

## City of New Rochelle Celebrates Irish-American Heritage Month with Ceremonial Gala at City Hall

On Thursday, March 28, in commemoration of Irish Heritage Month, the City of New Rochelle hosted the Irish-American Heritage Gala, honoring the community's spirit and deep cultural heritage.

The joyous night started at City Hall's Rotunda Gallery where attendees enjoyed a diverse culinary sampling featuring dishes from Beechmont Tavern, Lawton St. Tavern, Spectators Sports Pub, and New Rochelle Bakery. Gala attendees were also treated to a variety of entertaining performances paying tribute to Irish heritage, including Irish step dancers from the McGough Academy, New Rochelle Police Department's Lt. Downs on the bagpipes, and Cate Sandstrom playing the fiddle.

The event honored Spectators Sports Pub co-owners Steve Morris and Gary Torigion for their decades of commitment, community spirit and philanthropy in New Rochelle. A family-run business since 1981, Spectators is an integral part of the New Rochelle community and the City's downtown district. Giving back locally has long been part of their mission by regularly donating goods and services and hosting charitable events for a number of City and local not for profits and foundations including the New Rochelle Police and Fire Departments, Special Olympics, Habitat for Humanity, local sports programs and other organizations, to name a few.

"During Irish Heritage Month, we honor the profound contributions and cultural heritage of our Irish-American community, who are a fundamental part of the City of New Rochelle's history and heritage," said Vincent Parise, Commissioner of the New Rochelle Department of Parks & Recreation, the City's host for the evening. "Our ceremonial gala is a reflection of New Rochelle's continued commitment to celebrating the diversity of residents who make up our great City."

For more information on why New Rochelle is ideally yours, visit <https://www.ideallynewrochelle.com>.



## New Rochelle Mayor Yadira Ramos-Herbert Delivers Inaugural State of the City Address



New Rochelle Mayor Yadira Ramos-Herbert delivered her first State of the City Address last month to a crowd at the Remington Boys & Girls Club.

Mayor Ramos-Herbert is the 24th mayor of the City of New Rochelle, serving the people of the city as the first woman and person of color mayor since her inauguration in 2024. From 2020-2023 she served as a member of the New Rochelle City Council, representing District 3.

Focusing first on the City's strong economic landscape, Ramos-Herbert pointed to the City's development pipeline as generating millions in revenue over the next 20 years, noting that as a result of the

City's development program, undeveloped lots, "will now generate \$260 million dollars in revenue over the same period of time allowing us make much-needed investments in our City." Pointing to the innovative form-based zoning that allowed for such increased growth, the City is, "able to optimize the downtown revitalization while also actively increasing revenue in a manner that does not require an increase in property taxes."

Ramos-Herbert noted that the city, to date, has authorized the development of 10,000 residential units and 400 residential condominiums, with 65% of units already online and a leasing rate of 84%. Of

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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.

## Department of Environmental Facilities Hosts 5th Annual Eco Awards



Westchester County Executive George Latimer and Westchester County's Department of Environmental Facilities (DEF) celebrated Earth Day early by hosting the 5th annual Eco Awards at Glen Island Park in New Rochelle. The Eco Awards recognize outstanding contributions to the environment and sustainability made by residents, students, schools, municipalities, businesses, and other organizations.

Latimer said: "The initiatives and projects led by the recipients of this year's Eco Awards have made a significant impact on Westchester County's environment. These winners range from students to municipalities and organizations that epitomize a dedication to sustainability and community well-being. These achievements inspire all of us to continue to help make Westchester County, and our planet, the best it can be."

First Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Facilities Louis Vetrone said: "The Department of Environmental Facilities is privileged to host the Eco Awards and recognize the contributions made by this year's class of exceptional winners. Westchester County continues to be a leader in environmental efforts in large part because of the contributions of the people here today."

The 2024 Eco Award Winners include:

**Greystone Food Scrap Program:** For developing a food scrap recycling program at The Greystone Co-op, which resulted in diverting 8 tons of food scraps from the waste stream in 2023.

**Melanie Tucker:** For a Capstone Project that educates on the importance of recycling not only for people but also for animals and our

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## League of Women Voters of New Rochelle Celebrates Centennial Year

On March 26, approximately forty members and friends of the League of Women Voters of New Rochelle gathered at the New Rochelle Public Library to begin a yearlong celebration of the LWVNR's 100th birthday. The opening reception included an exhibition of League historic memorabilia curated by the library's archivist David Rose and an historical talk by Mr. Rose.

The exhibit, Rose explained, documents the history of the League's mission to educate the public about the importance of voting, the electoral process, election reforms, and active participation in government. The archived material on display included meeting minutes of the Executive Board, educational literature, voters' guides, correspondence, and scrapbooks. Assisting Rose in creating the exhibit were Tobe Sevush, Programming Coordinator for the library; Ann Gombiner, New Rochelle High School student; and Leona Newman, LWVNR board member.

The League of Women Voters of the United States was founded in 1920, six months before the 19th amendment to the U.S. Constitution gave women the right to vote. During the years following its national founding, state and local League chapters were created. Carrie Chapman Catt, a founder of the national League, moved to New Rochelle and founded the LWVNR in 1924. Her home on Paine Avenue is now privately owned but features a commemorative plaque on the front lawn.

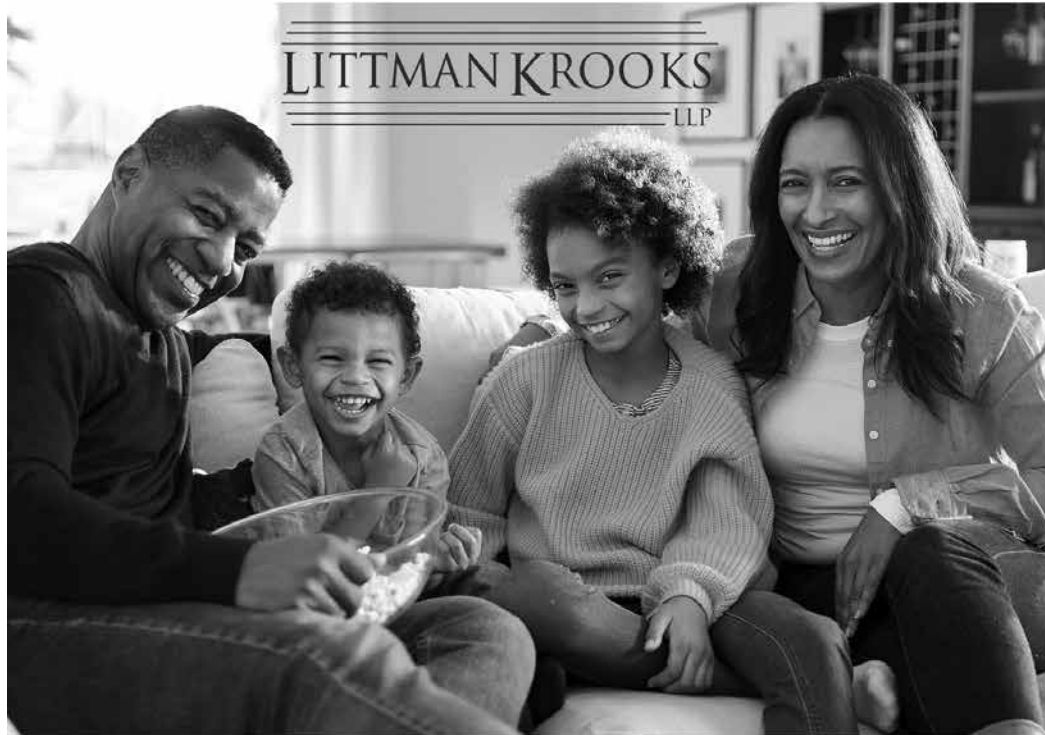
The mission of national, state, and local Leagues is to promote informed citizen participation in government. A nonpartisan organization that is not for women only, the LWVNR gets out the vote, sponsors candidate forums, publishes voters guides online, and studies and takes positions on civic issues.

The Encyclopedia Britannica describes the League as "one of the largest nonpartisan political organizations in the United States and one of the only such organizations that successfully provides broad comprehensive information on a wide variety of political issues."

For more information about the League, contact Joan Alexander at royjoanalex@yahoo.com.



David Rose, Archivist, explaining LWVNR historical items on exhibit.



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# Resolution Adopting SEQRA Findings Statement Relative to Lincoln Neighborhood District Passed

BY STEPHEN E. LIPKEN

New Rochelle Mayor Yadira Ramos-Herbert convened the April 16th City Council RLM, beginning with Approval of Minutes, Submission of Minutes and Consent Agenda.

Councilman Albert Tarantino posed a question regarding Consent Agenda Item 2, Proposed Adoption of the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) Findings Statement and Downtown Overlay Zone (DOZ) Amendments, adopting SEQRA Findings Statement relative to the Lincoln Neighborhood District, including changes to DOZ.

“[Regarding] Item Number 2, brought up last week about the sheer size of DOZ in proportion to amount of units allowed to be built, how does that work if we wanted to add more units in that hospital area with its massive parking lots that could gobble up units. What we don’t want to happen is that the Lincoln Avenue corridor comes along and there are no units left,” Tarantino asked.

“We did an analysis when we adopted the zoning of the parcels around the hospital,” Commissioner of Development Adam Salgado

answered. “We determined that 400 of them could be accommodated around the 654 units so there would still be units for other parcels in the DOZ. Additionally, the hospital included in the Downtown Overlay 8 (DO 8) is a good thing. What is unique about the DO 8, it requires the fees that are generated be reinvested into the community.”

Ramos-Herbert requested that Salgado describe how in theory to add additional units to the DOZ. “Each of those uses that are described in the theoretical development scenario have different impacts in the environment,” Salgado replied. “We look at traffic, stormwater, impact on the sewers. We would amend the SEQRA to get approval by the State.”

Next, Council moved to establish June 8th each year as “Thomas Paine Day.”

In other business, a Special Meeting was held on April 9th, addressing the resignation, separation agreement and release of claims between the City and City Manager Kathleen Gill. Department of Public Works (DPW) Commissioner Wilfredo Melendez was appointed Acting City Manager.

## *New Rochelle Mayor Yadira Ramos-Herbert Delivers Inaugural State of the City Address*

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these units, approximately 1,288 units are designated affordable.

As housing needs increase across the state, said Ramos-Herbert, “We’re building for the people of New Rochelle...with our designation last month as a Pro-Housing Choice Community, the City of New Rochelle is now eligible to apply for programs that are part of \$650 million in State funding that is available, supporting the City’s commitment to responding to the housing shortage New Yorkers are facing.”

Due to its strong economic landscape, Ramos-Herbert went on to address the City’s response to climate change and environmental concerns, including flood mitigation efforts and green infrastructure projects, “The City identified more than 100 projects totaling \$350 million aimed at addressing and alleviating the widespread flooding that has adversely affected our community.”

Looking beyond the city center, Ramos-Herbert brought attention to the City’s largest investment: its people. Through a multifaceted and collaborative effort with, “entities such as the School District, Boys and Girls Club, Iona University, Monroe College, and the Community Justice Center, over \$6.7 million has been dedicated to nurturing our future leaders.”

Support for small businesses has also skyrocketed in recent years as the city generated multiple events and activations for existing and emerging business owners to showcase and grow their companies like the New Rochelle Street Fair, Holiday Market and Taste of Union. Ramos-Herbert celebrated the multitude of city-sponsored grants, “to restore and renovate commercial storefronts as renovated facades stabilize property values and leverage new

investment in businesses and the neighborhood.”

In celebration of ongoing downtown revitalization efforts, Ramos-Herbert noted that the City has received \$41.7 million in grants to support the development of the LINC – a plan to right-size Memorial Highway and transform it from a six-lane road into a local street and linear park, reconnecting the historically neglected and fragmented Lincoln Avenue neighborhood to the City’s economic center. “The LINC will create safe, attractive pedestrian crossings, bike lanes, and new recreation and park space to help surrounding residents and business owners benefit from the downtown revitalization and economic growth.”

In line with ongoing infrastructure improvements, the City’s future also includes a robust, once in a lifetime renovation of the New Rochelle train station to improve connections to the downtown, pedestrian safety and create access to local businesses, “In just a few short years, New Rochelle will be the first Metro North stop in Westchester County to provide direct access to Penn Station.”

Ramos-Herbert praised the contributions of various municipal departments and their dedication to serving the community and emphasized the importance of collaboration and teamwork in achieving the City’s goals, including the work of New Rochelle’s First Responders, Office of Parks and Recreation and Department of Buildings.

“Let us embrace the promise of progress, the pursuit of excellence, and the power of collaboration,” concluded Ramos-Herbert. “Together, we will start New Rochelle’s next chapter charting a course towards a future where prosperity is not just a vision, but a reality for every citizen.”

# City of New Rochelle Announces Leadership Update

At a Special Session of the New Rochelle City Council on April 9, the City Council voted to approve New Rochelle City Manager Kathleen Gill’s resignation. City Manager Gill’s last day was effective, April 9, 2024.

“Kathleen Gill has submitted her letter of resignation in order to pursue other opportunities. She is grateful for her 27 years of service to the City of New Rochelle and is proud to have worked with so many hard-working and dedicated City employees. We thank Kathleen for her service to the City of New Rochelle and wish her the best in her future endeavors. As we

## *Department of Environmental Facilities Hosts 5th Annual Eco Awards*

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shared natural environment.

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated - Zeta Nu Omega Chapter: For the Chapter’s instrumental role in A Love Letter to Nature, an interdisciplinary garden project designed to educate the community on composting and greenhouse gardening.

The City of White Plains: For the development of a local composting site at the Gedney Way Recycling Center.

Hilltop Hanover Farm: For developing and hosting the first Community Work Day for Native Plants Care.

Balaboste: For emphasizing zero waste and sustainability principles in offering space organization services.

City of Rye: For achieving the highest municipal curbside recycling rate in Westchester County in 2023.

Village of Irvington: For achieving the high-

est waste percent reduction in Westchester County in 2023.

Brightcore Energy: For offering clients environmentally friendly options for meeting energy needs, while providing cost savings, limiting waste and reducing carbon footprint.

David Tonjes - Stony Brook University: For research designed to improve the management of solid waste in New York State.

Mom’s Organic Market in Dobbs Ferry: For an emphasis on environmental sustainability and locally sourced options and providing customers with an extensive recycling take-back program.

New Rochelle Parks Department – Green and Sustainable Operations Program: For implementing green practices that emphasize sustainability in operations, achieving a “Green Marina” designation, and donating produce to feed the food insecure.

# City of New Rochelle Upcoming Events

Mark your calendars for these events in May.

## **Mobile Art & Movement in the Park:**

### **Saturdays, May 4-June 8**

Join Parks and Recreation from 10-11:30AM on Saturdays through June 8 for a day of sunshine, crafts and movement. 5/4 Feeney Park, 5/11 D’Onofrio Park, 5/18 Lincoln Park, 6/1 Flowers City Park, 6/8 Pinebrook Park.

**May 4:** Get ready to soar to new heights at the **11th annual Kite Day** Event at Davenport Park on Saturday May 4th from noon to 2PM. Bring your own kite, or build from one of our kits.

RSVP at [www.newrochelleny.com/KiteDay](http://www.newrochelleny.com/KiteDay). Come on down for treasures galore at the **second annual Tag NR Community-wide Tag Sale** happening Saturday, May 4th, 12-5PM at Hamilton Parking Lot adjacent to City Hall. Rain date May 11.

**May 10: Summer Youth Employment** applications due

**May 18: Bike Rodeo!** New Rochelle youth – ages 5 to 18 are invited to join the New Rochelle Police Department for a bike ride from City Hall to Flowers City Park, followed by a fun afternoon with an obstacle course, bike safety

and inspection, food trucks, music, raffles and more! Free helmets for the first 200 registrants. Presented by the New Rochelle Department of Parks and Recreation, Youth Bureau, Police Department and Montefiore New Rochelle.

## **May 20: Celebrate National Public Works Week**

with a special “Touch a Truck” event at City Hall on Thursday, May 20 from 4-7 PM. This year’s theme is “Advancing Quality of Life for All”, highlighting the essential work of our Department of Public Works. Lots of fun for all ages!

## **May 25-27: Memorial Day Ceremonies**

Hudson Park Beach opens weekends through June.

## **May 25: Downtown Summer Sizzle**

is back for a second year. The Saturday event at Ruby Dee Park kicks off with performances by the School of Rock from 1-5PM, followed by the Full Count Big Band from 5-7PM and the headline act The Steepwater Band at 7PM bringing their guitar-driven blues rock show to downtown New Rochelle. The music continues every Saturday throughout the summer.

**Save the date: June 8 Pride Celebration** in downtown New Rochelle

# Police Blotter

## **361 MAIN STREET GROUP ASSAULT**

On April 15th, 2024, at about 7:59pm, New Rochelle Police Officers responded to 361 Main Street on a report of an assault. Officers located a 19-year-old male victim on the ground with multiple contusions to his face. The victim was transported to a nearby hospital for treatment where the injuries were deemed as non-life threatening. Witness accounts indicate that the victim became involved in an altercation with another male party and approximately fifteen others joined in against the victim causing multiple injuries.

Anyone with information on this incident is asked to contact the New Rochelle Police Department at 914-654-2300.

## **GUN DRUG ARREST BLUE CORVETTE**

On April 8th, 2024, at about 4:19am, New Rochelle Police received an anonymous call stating a person was seen at the Pit Stop gas station at 819 Main Street displaying a gun. The caller gave no further information other than that the suspect was driving a Blue Corvette with Connecticut license plates. Officers canvased the area and located a Blue Corvette with Connecticut plates parked and unoccupied outside the Drake Main Café located at 1 Drake Ave, a short distance away from the Pit Stop gas station. The driver of the Corvette was found, and Officers continued their investigation. The investigation culminated with the driver being found in possession of illegal drugs and a loaded .45 caliber handgun found in the Corvette. No further information was found regarding the gun being displayed at the Pit Stop gas station.

Anyone with information on that incident is asked to call New Rochelle Police at 914-654-2300.

ARRESTED: Feras Khrisat, 51 years of age, of Queens, NY.

CHARGES: New York State Penal Law Sections: 265.03 Criminal Possession of a Weapon 2nd Degree – C Felony; 220.03 Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance 7th Degree – A Misdemeanor; and 215.50 Criminal Contempt 2nd Degree – A Misdemeanor

## **STABBING 234 NORTH AVENUE**

On Sunday April 14th, 2024, at about 5:45am, New Rochelle Police were called by the New York City Police Department that a 41-year-old male stabbing victim was at a Bronx Hospital stating that he was stabbed in New Rochelle at Lit Sports Lounge and Grill, located at 234 North Avenue. The injuries were deemed serious, but not life threatening at the time. New Rochelle Detectives responded to the Bronx to meet with victim who ended up not fully cooperating with them. Patrol Officers and Detectives responded to Lit Sports Lounge and Grill and were able to find a small crime scene outside the premises that was then processed.

This is an active investigation, and Detectives are developing leads and are asking that anyone with information on this incident call the New Rochelle Police Department at 914-654-2300.

## **TRESPASS PUBLIC LEWDNESS**

On April 10th, 2024, at about 10:48pm, New Rochelle Detectives arrested one Lidio Garcia, 25 years of age, of New Rochelle for Trespassing and Public Lewdness stemming from multiple previous incidents. It had been reported in two previous incidents that Garcia is alleged to have attempted entry into a home on Mayflower Avenue occupied by college students. On one of those occasions the residents confronted him, at which time he exposed his genitalia before leaving the area. Detectives were able to develop leads that culminated in an arrest at Police Headquarters.

ARRESTED: Lidio Garcia, 25 years of age, of New Rochelle.

CHARGES: New York State Penal Law Sections: v245.00 Public Lewdness – B Misdemeanor; and 140.05 Trespass – Violation.

## **UNLAWFUL SURVEILLANCE ARREST**

On Thursday April 18th, 2024, at about 4:00pm, New Rochelle Detectives concluded an investigation with the arrest of one Hussain A. Haider, a 23-year-old male, of New Rochelle. On March 8th, 2024, Haider is alleged to have approached a woman wearing a Niqab (a long garment worn by some Muslim women that covers the entire body and face, excluding their eyes) and took a photograph under the Niqab and further exposed himself to her before fleeing the area. The victim's young child was also present during the incident. Detectives were able to develop leads and with the help of the Westchester County Police Real Time Crime Center and New York State Probation, were able to arrest Haider without incident at New Rochelle Police Headquarters.

ARRESTED: Hussain A. Haider, 23 years of age, of New Rochelle.

CHARGES: New York State Penal Laws: 250.45 Unlawful Surveillance 2nd Degree – E Felony; 130.52 Forcible Touching – A Misdemeanor; and 260.10 Endangering the Welfare of a Child – A Misdemeanor.

## **WEAPONS CAR STOP**

On April 6th, 2024, at about 1:32am, New Rochelle Police conducted a traffic stop at 710 Main Street for a New York State Vehicle and Traffic Law violation – passing through a steady red traffic light. The vehicle was found to have a fraudulent temporary tag instead of a properly registered license plate and was subsequently impounded. During a search of the vehicle, a 9mm Ruger handgun with a large capacity magazine was found within the vehicle. After further investigation both the driver and passenger were charged with possessing the weapon.

ARRESTED: Reiving Rivera-Ramos, 33 years of age, of Greenbelt, MD and Jenner Garcia, 26 years of age, of Greenbelt, MD.

CHARGES: Both parties were charged with New York State Penal Law: Section 265.03 Criminal Possession of a Weapon 3rd Degree – C Felony; Section 265.35 Unlawful Possession of a Large Capacity Feeding Device – A Misdemeanor. Mr. Rivera-Ramos was also charged with: Section 170.25 Criminal Possession of a Forged Instrument 2nd Degree – D Felony.

# New Rochelle Man Sentenced to 21 Years in Prison for Sex Offenses Involving Three Children in County

Westchester County District Attorney Miriam E. Rocah announced last month that a New Rochelle man was sentenced to 21 years in state prison for sexual acts involving three children in Westchester County, as well as for the possession and creation of images and videos of children engaged in sexual acts, between 2019 and 2023.

DA Rocah said: “After years of preying upon children and inflicting unspeakable trauma on his victims, this defendant has been brought to justice and removed from our community. I thank the brave survivors for their courage in working with our Office, and the multiple agencies who partnered with us on this case to secure this conviction. We will continue to support the victims throughout their healing and offer further assistance in any way possible.”

The defendant, Jason Ricketts, 23, pleaded guilty on Jan. 29 to two counts of Course of Sexual Conduct Against a Child in the First Degree, Criminal Sexual Act in the Second Degree, and Promoting an Obscene Sexual Performance by a Child, all felonies.

The defendant appeared before New York State Supreme Court Judge James McCarty and was also sentenced to 20 years of post-release supervision. He is also required to register as a sex offender.

The defendant first met his victims in person at locations where children gather and befriended them by deceiving the children and their parents into believing that he was younger than he was. The defendant methodically gained the trust of his victims, even using substances with them before engaging in sexual acts with his victims, which he filmed. When the victims tried to leave or stop engaging, the defendant indicated that he would post the videos and images to social media accounts.

The sexual abuse began in 2019, when the victims were 12 years old, and continued until 2023.

The DA's Office Cyber Crimes Bureau and High Technology Crimes Unit launched an investigation in October 2022 after Dropbox Inc., a file hosting service, filed a CyberTipline Report with the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC) about an uploaded video file containing minors engaged in sexual acts.

Upon receiving NCMEC's notification, the New York State Police developed a suspect in Westchester County and the DA's Office obtained a search warrant in January 2023 for the defendant's residence in New Rochelle.

With assistance from the New Rochelle Police Department, the DA's Office investigators seized multiple devices from the defendant's home. The defendant admitted to using Dropbox.

Subsequent forensic analysis of the defendant's phone revealed a photo vault disguised as a calculator app containing dozens of videos and photos of the defendant performing sexual acts on children, which led investigators to identify three child victims in Westchester County.

The Child Abuse Bureau and the Special

Prosecutions Unit located the three minors and their families, who agreed to work with the DA's Office.

The DA's Office arrested the defendant on Feb. 2, 2023, and seized an additional device, which revealed internet searches regarding how to remotely wipe devices, whether a person's age can be determined through a video, and attorneys who specialize in defending individuals charged with sex offenses.

The defendant has remained in custody at the Westchester County Jail since his arrest.

John Shehan, Senior Vice President of the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC) Exploited Children Division & International Engagement said: “In 2023, NCMEC received more than 36 million reports of suspected child sexual exploitation and made them available to law enforcement. The staggering volume of reports underscores the pressing need for ongoing collaboration in a shared mission to safeguard children and ensure a safer online environment.

NCMEC applauds the relentless efforts of the Westchester County District Attorney's Office and collaborating law enforcement agencies for their hard work on this case and commends the bravery of the survivors who have courageously come forward.”

Steven G. James, New York State Police Superintendent said: “Mr. Ricketts had no regard for the wellbeing of the victims in this case. The evidence gathered, and work done by the New York State Police and our law enforcement partners, ensures the defendant will serve time for his deplorable acts. We have zero tolerance for those who prey on innocent children. This sentencing reflects the severity of the crimes committed and our commitment to finding justice for our most vulnerable victims.”

Robert Gazzola, New Rochelle Police Department Commissioner said: “The collaborative efforts between multiple agencies in Westchester County have culminated in the successful arrest and prosecution of Jason Ricketts, who has been sentenced to 21 years in prison. This outcome reflects the dedication and synergy of our law enforcement community in upholding justice and safeguarding our neighborhoods.”

In a statement to the court, one victim stated: “I met you when I was 8 years old, and then you became a constant in my life when I was 11 years old.... You stole years of my life from me. Not only did your actions affect me, but you affected others who once called you their friend; but you weren't really a true friend, you were a wolf in sheep's clothing a predator. You deserve all the time in prison you're getting; you need to be far away from kids.”

Addressing the defendant, a second victim added, “You are a disgusting human being. You took away years of my life that I can't get back. I wish every day that I never met you. I was 12 years old...I would walk around afraid all the time. Every time I tried to make a new friend, you would blackmail me and try to scare me. I am not afraid of you anymore. After today, I hope I never see you again.”

# Healthy Kids Day at the New Rochelle Y was Enjoyed by All

Everyone had an amazing time at the New Rochelle Y Healthy Kids Day last month. Many thanks went out to their sponsors, staff, and participants for creating such a memorable

event. An extra special thanks went to Dafne Ginn for her outstanding leadership and dedication in organizing such a successful event.

For more information, visit [www.nrymca.org](http://www.nrymca.org)



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# New Rochelle Council on the Arts wins ArtsWestchester's Community Award

The New Rochelle Council on the Arts (NRCA) was honored as one of the "2024 Stars of the Arts" at ArtsWestchester's annual awards luncheon on April 10th. The festive luncheon was held at Brae Burn Country Club, with CBS TV reporter (and New Rochelle resident) Tony Aiello acting as emcee. The NRCA received 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.



NRCA Board members (L to R) Charles Fazzino, Catherine White, Selena Evans, Zahra Jlayer, Theresa Kump Leghorn, Maddali Paci Atallah, Dave Fabris, Karen Keller Selman and Barbara Davis, with photographer Susan Nagib.

ArtsWestchester's Arts Awards – presented annually since 1976 – recognize individuals and organizations for their extraordinary impact on arts and culture in Westchester. Along with the New Rochelle Council on the Arts, this year's honorees included the Neuberger Museum of Art, Arc Stages, artist Jorge Otero-Pailos, Lee Balter and Elizabeth Diaz, with "Advancing Equity Awards" given to Andromeda Turre, New Era Creative Space and Yonkers Art.

The program included remarks from legendary ArtsWestchester leader Janet Langsam, who is stepping down as CEO after 33 years, and Westchester County Executive George Latimer, as well as a performance by acclaimed jazz vo-

calist Andromeda Turre, who previewed her upcoming Jazz Suite "From the Earth."

New York State Representative Steve Otis presented the Community Award to NRCA President Theresa Kump Leghorn, who accepted the stunning crystal statuette but made it clear in her speech that the award belongs to the entire NRCA Board, a group of creative and hardworking volunteers who make the arts happen in New Rochelle. "We received 134 submissions for our 18 Summer Sounds Concerts this year and the committee listened to every one of them!" she noted, before thanking ArtsWestchester and the City of New Rochelle for its continued support.

"If you haven't visited our city to see our

continued on page 11

# Songcatchers Transports Theatre at NRPL to Carnegie Hall through Captivating Performances by Youth

On April 8, 2024, Songcatchers hosted its 16th annual Volunteer Appreciation Concert in New Rochelle. Before the show, Executive Director Jennifer Lanser hyped up the audience by promising an extraordinary performance by the talented group of young performers – and they certainly delivered.

The concert kicked off with Michael DiLeo, a graduating College Senior with a Bachelor of Music Education from Manhattanville College, who wowed the audience with his rendition of Aaron Copland's "Cat & Mouse" from the "Tom and Jerry" cartoons. Each performance that followed was unique and impressive. From a flute duet performed by the NRHS Choi twins, Jonah and Ethan, to a clarinet quintet with NRHS All-State Clarinetist, Yeray Lopez-Ibarra, who honed his skills at Songcatchers, the event was filled with musical brilliance. Not to mention, a drum-off between two NRHS seniors, Matthew Bartolini and Jake Limiero and the grand finale by the new Songcatchers Orchestra led by Director & NRHS grad Ariana Barrios elevated the concert to a level that seemed straight out of Carnegie Hall. Kathleen McEntee – Lawlor, Songcatchers' Assistant Director coordinated the program with a total of 24 performers. The highlight midway through was Gerry Dumas playing Debussy's Clair de Lune, a performance that could rival any professional pianist.

This annual concert is a tribute to the volunteer spirit of Songcatchers. Lanser highlighted the organization's 70 volunteer teachers, guided by 10 mentors specializing in various instruments and voice by quoting the American Author Elizabeth Andrew, "Volunteers don't necessarily have the time, but they have the heart." Thanks to the power of volunteerism and the vision of their founder, Sr. Beth Dowd, OSU, Songcatchers ensures that music lessons are accessible to all." Songcatchers provides affordable music programs to 100+ students at just \$15 per lesson. To sign up to be a student or volunteer with Songcatchers call (914) 654-1178 or visit [www.songcatchers.org](http://www.songcatchers.org).





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## Two Qualify for International Science Fair

Two New Rochelle High School science research students have qualified to compete in the world's largest high school STEM competition, the Regeneration International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF) to be held in Los Angeles in May.

Junior Karun Kulamavalavan (left) and senior Imaad Uzun earned their entry for the prestigious event at the Westchester Science and Engineering Fair (WESEF) at Somers High School last month, which drew more than 700 participants from 42 Westchester and Putnam high schools.

Competing in the fields of Plant Sciences and mathematics respectively, Karun and Imaad each earned the Grand Prize in their categories. Karun explored the effect of salt on seagrass, an important marine plant in restoring damaged habitats.

Just 20 WESEF students advanced to ISEF where 1,800 science fair winners from more than 75 countries will compete for scholarships, tuition grants, internships, scientific field trips, and monetary awards. Imaad and Karun are the fifth and sixth New Rochelle High School students to ever qualify for ISEF.

The Science Research Program at New Rochelle High School is a three-year, college-level course where students research a topic of their choice.

Imaad Uzun said his research this year reminded him of "the value of solving problems myself." He was surprised by his WESEF win. "I was doubtful about it beforehand because I don't know anyone who has gone to ISEF for math from WESEF, but it turns out doing a math project was a risk worth taking," he said. The experience helped him decide to focus on math in college.

"I'm feeling great about going to ISEF! I think more than anything, it'll be a fun trip that will serve as a great experience to wrap up my high school career. I



also look forward to meeting like-minded people from around the world and sharing my research with them."

"I'm glad that my research is getting recognized because it was not a simple process," said Karun. "I am excited for the future of our research program; by being able to carry this knowledge of developing an ISEF-worthy project I hope to help my peers, so we can have even greater 'New Ro' representation at ISEF next year!"

"Karun and Imaad exemplify that the sky's the limit in New Rochelle Science Research," said Jeff Wuebber, who teaches Science Research with Erica Curran. "We are equally proud of all New Rochelle students who competed at WESEF," he said, noting that New Rochelle students garnered 40 awards. "No school at WESEF won more category awards than New Rochelle. Our students' performance at WESEF is a testament to the excellence that our science students achieve here at New Rochelle High School. We are truly a premier Science Research Program in the nation."

## Second Graders Decorate for Eid



Stephanie Harten's class with their freshly decorated crescent moons.

Second graders in Stephanie Harten's class at William B. Ward Elementary decorated crescent moons in celebration of Eid, which marks the end of Ramadan, a month-long prayer and fasting period for Muslims.

The activity began with students reading "It's Ramadan, Curious George," and learning about how Ramadan begins and culminates when the moon is in a crescent position, how fasting takes place during the holiday, and how families gather to enjoy each other's company.

Rania Albrashi, a student-teacher from IONA University, wrote each student's name in Arabic on their moon.

"I think it is so cool that my name is written in Arabic, it looks so pretty," said Khalesi O.

"It was exciting to design our own moon, in our own style," said Rory O.

"I like the activity because I like designing things and I am thankful Ms. Rania thought of this," Lennox B. said.

# Treasures from the Westchester County Historical Society Exhibit on Display at New Rochelle Public Library

In celebration of the 150th Anniversary of the Westchester County Historical Society (WCHS), a digital exhibit featuring treasures from the WCHS collection will be traveling throughout the county to various public venues. A sampling of the Society's vast holdings, the exhibit's images are in a looped slideshow that reflects various eras and geographical areas of the county. The exhibit will be on display at the New Rochelle Public Library through May 6, 2024.

The eleventh oldest county historical society in America, WCHS is primarily a library and research center. The non-profit organization is located in the Westchester County Records Center in Elmsford, where the county's public records and archives are also housed. The work of the professionally-run WCHS library falls into three categories: acquisition of new materials, processing, and preserving the library's collections, and providing public access those WCHS collections. Documents, maps, photographs, manuscripts, books and other materials have been collected since the inception of WCHS, the only history organization that is steward of materials representing all of Westchester. The collection of over a half million materials are preserved in 10,000 square feet of state-of-the-art, temperature controlled vaults, on shelves equivalent to the length of 215 football fields. WCHS continues to add new materials to the library by gift, purchase, and long-term loan.

Additional 150th Anniversary events showcasing the work of the society and Westchester's extraordinary heritage include a county-wide family 150th History Hunt and a public presentation and birthday party in October.

For more information, contact Barbara Davis, WCHS Co-director, at (914) 231-1437 or barbara@westchesterhistory.com.



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# Richard Gephardt, Former U.S. House Majority Leader, to Deliver Iona University Commencement Keynote

Former United States Congressman and House of Representatives Majority Leader Richard (Dick) Gephardt will deliver the keynote address and be awarded an honorary degree at Iona University's 80th annual Commencement ceremony on May 17, 2024.

"Iona University is pleased to welcome Dick Gephardt as this year's keynote speaker," said Iona President Seamus Carey, Ph.D. "Throughout his career in Congress and beyond, Dick has demonstrated the highest commitment to democratic citizenship and integrity. He has been an influential supporter of Iona University, and I can see his address will be well-received by our students, faculty, and Iona community."

Gephardt served for 28 years in the U.S. House of Representatives from 1977 to 2004, representing Missouri's 3rd Congressional District, home to his birthplace of St. Louis. He was elected to serve as House Democratic leader for more than 14 years, including as majority leader from 1989 to 1995 and minority leader from 1995 to 2003.

In his leadership roles, Gephardt emerged as one of the leading strategists of the Democratic Party's platform and chief architect of landmark reforms ranging from health care, pensions, education, energy independence and trade policy. He also ran as a Democratic presidential candidate twice, in 1988 and 2004.

Gephardt retired from the U.S. Congress in 2005 to establish the Gephardt Group, a privately held labor relations consulting and government affairs firm.

"I am honored to be named Iona University's keynote speaker at this institution of higher learning's 80th commencement ceremony," Gephardt said.

Most recently, Gephardt was a member of the Board of Directors of the Centene Corporation, the Ford Motor Company, Spirit AeroSystems, the U.S. Steel Corporation and the Washington Center for Intern-



Richard Gephardt

ships and Academic Seminars and was chair of the Board of Trustees of the Scripps Research Institute, a private, nonprofit research organization engaged in basic biomedical science.

In addition, he is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and is the founder of the Gephardt Institute for Civic and Community Engagement at Washington University in St. Louis.

Widely known for his advocacy for international human rights, Gephardt served as chairman of the National Endowment for Democracy, a private, nonprofit organization that endeavors to strengthen democratic institutions around the world through nongovernmental efforts, from 2009 to 2013.

Gephardt earned his Bachelor of Science from Northwestern University in 1962 and his juris doctorate from the University of Michigan Law School in 1965.

Iona University will host its 80th annual Commencement ceremony on Friday, May 17, 2024, at 10 a.m. on Iona's New Rochelle campus. Visit [iona.edu](http://iona.edu).

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# Family STEAM Night at Trinity Senior Recognized for Volunteer Work



More than 130 families participated in Trinity Elementary School's Family STEAM Night last month participating in hands-on science activities and learning about pollinators.

The event, for students in grades 2 - 4 included engineering activities such as building a tower with different sized cups and popsicle sticks, exploring vibrations and sound by creating and playing harmonicas, and discovering forces and motion by creating a wrecking ball device.

Sphero robots and Makey Makey circuit kits were available for even more exploration.

Students and families explored polarized lenses with a parent volunteer and engineer, Omer Uzun, and two high school student volunteers.

Several members of the New Rochelle High School Robotics Team and their advisor, Maria Walsh, were on hand to guide the activities.

Two volunteers from Healthy Yards New Rochelle, Robert Finkelstein and Roderic Rolett, spoke to the students and parents about the importance of pollinators, such as bees, butterflies, and birds. Students took a pledge to learn more about and protect pollinators.

"It was a wonderful evening of fun and learning through STEAM activities," said STEAM teacher Terri Agravat.



In recognition of her very long list of volunteer activities, New Rochelle High School senior Aviela Lim received the Andy Cahn Student Community Service Award at a ceremony last month during the annual High School Human Rights Institute organized by the Holocaust and Human Rights Education Center (HHREC).

The award is given in memory of the contributions and commitments made by Andy Cahn, former Assistant Director of Education for HHREC, who was instrumental in the creation of the High School Human Rights Institute.

Aviela, together with Eliott Saiontz of Horace Greeley High School, was selected from dozens of nominations of students from Westchester County.

To be considered, candidates should be engaged in community service outside the school setting and should exemplify values consistent with ethical behavior.

"Aviela is exactly that and much more," said Social Studies teacher Francisco Sandoval, who noticed her extensive volunteer activities when writing her college recommendation. "She was the perfect fit."

She is a longtime volunteer teacher at Songcatchers, a community program that provides affordable access to high-quality music education, training, and enrichment for children and families. Aviela is also the Vice President of Communications for Communiten Tutors, an organization that provides tutoring for the New Rochelle community, where she is a math tutor.

At school, Aviela is a Math Honor Society



Aviela Lim with her parents.

tutor, a member of Tri M Music Honor Society and the Science Honor Society.

"It was a complete surprise to me," said Aviela when she heard about the award. "I was filled with joy when hearing my name called up on stage. I felt relieved to know that all those long days had paid off knowing that I was able to help many in my community."

The High School Human Rights Institute organized by the Holocaust and Human Rights Education Center (HHREC) is an annual day-long seminar where high school students discuss important topics including human rights abuses and injustices, and the importance of youth leadership in confronting prejudice and discrimination. The High School Student Institute is intended to further our mission by promoting student awareness of human rights issues on both local and global levels and to empower students to be Upstanders by creating and implementing Action Plans in their schools and communities.

## New Rochelle Council on the Arts wins ArtsWestchester's Community Award

continued from page 8

murals, hear our concerts or experience ArtsFest, make this the year you come to New Rochelle, a city that celebrates the arts!" she added.

New Rochelle was well represented at the event: Among those attending were Mayor Yadira Ramos-Herbert; Westchester County Legislators Terry Clements and Judah Holstein; ArtsWestchester Board member LaRuth Gray; and NRCA Board members including Treasurer Karen Keller Selman; Corresponding Secretary Maddali Paci Atallah; artist Charles Fazzino; Catherine White, Executive Director of the New Rochelle Chamber of Commerce; designer Selena Evans; Zahra Jlayer, owner of the Vanda Gallery; musician Dave Fabris; and City Historian Barbara Davis, Co-Director of the Westchester County Historical Society; and Advisory Board members Linda Kelly Fauci, retired Superintendent of Schools, and Leah Sills, who also sits on ArtsWestchester's Board of Directors.

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](http://www.newrochellearts.org).

# Volunteer New York! Honors Winners of the 44th Annual Volunteer Spirit Awards Breakfast Benefit, Presented by Regeneron

On April 12th, 2024, Volunteer New York! honored six Westchester volunteers with Volunteer Spirit Awards by category and presented one Legacy Award during the 44th annual Volunteer Spirit Awards Breakfast Benefit, presented by Regeneron. Over 600 guests gathered at the Westchester Marriot to recognize the impactful work of these volunteers.

"Being able to spotlight these incredible changemakers was an honor and a reminder that volunteerism is essential in making our communities more vibrant, resilient, and equitable," said Jeanette Gisbert, Executive Director of Volunteer New York!. "We are extremely grateful to all of the event sponsors, our corporate champions, and the local community members who came out to support our mission and this year's winners."

"At Regeneron, 'Doing Well by Doing Good' is not just a motto but the essence of our commitment to help build more resilient communities—socially, economically and environmentally," said Christina Chan, Senior Vice President, Corporate Affairs at Regeneron. "In concert with Volunteer! New York, and as Presenting and Social Advocacy Award sponsor, we are honored to recognize and celebrate the 2024 Volunteer Spirit Awards' honorees, whose collaborative spirit and compassion are key to building a more sustainable Westchester."

This annual celebration is the largest volunteer recognition event in the Lower Hudson Valley. For nearly 45 years, Volunteer New York! has recognized a distinguished group of volunteers who have done extraordinary work in our region. Volunteers are nominated in six categories, and an independent panel of judges selects one person or group for each category. The final award category, the Legacy Award, goes to a business or civic leader who has made a personal and professional commitment to volunteerism, has significantly supported the values



Matthew Ricker of New Rochelle

and mission of Volunteer New York!, and who encourages deep employee and community engagement in service.

As Volunteer New York! approaches its 75th year and gears up for the 45th anniversary of the Volunteer Spirit Awards in 2025, the organization is looking forward to celebrating these major milestones and continuing their mission with even greater vigor.

"We invite the community to join us in this upcoming landmark year as volunteers, supporters, and changemakers," said Jeanette Gisbert, Executive Director at Volunteer New York!. "Whether you've supported us for decades or are new to our community, your engagement is crucial to sustaining and expanding our impact. Together, we can continue making our community more vibrant, resilient, and equitable."

This 44th Annual Volunteer Spirit Awards was made possible thanks to the generosity of the Volunteer Spirit Awards event sponsors, including Brown & Brown, Carla Rojas, Con Edison, The Gallin Family, Hudson Valley Credit Union, Mercy University, New York Life, Nelson Service

es Systems, PCSB Community Foundation, PKF O'Connor Davies, LLP, Regeneron, Retirement Transformed, The Seiden Family, Webster Bank, WMCHHealth, and Zaro Family Bakery.

## MEET THE 2024 WINNERS

### Education & Literacy Award

Jim Isenberg of White Plains  
for volunteer action with Grandpas United

### Going Green Award

Michael Penziner of Rye  
for volunteer action with  
Friends of Rye Nature Center

### Quality of Life Award

Laura Romeo Sobel of Dobbs Ferry  
for volunteer action with Dance For A Difference

### Resiliency Award

Matthew Ricker of New Rochelle  
for volunteer action with  
New Rochelle Chamber of Commerce

### Social Advocacy Award

Colleen Brathwaite of Greenburgh  
for volunteer action with  
Westchester Women's Agenda

### Youth Leadership Award

Mouhamadou Alou of Mount Vernon  
for volunteer action with  
Mount Vernon High School

### Legacy Award

Dr. Valerie Mason Cunningham of Chappaqua

## Third Graders Simulate Polar Bear Conundrum



Third Graders in Tracy Visceglia's class at Ward School recently participated in a multi-day transdisciplinary STEAM experience surrounding the investigation of polar bears and their changing habitats.

Working with Instructional Technology Facilitator Jeannine Shields, the students participated in an archived virtual field trip from Discovery Education, hearing from scientists working with Polar Bears International in Churchill, Manitoba, Canada. Students observed footage and photos of polar bears, noticing which behaviors help them survive in their habitats, and responding to the scientists' questions about myths and facts.

Mrs. Visceglia also shared travel photos and videos from her husband's visit a year be-

fore to this polar bear region.

Students tracked their thinking digitally, distinguishing their predictions and revising their thinking after hearing from the experts.

In an exercise to illustrate shrinking polar bear habitat, the students placed themselves in the role of a polar bear standing on sea ice. Using a room immersion, with tablecloths representing water and white paper representing sea ice, students were able to model polar bear behaviors. They attempted to reach for pictures of seals, a main source of food for polar bears. As the sea ice shrunk, the ability to capture seals became more difficult. This helped students understand the predicament of polar bears in their changing environment.



# The Picture House Announces Spring Film Club Season in Pelham

The Picture House Regional Film Center (TPH) has announced that its highly-popular Film Club will kick off its spring season on Wednesday, May 1st at the Pelham theater. TPH's Film Club offers movie-lovers the opportunity to see upcoming films in advance of their release date. Each season includes six films, which are followed by a discussion with the critic-in-residence Stephen Witty and special guest speakers from the industry. Spring 2024 Film Club dates in Pelham are May 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, and June 5. Subscriptions to Film Club are open to members of The Picture House.

"The TPH Film Club serves as a cornerstone of our organization's dedication to cultivating a sense of community through the art of film," said Clayton Bushong, Executive Director of The Picture House Regional Film Center. "This upcoming season promises a captivating lineup of thought-provoking films and guest speakers, offering a great backdrop for discussion and analysis."

TPH is excited to welcome Stephen Witty back for a fourth season as Pelham's Film Club Host. Whitty was a critic at The Star-Ledger for nearly two decades. He has also written for Entertainment Weekly, The New York Daily News, Cosmopolitan, Stanford Magazine, and The Minetta Review, among many others. He has profiled some of cinema's most influential figures including Steven Spielberg, Peter O'Toole, and Judi Dench. Whitty is also the writer of the book The Alfred Hitchcock Encyclopedia.

To learn more about Fall Film Club please visit <https://thepicturehouse.org/tph-film-club/>



Stephen Witty

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# New Rochelle Review



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# CALENDAR OF EVENTS



## 56th Annual Salute to Seniors

Westchester County Center  
May 30 from 9:30am to 1:30pm  
Attendees will have an opportunity to connect with companies and organizations such as recreational groups, residential and health care facilities, government offices, wellness activities, hospitals, assisted living centers, financial providers, social service resources and more. In addition to exhibitors, there will be demonstrations, workshops, and live entertainment to enjoy.  
For information, contact Amanda Seebeck at (914) 218-3968 or via email at [AmandaS@EventsRemember.com](mailto:AmandaS@EventsRemember.com).



## Yoga with Dani Fundraiser for Open Door Family Medical Center

May 15 at 9am  
Ossining Waterfront  
Bring your mats, props and water bottles to Ossining's scenic Riverfront at Henry Gourdine Park for "Yoga with Dani". To register, visit <https://interland3.donorperfect.net/webink/webink.aspx?name=E354282&id=40>. For questions, contact Tara Scarduzio at [tscarduzio@odfmc.org](mailto:tscarduzio@odfmc.org). For over 50 years, Open Door has provided accessible, high-quality health care and wellness services, regardless of a patient's ability to pay. Open Door offers family medicine, dental services, behavioral health care, women's health including obstetrics, vision services, insurance enrollment assistance, and much more. Open Door operates health centers in Ossining, Brewster, Mamaroneck, Mount Kisco, Sleepy Hollow, and Port Chester, and a dental site in Saugerties. Additionally, Open Door runs a mobile dental van and nine School-Based Health Centers in the Ossining, Port Chester, and Webutuck school districts.

## Open Call Exhibition

ArtsWestchester  
31 Mamaroneck Avenue, White Plains  
Through May 26  
Featuring 22 area artists representing a thriving art scene. Open Call is sponsored by Etain and Westchester Magazine. For more information, visit [artsw.org](http://artsw.org)

## Historical and Nature Walking Tour

Kensico Cemetery  
Throughout May from 5:30 to 7:00pm  
These engaging evening tours will provide participants with a unique opportunity to discover the rich history and natural beauty of the cemetery grounds. While all tours are free of charge, reservations are required. Interested individuals can reserve their spot by using the RSVP function on the event page at <https://www.kensico.org/events/>. Confirmation emails will include directions and additional details.

## New Rochelle Opera presents Pagliacci

Saturday, June 22 at 8pm  
Sunday, June 23 at 3pm  
Ursuline Theater, 1354 North Avenue, New Rochelle  
For tickets, call 914-235-8414  
Visit [www.nropera.org](http://www.nropera.org)

## Hospice of Westchester 22nd Annual Golf Invitational

Westchester Hills Golf Club, 401 Ridgeway, White Plains  
June 4: 10am registration and brunch/lunch, 12:30pm shotgun start with scramble format, and 4:30pm: cocktail reception, dinner and awards.  
The community is invited to participate in the Invitational honoring Bill and Debbie Flocks of Beecher Flocks Funeral Home, Inc. for their steadfast commitment to the organization. Individual and foursome registrations, journal ads and sponsorships are now available. For more information, contact Holly Benedict, 914-682-1484, ext. 122 or [hbenedict@hospiceofwestchester.com](mailto:hbenedict@hospiceofwestchester.com). Visit [www.hospiceofwestchester.org](http://www.hospiceofwestchester.org)

## Project Community 8th Annual Color Run

May 19 from 10am to 1pm  
Pelham (course starts at 11 Westward Lane)  
The Color Run brings families and friends of all ages across our local communities together for a fun 2.5 mile run/walk! The course culminates in a block party featuring music, food and more. All are welcome to participate and enjoy a day of fun, color and community. Project Community is a nearly 40 year old organization that supports children with disabilities and their families and provides educational programming for pre-teens and teens about important health issues. Registration is available here: <https://projectcommunity.us/color-run-2024/>

## Tag NR Community Wide Tag Sale

May 4 from noon to 5pm  
Surrounding City Hall, North Ave, New Rochelle  
Residents and others can register as an official vendor to sell items such as clothing, electronics, furniture, household items, etc. in a city-wide tag sale event. For vendor registration, rules, and regulations visit [www.newrochelleny.com/TagNR](http://www.newrochelleny.com/TagNR)

## New Rochelle's 11th Annual Kite Day

May 4 from noon to 2pm  
Davenport Park, 300 Davenport Ave, New Rochelle  
Residents are invited to bring kites from home or make their own kites to take flight at Davenport Park. Enjoy light refreshments, music, and an arts and crafts table to decorate kites. To register and for more information visit [www.newrochelleny.com/KiteDay](http://www.newrochelleny.com/KiteDay)

## Pelham Art Center presents ART IS...GALA

May 17 from 7 to 11pm  
Split Rock, Bronx, NY  
Features dinner and dancing, plus an auction of original artwork, weekend getaways, and more, all to benefit the Pelham Art Center. Tickets and event information are at [PACArtsGala.givesmart.com](http://PACArtsGala.givesmart.com)



## First Grit Ninja Games

Croton Point Park, 1A Croton Point Avenue, Croton-on-Hudson  
Saturday, May 18 from 9am to 5pm  
Children and young adults ages nine and up can compete in various tournaments in divisions based on age. Celebrity ninjas from American Ninja Warrior and American Ninja Warrior Jr. including Daniel Gil, Vance Walker, Isaiah Thomas, and Isabella Wakeham will be available for meet and greets. The entire day will be fun for the whole family as there will be local food trucks, beginner ninja obstacles suitable for all ages, raffles, and a professional ninja racing competition for everyone to watch. Rain date is Sunday, May 19. Registration is open.

## Free Rabies Vaccines

May 5 from 10am to 2pm  
Stamen Animal Hospital, 61 Quaker Ridge Road, New Rochelle  
Westchester County residents can bring their dogs, cats and ferrets in for free rabies vaccinations. No appointments are needed, but residents are advised to bring proof of prior rabies vaccinations for their pets. An adult must supervise all pets. Cats and ferrets must be in carriers and dogs must be on a leash. Aggressive dogs must be muzzled. No examinations will be given. Call 914-632-1269 for more information.

## The Chapel School Golf Outing

June 3  
Siwanoy Country Club, Bronxville  
The Chapel School Golf Outing is not just a day on the greens; it's an opportunity to make a lasting impact on the lives of our students. Your sponsorship and participation will directly benefit our school programs, ensuring that we continue to provide excellence in education and enrichment opportunities for our students. Gather your friends, colleagues, or clients for a memorable day of golf. Register as a team or individual golfer and enjoy a challenging round on one of New York's finest courses. Ticket Purchase: Secure your spot, visit [CLICKING HERE](#). For more information about sponsorship opportunities or event details, contact the Development Office at [kwisdak@thechapel-school.org](mailto:kwisdak@thechapel-school.org)



## Westchester Craft Crawl

June 1 and 2 from 10am to 5pm  
The annual outdoor artist-organized craft tour will feature 40+ regional professional craft artists along 3 tour stops between Ossining and Croton with each stop hosting 12 or more artists working in clay, wood, fiber, metal, jewelry, gourmet food, beverages, and more. This event is co-organized by three Ossining artists who are also participants in the crawl: Leigh Taylor Mickelson, Alexandra FitzGerald and Loren Maron. For more information, visit [www.westchestercraftcrawl.com](http://www.westchestercraftcrawl.com), visit the Facebook Event (Westchester Craft Crawl) or follow them on Instagram (@westchestercraftcrawl) or Facebook (Westchester Craft Crawl). For more information or inquiries, email [team@westchestercraftcrawl.com](mailto:team@westchestercraftcrawl.com).  
Google Tour Map:  
[https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/0/viewer?mid=1gjPN97aO6gdCL-mu2IZLiqA\\_ktcxWK4&ll=41.16145670000003%2C-73.86372969999998&z=14](https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/0/viewer?mid=1gjPN97aO6gdCL-mu2IZLiqA_ktcxWK4&ll=41.16145670000003%2C-73.86372969999998&z=14)

## Blood Drive

May 18 from 9am to 1:30pm  
Village Lutheran Church and The Chapel School  
172 White Plains Road, Bronxville  
Join in to give back to the community in a truly life changing way since each donation collected can save up to three lives. Contact Kim Zwisdak at 914-337-0207, ext. 1040 or email [kzwisdak@thechapel-school.org](mailto:kzwisdak@thechapel-school.org). To sign up, visit [https://donate.nybc.org/donor/schedules/drive\\_schedule/314100](https://donate.nybc.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/314100)

## 2024 Cultural Heritage Celebrations

All celebrations are held from noon to 6pm at Kensico Dam Plaza, Valhalla  
**May 19 -- 45th Annual Polish Heritage Day**  
June 1 -- Asian-American Heritage Day  
June 2 -- Albanian Heritage Day  
June 23 -- African-American Heritage Day  
July 7 -- Hispanic Heritage Day  
July 14 -- Irish-American Heritage Day, \*\*Ridge Road Park, Hartsdale  
July 21 -- Italian Heritage Day  
August 4 -- India Heritage Day  
August 18 -- Jewish Heritage Day  
August 25 -- Muslim Heritage Day  
Kensico Dam Plaza is located at the north end of the Bronx River Parkway, in Valhalla. Ridge Road Park is located at 287 Ridge Road, Hartsdale.

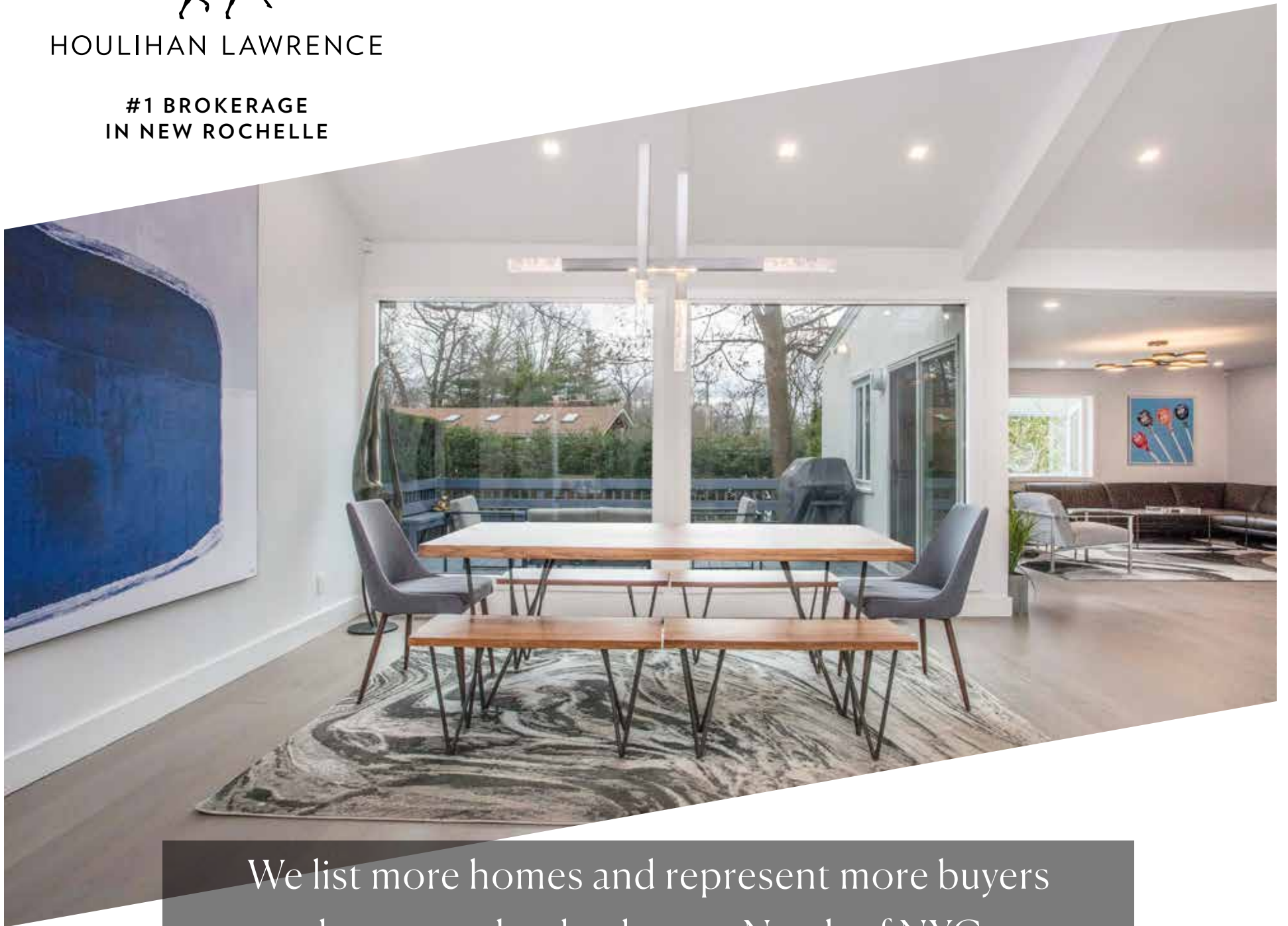
## Bicycle Sundays

Bronx River Parkway between Scarsdale Road and the Westchester County Center, White Plains  
May 19, June 2 and June 23 from 10am to 2pm  
July 7, 14 and 21 from 8am to noon  
The park can be accessed via Route 22, from the north or south. Go to [parks.westchestergov.com](http://parks.westchestergov.com) or call 914-231-4500.



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Source: OKMLS, 1/1/23-12/31/23, total dollar volume of single family homes sold by company, New Rochelle school district.  
Source: OKMLS, MHMLS, CGNDMLS, SMARTMLS, 2023, total volume sold by company, single family, Westchester, Putnam, Dutchess, Columbia and Fairfield Counties combined.