice.

Further, in Council Chambers, the event paid tribute to the legacy of Reverend Dr. Wallace L. Noble of St. Catherine's AME Zion Church with heartfelt speeches, spoken word, dance, and saxophone performances, along with a presentation highlighting Lincoln Avenue's historic churches. Appointed pastor of St. Catherine A.M.E. Zion Church in August 2016, Reverend Noble revitalized the church with new ministries and a rebuilt plaza. Born and raised in New York City, he answered his ministerial calling in March 1975 under Reverend Idonia Stewart's guidance. Ordained as a deacon in June 1978 and as an elder in October 1982, he remains actively engaged in the New Rochelle community.

Also honored was Lady Nettie Jean Weaver, wife of the late Pastor Reverend Allen Paul Weaver Jr., – a longtime senior pastor of Bethesda Baptist Church in New Rochelle and a nation-

ally known church leader.

"During Black History Month, we honor the profound contributions and enduring legacy of the African American community, who have shaped our City's history and heritage," said Kathleen Gill, City Manager of New Rochelle. "Our ceremonial gala is a reflection of New Rochelle's continued commitment to diversity, inclusivity, and unity. With the collective support of our community, nonprofit partners, and local elected officials, we will continue to reaffirm this dedication to honoring all cultures."

"In celebrating Black History Month, we pay tribute to the rich tapestry of African American heritage that has woven itself into the fabric of New Rochelle," said Angela Davis-Farrish, Chairperson of the African American Advisory Committee. "The Celebrating the Legacy of Black Culture Gala stands as a testament to the enduring contributions of Reverend Dr. Wallace L. Noble and the broader community, who have tirelessly worked to uplift and empower our city. We look forward to continuing to shape this story with pride and positivity, throughout the year."

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Songcatchers Celebrates New Location with New Rochelle Chamber of Commerce Hosting Ribbon-Cutting

For the first time in 27 years Songcatchers has a new location and celebrated their new space with an official Ribbon Cutting Ceremony on Thursday, March 14th at Holy Name School Building, 74 Petersville Road, New Rochelle, with a dedicated Songcatchers' Entrance on Sherman Street.

Attending the ribbon-cutting were Crystal Collins, Westchester County Director of Policy and Programs representing CE George Latimer and Westchester County Government; Mariana Jusufaj, Small Business Relations Manager for City of New Rochelle, Department of Development; Susan Abbott, Director of Grant Programs at ArtsWestchester; Theresa Kump Leghorn, President of the New Rochelle Council on the Arts; Songcatchers President, Karenann Carty, and Executive Director, Jennifer Lanser; New Rochelle Chamber of Commerce President, Rob Hayes and Executive Director, Catherine White; and board members from both Songcatchers and the NR Chamber. Xiamena Francella, representing the New Rochelle Chamber of Commerce, presented a Certificate of Recognition to Songcatchers to commemorate the day. Students, volunteer teachers, mentors, families, and alumni of Songcatchers joined in the festivities.

Songcatchers Inc. was founded by Sr. Beth Dowd, OSU, in 1978 as a non-profit organization dedicated to providing high quality music education, training, and enrichment for children and families that were both affordable and accessible to the multicultural population within New Rochelle. Their motto, "Reaching for Peace through Music," represents their



commitment to fostering musical education and enrichment for all. Most recently, Songcatchers received a \$40,000 New Arts and Culture Grant from the New York State Council on the Arts and an ArtsWestchester matching Art\$Challenge grant to support the nonprofit. Songcatchers performs annually at the New Rochelle Holiday Lighting, Street Fair, ArtsFest and other events throughout Westchester County.

Songcatchers' expanded new facility has devoted space for their large instruments, like pianos and drums, and additional classroom use for strings, woodwind, brass, and early childhood programming. Executive Director, Jennifer Lanser, said, "Our New Rochelle Review • April 2024 •

growth from three rooms to two floors of a school building is the realization of our Ursuline founder, a dedicated Board of Directors, many generous supporters, a devoted staff, and the parents and students who wholeheartedly believe in the success of the program. We are filled with hope and optimism knowing that the seeds of music and kindness sown by Songcatchers will continue to blossom in the hearts and minds of those touched by its magic."

Karenann Carty stated, "We are so excited to achieve this milestone in our history. It is a testament to the lasting legacy of our founder, Sr. Beth Dowd, and a new chapter for Songcatchers as we Page 9 • www.newrochellereview.com

better serve our communities by expanding our reach and program offerings. We love our new space and will continue to live our mission of reaching for peace through music."

"The New Rochelle Chamber of Commerce is pleased to host this ribbon-cutting as Songcatchers is such an integral part of the New Rochelle community. Beyond providing free or low-cost musical instruction for children, Songcatchers inspires a lifelong love of music," said Rob Hayes, owner of Beechmont Tavern and President of the NR Chamber. "From their preschool early childhood programs through their teenage student mentorship program, Songcatchers has positively impacted thousands of students in New Rochelle. We're happy they have a new home and are glad to congratulate this valued NR Chamber Member. Cheers!"

Janet Langsam, CEO of ArtsWestchester said, "ArtsWestchester is thrilled with the Songcatchers' move to a larger, more accessible space for their music education programs that are essential to youth of all ages. Our friend and Songcatchers founder, Sr. Beth Dowd, would be extremely proud of how far this vibrant Westchester County arts organization has come."

Songcatchers is having a Dancing Through the Decades Dinner Dance on Saturday April 20th to support the non-profit. Visit <https://www.songcatchers.org/> for more information.

Learn more about the New Rochelle Chamber of Commerce at <http://newrochellechamber.org/>.

Visit <https://www.songcatchers.org/>

Photography by Nick Carter

Author Sam Mihara Shares WWII Internment Camp Experience with ALMS Students

Author and former Heart Mountain Japanese Internment Camp prisoner Sam Mihara presented his story to Albert Leonard Middle School grade 8 students on March 5. The 91-year-old San Francisco native, a second-generation Japanese American (Nisei), detailed how armed military guards forced him at nine years old and his family to move to the Wyoming internment camp where they lived in a 20 by 20 square-foot room for three years during the second world war. They were among 120,000 Japanese Americans imprisoned at 10 U.S. camps.

Mihara is one of the few remaining former prisoners who tours the US and around the world speaking about that dark time in American history. His story is both poignant and inspiring in that, after the war, his family returned to San Francisco to rebuild their lives. Mihara eventually attended U.C. Berkeley undergraduate and UCLA graduate schools, where he earned engineering degrees. He became a rocket scientist and joined the Boeing Company where he became an executive on space programs.

Students were riveted by his first-hand historic recollections, lessons learned and implications around prejudice in society today.

"Learning about new things is interesting but seeing someone who actually experienced it is amazing," said student Hope Ziogas. "I loved hearing his point of view instead of just learning about this from the internet."

Julia Nweke said she was greatly moved by the stories about the awful conditions in the camps and the fact that Mr. Mihara's father went blind from glaucoma because the doctors in the camp were not equipped to treat it.

Noah Elzam appreciated Mr. Mihara's honesty, saying "He shared that he was angry about what happened to him, but he refused to live his life hating the people responsible for it"

"The most incredible thing about Mr. Mihara's story was his message about the importance of strength and resilience when facing such terrible adversity and injustice," said David Luhman, the ALMS Humanities Chair.

"It was an absolute privilege to have him speak to our students and we can't thank the ALMS PTA enough for providing the grant that funded this unique experience for our school," he added.



Junior Nia Gooden Wins Oratorical Contest

Congratulations to NRHS junior Nia Gooden for winning the New York State American Legion Oratorical Competition. Nia will represent New York State when she travels to Michigan in May for the national competition.



32nd Annual Youth Awards Highlight Area Students



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

To learn more visit www.saintjosephs.org.



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Estate Planning for the Family Home



BY BERNARD A. KROOKS,
CERTIFIED ELDER LAW ATTORNEY

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

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

Tenancy by the Entirety: Tenancy by the entirety is unique to married couples. In fact, in New York when a married couple purchases a property, it is presumed that the property is held as tenants by the entirety, unless otherwise noted. Each spouse has an equal, undivided interest in the whole property and

the right to use and occupy it. From an asset protection standpoint, this is generally good news since a creditor cannot force a partition (separation) of the tenancy by the entirety unless the debt is owed by both spouses. Upon the death of one spouse, the other surviving spouse automatically becomes the sole owner of the entire property, avoiding probate, even if the deceased spouse's will says otherwise.

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

Tenancy in Common: Under a tenancy in common, each owner of the property has a certain interest in the property. While the shares may be equal, it is not uncommon for tenants in common to hold title to unequal shares. For example, you may own real estate as tenants in common with someone else where you own 60% and the other person owns 40%. Even in this scenario where the ownership interests differ, each tenant in common has the right to use and enjoy the entire property, not just their percentage of the property. However, unlike JT-WROS, there is no right of survivorship.

If an owner dies, they have the right to transfer their interest in the property to their family or friends under their last will and testament. If the tenant in common dies without a will, then their interest will pass in accordance with the laws of intestacy.

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

Trust: If a trust owns real property, then the terms of the trust control who has the right to use and occupy the trust during your life-

time and who gets the property on your death. As with individual ownership, you may decide to transfer the property outright or continue to hold it in trust for your beneficiaries, upon your death. Thus, you may give them the right to live in the property without actually owning it. Of course, you will need to decide who pays the ongoing expenses of the property, the trust, or your beneficiaries.

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

Bernard A. Krooks, Esq., is a founding partner of Littman Krooks LLP. He was named 2021 "Lawyer of the Year" by Best Lawyers in America® for excellence in Elder Law and has been honored as one of the "Best Lawyers" in America since 2008. He was elected to the Estate Planning Hall of Fame by the National Association of Estate Planners & Councils (NAEPC). Krooks is a past Chair of the Elder Law Committee of the American College of Trust and Estate Counsel (ACTEC). Mr. Krooks may be reached at (914-684-2100) or by visiting the firm's website at www.littmankrooks.com.

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

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

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

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

Throughout her tenure at ArtsWestches-

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

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

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

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

Table Hopping with Morris Gut Where to Dine After the Spring Orchid Show

A beautiful technicolor harbinger of spring, the annual Orchid Show at the New York Botanical Garden in the Bronx runs through April 21st. This year's theme: 'Florals in Fashion'. (For additional info: www.nybg.org) After taking in all that beauty, we do get hungry. Here are a few suggestions...

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

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

Good Brews at Bronx Beer Hall: Located inside the historic Arthur Ave. Retail Market, not far from Fordham University and NYBG, the Bronx Beer Hall is a good place to hang for locally-sourced craft beers and wines. Mike's Deli just down the aisle coordinates some of the food service with the bar, and it is good, hearty Italian. Good spot for mingling and networking. Entertainment schedule. Closed Monday. Bronx Beer Hall, 2344 Arthur Ave., Bronx. 1-347-396-

0555 www.bronxbeerhall.com

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

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

(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. E-mail: gutreactions@optonline.net)

Events at the New Rochelle Public Library



Friday Night Concert Series: Michael Powers' Blues Heritage Band

Friday, April 12 from 7:00 - 8:30 pm

Get ready for a musical journey with the extraordinary 'Blues Heritage Band' as they pay homage to legends Jimmy Reed, Muddy Waters, and Jimi Hendrix. Led by the remarkable 7-time Blues Music Award & Grammy Nominee, Michael Powers, who lends his soulful vocals and electrifying guitar skills. Joining Powers are Charlie Torres on bass, Michael Fox on drums, and Tommy Mandel on piano. Be prepared for a night of blues magic and original compositions that showcase Powers' unparalleled talent. Location: Ossie Davis Theater. Registration requested at bit.ly/MichaelPowers_04_2024



Sunday Afternoon Concert: Horace Silver Tribute Featuring the Jared Pauley Quintet

Sunday, April 21 at 2:00 pm

New Rochelle resident and pianist Jared Pauley leads a quintet with special guests celebrating the music of the late pianist Horace Silver. The concert will explore a number of well-known compositions and some lesser-known gems from the prolific career of Silver. Known for his long tenure and association with Blue Note Records, Horace Silver recorded a number of well-known singles and albums. His music explored a multitude of genres including gospel, Bossa nova, and funk. Registration requested at bit.ly/JaredPauley_04_2024



An Egyptian Celebration for Children

Saturday, April 27 from 2:00 - 3:00 pm

April is Arab-American Heritage Month! Celebrate with some of the colorful and festive traditions of Egypt. Families will see and experience the whirling

dervish, the saidi stick dance and even a horse puppet will join in on the fun! Ages 4-11. Location: Ossie Davis Theater

Exhibit: An Archival Display from the Records of the League of Women Voters of New Rochelle Through April 5

For Women's History Month and to commemorate the centennial anniversary of the League of Women Voters of New Rochelle, a display of archival documents and memorabilia is in the lobby of the Library. The display consists of items from the archival collection of the LWVNR Records in the NRPL Archive.

Tween Tuesdays

Tuesdays, April 16 and 30 from 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: Community Gallery

Westchester County Dept. of Health: Healthcare Navigator Assistance

Wednesdays, April 3, 10, 17, 24 from 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. Location: Help and Learning Center, 2nd Floor. Appointments are recommended. For an appointment, call: Elizabeth Blackwell (914) 336-0925.

Three Poets: Reflections on Growing Older

Saturday, April 6 from 2:00 - 3:00 pm

In honor of National Poetry Month, poets Dave Donelson, Vera Kewes Salter and James Swinehart will read from their poems about growing older and coping with life's challenges. They will discuss the link between their personal experiences and creative inspiration that led to the writing of these heartfelt works. Selections from their broader writings will also be shared. Audience discussion will follow. Location: Ossie Davis Theater. Registration requested at bit.ly/NRPL_3Poets

Family Fun Saturdays at Huguenot Children's Library

April 6, 13, 20 at 2:30 pm

Drop in for fun-filled Saturday afternoon activities for children at the Huguenot Children's Library. From Crafternoons with Davina to Rock Your World Kids and more, we have something to keep children engaged and busy on Saturday afternoons. Location: Huguenot Children's Library, 794 North Avenue, New Rochelle

Songcatchers: Volunteer Appreciation Concert

Sunday, April 7 from 3:00 - 4:00 pm

Experience the musical talent of Songcatchers dedicated volunteer teachers who generously give their time to teach students music. Join us for a musical extravaganza, where Songcatchers teachers will showcase their skills on a range of instruments. It is going to be a symphony of gratitude and talent. Location: Ossie Davis Theater

Sing Your Heart Out! Workshop for Adult Singers

Mondays, April 8, 15, 29; Saturdays, April 13, 20, 27

from 9:30 - 11:30 am

Music maestro Robert Puleo returns to lead the "Sing Your Heart Out!" Workshop this spring. Robert will help participants attain the confidence required to sing, along with teaching aspiring singers how to select music appropriate for their voice, and--most importantly--how to have fun throughout the entire 'learning to sing' process! Location: Ossie Davis Theater. Register online at bit.ly/SYHO_Spring2024 or contact Robert Puleo via phone at 914-475-8201 or by email at robertpuleo@gmail.com

Eclipse Party

Monday, April 8 from 2:00 - 4:00 pm

On April 8, 2024, a total solar eclipse will be visible in Eastern North America - including New Rochelle. Join as a community to view the eclipse outside the Library. Eclipse viewing glasses, along with safe viewing instructions and other giveaways, will be distributed while supplies last. Eclipse-themed music will add to the fun. Location: Library Patio. In the event of inclement weather, join us in the Ossie Davis Theater to view a livestream of the event. Registration requested at bit.ly/NRPL_EclipseParty

Children's Piggy Bank Craft!

Wednesday, April 10 from 2:00 - 3:00 pm

April is Financial Literacy Month. Even kids can participate and get a headstart on their savings with our piggy bank craft. Ages 4-7

Calendar of Events

City of New Rochelle -- State of the City

with Mayor Yadira Ramos-Herbert

April 11 at 7pm

Remington Boys and Girls Club

1 Remington Place

Doors open at 6pm with New Ro Eats; Speech at

7pm. Visit [newrochelleny.com/stateofthecitysvp](https://www.newrochelleny.com/stateofthecitysvp)

Annual Mother's Day Tea & Luncheon

May 11 from 2 to 5pm

Hotel NoMa, 1 Radisson Plaza, New Rochelle

Put on your most gorgeous hat and treat yourself, mom, or auntie to this event. Guest speaker: Pastor Atara Faison. Songstress: Alana Alexander. Poet: Nelle Divine. Featuring a 360 photo booth, live music, hat contest, swag bags, vendors. Portion of the proceeds donated to the Providence House Charity, New Rochelle. Tickets are available at www.diamondsppearlseventsllc.com

Silk Paintings

The Work of Berenice Pliskin - Artist Talk

April 13 at 2:00 PM

For all and no fee.

An enchanting exploration of silk paintings by Berenice Pliskin, showcased in Gallery B. Immerse yourself in a collection where vibrant colors dance across silk canvases, weaving tales of human experience and mythical wonder. Each stroke of Berenice's brush is imbued with a depth of emotion and storytelling prowess that transports you to somewhere unexpected. Discover the secrets behind her mesmerizing creations and delve into the inspirations that fuel her artistic vision. This promises to be an unforgettable journey into the world of silk painting. Visit ryeartscenter.org/events

NRPL True Crime Film Series: The Great Northfield Minnesota Raid

Saturday, April 13 from 2:00 - 4:30 pm

The final days of the infamous James-Younger Gang are meticulously detailed in this account of the outlaws' most daring robbery: the First National Bank of Northfield, a seemingly impregnable depository and the biggest bank west of the Mississippi. Directed by Philip Kaufman -- 91 mins.; Starring Cliff Robertson, Robert Duvall, Luke Askew. In this series, New Rochelle librarian and film historian Chris Poggiali will introduce and discuss four feature films that examine true crime and detail the actions of people associated with and affected by criminal events. Registration requested bit.ly/MinnRaid_04_2024

Adult Art Workshop: Jazz Appreciation Month Art

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

April is Jazz Appreciation Month. Translate the movement of jazz into the textures and colors of paper. Drop in. Location: Community Gallery

NEW! Feldenkrais Method Movement Class

Thursdays, April 18 and 25 from 10:00 -11:00 am

The Feldenkrais Method helps those experiencing chronic or acute pain of the back, neck, shoulders, hips, legs, or knees, as well as healthy individuals who wish to enhance their movement abilities. Participants will learn movements to improve posture, balance, mobility and flexibility, and decrease chronic pain and stress. Drop in. Location: Meeting Room/Ossie Davis Theater

Annual Gala: Be the Key to Our Future

The Guidance Center of Westchester

May 15 from 6:30 to 9:30pm

Glen Island Harbour Club

50 Glen Island Park, New Rochelle

For details and tickets, visit <https://e.givesmart.com/events/BnZ/>

Art Exhibit: Carthage

Iona University: Br. Kenneth Chapman Gallery

Through April 12

Featuring a collection of paintings and drawings created by Fedele Spadafora on the subject of Tunisia from 2012 to 2023. Sponsored by Nilofer Naqvi, PhD www.iona.edu/new-rochelle-community/br-kenneth-chapman-gallery

New Rochelle YMCA Hosts Ribbon Cutting of the Newly Remodeled Gymnasium

continued from page 1

We kindly request that lightweight footwear be worn on the newly renovated floors.

The Y is one of the nation's leading non-profits strengthening communities through youth development, healthy living and social responsibility. The New Rochelle YMCA was founded in 1899 to serve New Rochelle, Pelham, Mt. Vernon, Larchmont and surrounding areas to promise, but to deliver, lasting personal and social change. Our mission is to help each person live life to their fullest potential in mind, body, and spirit. Visit nrymca.org for more information.

Westchester County Launches Gun Violence Prevention Taskforce

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to ensure safety in our schools and community. Establishing a Gun Violence Safety Task Force will expand on the good work we have already been doing, and will be an important next step towards preventing gun violence on our streets, and in our homes and schools."

County Legislator James Nolan said: "As someone who lost their brother to illegal gun violence, I know what its impact on a family and a community looks like. I appreciate how proactive the County Executive is being by creating this task force. In 2021, the United States experienced record gun violence. It is high time for all of us to come together and find a solution to this issue. I look forward to doing anything I can to help make the task force successful."

The WCGVPT will work with organizations that are currently making strides in rooting out gun violence and foster collaboration across these agencies leveraging each other's resources. The task force aims to identify and implement best practices to prevent and ultimately eliminate gun violence from Westchester County.

Latimer said: "The safety and well-being of every resident in Westchester is our top priority. Through the establishment of the

Gun Violence Prevention Taskforce, we are taking proactive steps to address this critical issue head-on. By bringing together diverse voices and expertise, we will develop comprehensive strategies to create safer communities for all."

The goals of the WCGVPT:

- Change the social conditions and address the influences that lead young people to resort to gun violence.
- Foster collaboration across all agencies and levels of government, including county, town, village, city and law enforcement agencies.
- Facilitate collaboration between nonprofit and for-profit businesses already engaged in this work.
- Engage the community in meaningful dialogue, including victims and perpetrators of gun violence.
- Develop prevention and intervention strategies tailored to eliminate gun violence.
- Advocate for the necessary resources to support these efforts.

The task force will consist of volunteers representing various backgrounds. For more information on the Westchester County Gun Violence Prevention Taskforce, contact Deputy Director of Operations Emily Saltzman ESaltzman@WestchesterCountyNY.gov or (914) 995-2912.

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



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

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

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

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

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

\$100,000 to the Hispanic Resource Cen-

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Webster Student Garden Clubs Get Growing

A few weeks from now, Webster fifth graders in the new Gardening Club will be harvesting their first crop of lettuce, which is now growing in hydroponic towers.

The fifth graders have been working with the plants for the past few weeks and a club for fourth graders began recently, with plans to roll out gardening opportunities for grades two and three in the next two months.

The project is part of Mercy University's WIPRO education program enriching students' STEM learning.

"So many students have shown interest that we've had to select students using a lottery system," said Kathleen Coyne. Coyne is the magnet facilitator and math coach who is coordinating the club alongside grade five teacher Sandra Galano, grade four teacher Melissa Landau, and grade three teacher Samantha Eisenberg. Johanna Vasquez, a math coach from Trinity School, is working with the team as WIPRO mentor.

Other than lettuce, club members will be growing strawberries, kale, spinach, and beans. "Each grade has a different plant and slightly different lesson focus, based on grade level science standards, and everything but the beans will be grown hydroponically," said Mrs. Coyne.

Hydroponic gardening involves growing plants using a water-based nutrient solution rather than soil.

Students are meeting about once a week for lunchtime lessons, in addition to weekly check-ins on plant growth. The plan is for students to share the harvest with other students via intermittent "farmer's markets".

Watch out for Webster's Annual Fit Fair at the end of May when a farmer's market will showcase the vegetables grown during the lunchtime gardening clubs.



Iona University Receives \$10,000 Grant for Local Mental Health Workshops and Trainings in Bronxville

The Community Fund of Bronxville, Eastchester and Tuckahoe has awarded Iona University a \$10,000 grant to conduct local workshops this spring that focus on managing stress, depression and anxiety.

"We are thrilled to partner with The Community Fund to provide these important workshops for local residents," said Kavita Dhanwada, Ph.D., founding dean of the NewYork-Presbyterian Iona School of Health Sciences. "This opportunity both aligns with Iona's mission of service to our local communities and gives our students the chance to gain real-world experience applying the lessons of the classroom into the world beyond."

Three one-hour workshops will take place this spring at Iona's Kelly Center for Health Sciences in Bronxville. Workshops include: Stress Management for Teenagers; Mental, Emotional and Relational Well-Being & Health; and Racism and Multicultural Awareness.

The grant will be implemented by graduate students from Iona University's Marriage & Family Therapy and Mental Health Counseling programs.

The goal is to help improve health outcomes based on the Community Fund's recent Community Needs Assessment, which identified a large gap surrounding mental health and well-being.

Amy Korb, executive director of The Community Fund, said the needs assessment, conducted in partnership with Pace University's Wilson Center for Social Entrepreneurship, provided important data to understand what services were most needed.

"Our staff, in partnership with our board, worked together to develop the mental health discretionary fund and find robust programs that provide tangible help to our community members," Korb said. "This isn't just about mental health awareness; it is about providing our community members with the services and tools to help them thrive."

To learn more, contact The Community Fund at info@thecommunityfund.org or 914-337-8808.





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