

New Rochelle Review



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New Rochelle Mayor Yadira Ramos-Herbert Convenes Westchester County Mayors to Champion SEQRA Reform in State Budget

Westchester County mayors convened in New Rochelle last week to call for the inclusion of Governor Kathy Hochul's proposed modernization of the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) in the enacted FY27 New York State Budget. The proposal is currently a central component of Governor Hochul's "Let Them Build" agenda to accelerate development of housing and other critical categories like clean-energy production in order to deliver affordability across the State.

Mayor Ramos-Herbert was joined by Mayor Justin C. Brasch of White Plains, Mayor Chance Mullen of the Village of Pelham, Mayor Vivian McKenzie of Peekskill, and Mayor Shawyn Patterson-Howard of Mount Vernon, all of whom underscored their commitment to increasing housing affordability for their communities and supporting a strengthened, thriving future for their municipalities. The mayors urged the need for SEQRA modernization to remove unnecessary delays for projects that have been proven to have no significant



From left to right: Mayor Chance Mullen (Village of Pelham), Mayor Vivian C. McKenzie (Peekskill), Mayor Yadira Ramos-Herbert (New Rochelle), Mayor Shawyn Patterson-Howard (Mount Vernon), Mayor Justin C. Brasch (White Plains)

environmental impact, enabling municipalities across the state from urban hubs to rural towns to deliver efficiently while minimizing taxpayer cost.

"In New Rochelle, we've spent the last decade realizing our vision for this

city and community: that is, a city where longtime families can stay, build a life for themselves and their families, and access spaces that inspire," said New Rochelle Mayor Yadira Ramos-Herbert. "To accomplish this vision, we led with our

New Rochelle Model, which streamlines approvals, offers targeted incentives, and outlines a form-based code that expedites projects, all to deliver tangible impact. However, we cannot do this work alone. For far too long, electeds have been committed and eager to deliver the changes that drastically improve lives, but are held back by unnecessary bureaucracy and slow restrictions. With the Governor's proposal for a modernized SEQRA, we're cutting that red tape so we can deliver the housing New Yorkers need"

Earlier this year, the Governor unveiled SEQRA reform as a critical piece of her "Let Them Build" agenda, focused on expediting categories of projects that do not have adverse environmental impacts, including infill housing, transit-oriented development, and green-infrastructure projects.

As part of the day's convening, Mayor Ramos-Herbert pointed to New Rochelle's streamlined housing processes as a model of success. Over the past decade,

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Source: OKMLS, 2025, total dollar volume of single family homes sold by agent, New Rochelle school district. Jocelyn ranks in the Top 1% in Westchester County by single family homes sold, total dollar volume, 2025. Top 1.5% in the United States by Real Trends, America's Best.

From the Office of the New Rochelle City Manager



NEW ROCHELLE CITY MANAGER
WILFREDO MELENDEZ

Dear Neighbors,

With temperatures slowly warming and daylight hours growing longer, the signs of spring are beginning to appear throughout our community, including here at City Hall. After enduring a long, harsh winter, our Streets and Highways crews have been out for the past several weeks working hard throughout the City to repair potholes and address damage to our roadways.

As part of the seasonal transition, alternate side parking will resume on April 1 to allow our crews to begin street sweeping operations and help keep our streets clean.

And as snow blowers are put away and lawnmowers return for the season, weekly yard waste pickups will resume on Monday,

April 6. Residents are reminded to place yard waste in open containers or biodegradable bags weighing no more than 75 pounds.

I would like to also remind all pet owners of their responsibility to clean up after their dogs when walking in public spaces. Leaving dog waste on sidewalks, parks, and other shared areas is not only a violation of City Code Sections 89-5 and 89-6, but it also creates unpleasant conditions for residents and visitors. In addition, pet waste can spread harmful bacteria and parasites and may be washed into storm drains, contributing to water pollution. Please do your part to help keep New Rochelle clean by carrying bags and properly disposing of pet waste.

I'm excited to introduce the first-ever City Manager's Update, your monthly source for news on the City's initiatives, projects, and programs. The Update provides residents with information from multiple City departments on important work currently underway. By sharing regular updates, the newsletter keeps the community informed about City projects and priorities, promotes transparency, strengthens communication, and highlights opportunities for residents to get involved and provide feedback. The City Manager's newsletter will continue to be released monthly to ensure residents receive timely updates from departments across the

City. To view the newsletter, please visit: newrochelleny.gov/citymanager.

Thanks to a \$16 million commitment from Governor Kathy Hochul and New York State, the LINC Project is back on track, replacing previously rescinded federal funding and bringing us closer to transforming Memorial Highway, from Lincoln Avenue to the New Rochelle Transit Center, into a safe, multi-modal corridor. This funding will not only improve transportation but also create open public spaces and help reconnect the City's neighborhoods—advancing a vision that benefits residents for years to come. We look forward to sharing more details about the LINC plans as the project moves toward construction later this year.

Connecting with members of the community is an important goal for my office and for the City Council. As part of our outreach, we're resuming our City Council-Community Meetings. These 90-minute sessions provide an opportunity for City staff and elected officials to engage with residents, share updates on major initiatives, and offer face-to-face interactions with city government.

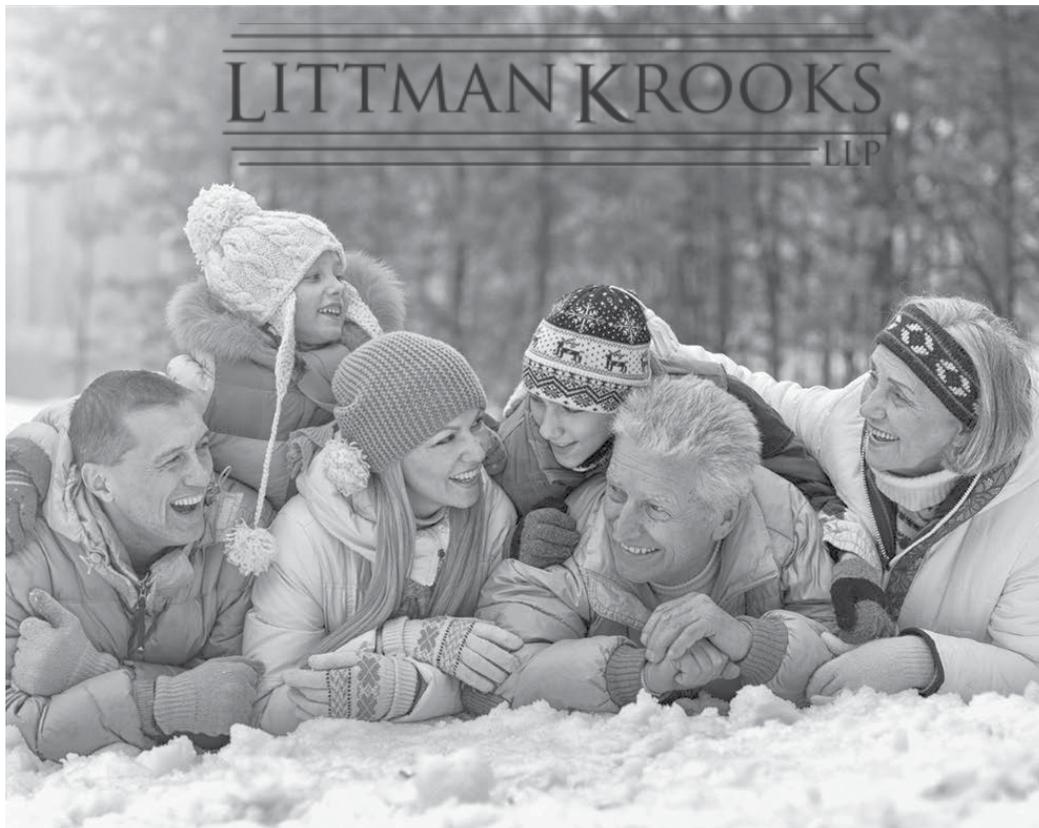
We will kick off this year's series with District 5 and 6 residents at William B. Ward Elementary School at 6:30 PM on April 29, followed by District 4 residents at the Ossie Davis Theater in the New Rochelle Public Li-

brary on Thursday, April 30.

The meetings will continue at the end of May, beginning with District 3 residents at the Boys & Girls Club Remington Clubhouse at 6:30 PM on May 26. The series will conclude with District 1 and 2 residents at Jefferson Elementary School at 6:30 PM on May 27. If you cannot attend the meeting in your district, you are welcome to join any of the other sessions. We'd love to see you there!

And as our work continues, I want to remind you of all the ways to connect with City Hall. You can sign up for our NewRo Alert system at www.newrochelleny.gov/newroalert to receive calls, texts and/or email updates. The MobileNR app, available on the Apple App Store and Google Play Store, is also a great tool to let us know about any non-emergency concerns in your neighborhood. We've also completed an upgrade to our City website at NewRochelleNY.Gov, featuring a cleaner layout that's more friendly for mobile-users. And, as always, you can also look to our City social media accounts on Facebook, Instagram and X.

Thank you for your ongoing support and partnership. As always, your feedback and engagement help shape our efforts, and I encourage all residents to reach out to my office with any questions, comments or suggestions.



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City of New Rochelle Adds 196 New Downtown Parking Spaces to Improve Access, Reduce Congestion, and Support Mobility

Last month, The City of New Rochelle announced the opening of three new downtown parking facilities, marking a significant expansion of infrastructure that supports the city's rapid growth and reinforces its commitment to accessibility, convenience, and a high quality of life for residents, businesses, and visitors.

The new garages, located at 11 Garden Street, 2 Clinton Park, and The Skyline Garage (opened March 19), deliver a combined 196 new parking spaces in the heart of downtown. The expansion in-

cludes 80 spaces at Skyline (118 total), 80 at 2 Clinton Park (80 total), and 36 at 11 Garden Street (36 total). The expansion represents approximately a 10% increase in parking capacity in the downtown core, helping accommodate rising demand driven by continued residential, retail, and economic growth.

"Connectivity is fundamental to a thriving community, and parking plays a critical role in how people experience our city day to day," said City Manager of New Rochelle Wilfredo Melendez. "As the fast-

est growing city in New York State, we are fostering a walkable, transit-oriented core while recognizing that parking remains an essential part of how many people access New Rochelle. These three new garages are part of a comprehensive approach to improving mobility – making it easier for residents, workers, and visitors to reach key destinations, find a space quickly, and spend their time supporting local businesses. By balancing these needs, we're creating a more flexible transportation system that is responsive to the needs of the community and ensures our continued growth translates into a more convenient experience for everyone."

This expansion serves as part of a broader, data-driven effort to modernize how parking works across the city, alongside the Downtown Parking Management Strategic Plan, which is assessing current and future needs and identifying smarter, more efficient solutions for both on- and off-street parking. Adding new public parking in key downtown locations directly addresses one of the most common challenges for residents, businesses, and visitors, while reducing circling, easing congestion, and improving access. Strategically located near transit hubs and pedestrian corridors, these new garages support a more seamless transportation network, making it easier to move through downtown by any mode. Together, these investments ensure downtown remains

accessible and supportive of continued growth.

With these new additions, total parking capacity in the downtown core of New Rochelle now reaches 2,873 total spaces.

Residents and visitors can view a full list of available public parking facilities, including locations at: <https://www.newrochelleny.gov/322/Parking-Facilities>

With its unparalleled location, superb quality of life, diverse and talented residents, and a focused business climate, New Rochelle is experiencing the transformation of a generation. The City's current economic development plan will provide a spark for the entire Hudson Valley region, positioning the City as "open for business" and embracing smart, transit-oriented development growth patterns that promote open space, its close proximity to New York City and opportunities for businesses to rebound, recover and succeed in the current economic climate. Accelerated by a new, fast-track zoning process along with resources for small businesses and micro-enterprises, the ongoing Master Development initiative will continue to enhance the downtown area by supporting job creation, property values and private investment – while enhancing sustainability and livability through green and energy-efficient design. For more information on why New Rochelle is ideally yours, please visit <https://www.ideallynewrochelle.com>.

Donations, Committee Members Named at New Rochelle Legislative Meeting

BY STEPHEN E. LIPKEN

City of New Rochelle Mayor Yadira Ramos-Herbert opened the March 17th Regular Legislative Meeting, beginning with a Proposed Amendment of Resolution No. 2023-108 re: Paws Place Dog Park Trust Account at Ward Acres Park. Ordinance No. 198 of 2025, the City Budget for 2026 was amended to correct the Trust Account balance.

A review of account activity identified that, between adoption of the Resolution on June 20, 2023, and the close of Fiscal Year 2024, \$27,308 was not transferred into the Trust Account as originally contemplated. Instead, those revenues were reflected in the General Fund. To align the account balance with the intent of Resolution No. 2023-108, a budget amendment is required to transfer the appropriate amount into the Trust Account.

Ordinance No. 198 of 2025, the City Budget for 2026 is hereby amended as follows:
Increase Trust Account: TA.031.23100 Ward Acres Dog Park Trust Account: \$27,308
Decrease General Fund: A-599 Fund Balance (\$27,308)

A Proposed Resolution authorizes the acceptance of a donation of a new playground structure and associated improvements from the Friends of New Rochelle Parks for installation at D'Onofrio Park. The total value of the donation is estimated at \$399,642.69.

The donation includes:

- Playground equipment and structural components
- Safety surfacing
- Site preparation and installation services
- Delivery and related costs

Upon acceptance, the City will assume responsibility for:

- Ongoing inspection and maintenance
- Routine repairs
- Long-term replacement

The following new Committee Members include:

Participatory Budget Steering Committee:

Alicka Ampy-Samuel, Chair

Victor Bowman, Jr.

Anthony Bibbo

Ava Charles

Gino Frabasile

Janna Gullery

Lauren Hurwitz

Makeda Lewis

Giselle Reyes

Matt Stern

Industrial Development Agency:

Robert Balachandran, Chair

Shane Osinloye, Vice Chair

Howard Greenberg, Treasurer

Felim O'Malley, Secretary

Members: Miguel Ayala, William Iannuzzi, Garrett Thelander, and Keith Singletary was appointed, effective March 2026 through February 28, 2029.

New Rochelle Mayor Yadira Ramos-Herbert Convenes Westchester County Mayors to Champion SEQRA Reform in State Budget

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the City has greenlit more 11,000 new housing units—a 37 percent increase in its apartment stock from a decade prior—helping to stabilize rent prices. Mayor Ramos-Herbert noted this progress demonstrates what is possible when municipalities are empowered to provide for their communities instead of spending resources on unnecessary, lengthy procedures.

"When SEQRA was first created, it was done for all the right reasons," said Pelham Mayor Chance Mullen. "Government should always be thoughtful, and careful to avoid causing harm. The environment should be protected. Impact should be mitigated. Progress must be planned. Over the years, though, what began as a framework for protecting people from harm has often become a framework for protecting the status quo. In far too many cases, SEQRA has become a defensive and duplicative exercise, where even public projects that are obviously positive

get subjected to unnecessary costs and delays that ultimately get passed on to all of us as consumers and taxpayers. Reform is essential to meeting the needs of the people we serve, and we cannot continue to protect the status quo. I commend Governor Hochul for pursuing smart reforms."

The Governor's proposal is currently under consideration as part of ongoing state budget negotiations. While the Executive Budget includes a broad framework for SEQRA modernization, the recent 2026 One-House Budget Resolution has applied narrower criteria and additional procedural requirements that stands in contrast to Governor Hochul's version. Local leaders are urging state lawmakers to adopt a more comprehensive version to ensure communities across New York can benefit from reduced cost and thoughtful growth as those in New Rochelle have.

<https://ny-newrochelle2.civicplus.com/298/Development>.

New Rochelle Man Pleads Guilty in Connection with Child Sexual Abuse, Dumping Boy's Body

Westchester County District Attorney Susan Cacace announced that Hugo Perez-Gabriel has pleaded guilty to numerous felonies in connection with the repeated sexual abuse of a 15-year-old New Rochelle boy and the dumping of that boy's body.

Perez-Gabriel, 33, of New Rochelle, pleaded guilty to Use of a Child Less Than Seventeen Years of Age in a Sexual Performance, a class C felony, Criminal Sexual Act in the Third Degree, a class E felony, and Tampering with Physical Evidence, a class E felony.

At the time of plea, Judge Robert Prisco promised the defendant sentences on the individual charges that will total 9 to 15 years in state prison, indeterminate,

plus 10 years of post-release supervision and mandatory sex-offender registration.

Sentencing is scheduled for April 28.

DA Cacace said: "The heinous crimes committed by this defendant against a 15-year-old boy can hardly be put into words. It is unfathomable what the victim was made to suffer through before his premature death. The defendant's actions toward him were nothing short of merciless.

"My heart breaks for the victim's family, who are left to contemplate life without his companionship. I hope they can take a measure of solace in the fact that the defendant will now be locked away for a substantial period of time."

As it relates to the pleaded conduct, on Aug. 29, 2024, the defendant sexually

abused the victim in this case.

On Feb. 3, 2025, Perez-Gabriel induced the victim to engage in a sexual performance on video.

And on Feb. 6, 2025, Perez-Gabriel, along with a 16-year-old boy, dragged and disposed of the victim's body within the City of New Rochelle.

The investigation was conducted by the New Rochelle Police Department and the DA's High-Tech Unit.

The case is being prosecuted by Child Sexual Abuse Material Bureau Chief Laura Forbes and Sr. Assistant District Attorney Mollie O'Rourke.

New Rochelle Woman Found Guilty of Torture-Murder in Landmark Trial

Westchester County District Attorney Susan Cacace announced that a New Rochelle woman who tortured and murdered her intimate partner, in addition to sexually abusing two prior intimate partners, was convicted of murder and numerous related felonies by a Westchester County jury on Friday.

The jury found Kenya Tilford, 43, guilty of Murder in the First Degree, a class A-I felony, under the torture-murder provision of that statute, Murder in the Second Degree, Strangulation in the First Degree and Concealment of a Human Corpse, in relation to the murder of 27-year-old Concetta Morton in 2023.

The jury also convicted Tilford of Intimidating a Victim or Witness in the Third Degree (2 counts), Assault in the Second Degree, Aggravated Sexual Abuse in the Third Degree (3 counts), Kidnapping in the First Degree, Strangulation in the Second Degree and Coercion in the First Degree, in relation to her conduct toward prior intimate partners and witnesses.

Prosecutors intend to seek the maximum possible sentence for the defendant, which is life in prison without the possibility of parole. Sentencing will take place on April 23 before Judge George Fufidio.

DA Cacace said: "The final months of Ms. Morton's life were a nightmare most of us could not possibly envision. Over the course of months, the defendant worked methodically to lure Ms. Morton away from her family, knowing she had special needs, and began to exert control over every aspect of her life. The defendant then subjected Ms. Morton to prolonged bouts of torture before, ultimately, suffocating her to death and attempting to dispose of her corpse.

"Before these predations, the defendant had sexually abused two prior intimate partners. And after killing Ms. Morton, she threatened a witness connected to the case.

"Despite the circumstances of her death, Concetta Morton must be remembered by how she carried herself when she was alive, as a beacon of light and joy to all who knew her. Her memory will live on in her loving family, whose perseverance through these traumas helped achieve accountability today. We will continue to keep them in our thoughts and support them throughout the rest of this process.

"I would also like to thank the members of the jury for their service through this especially difficult trial. My office will be seeking the maximum possible sentence for the defendant."

DA Cacace commends the dedicated investigatory work of the New Rochelle Police Department on this case.

The case is being prosecuted by Homicide Bureau Chief Lana Hochheiser and Sr. Assistant District Attorney Courtney Johnson.

New Rochelle Man Accused of Raping Woman at Area Hotel

Westchester County District Attorney Susan Cacace announced that Nua Mitaj, 33, of New Rochelle, was arraigned on an indictment charging him with several felonies in relation to his alleged rape of a woman in December 2024.

Mitaj was arraigned before Judge Robert Prisco Tuesday on Rape in the First Degree, a class B felony, Rape in the Third Degree, a class E felony, Sexual Abuse in the First Degree, a class D felony, and Unlawful Imprisonment in the Second Degree, a class A misdemeanor.

Mitaj is due back in court on June 23. Bail had been set by the local court at \$10,000 cash/\$20,000 bond/\$30,000 partially secured bond, and the defendant has since posted bail.

A temporary order of protection has been issued on behalf of the victim.

DA Cacace said: "No means no. That is the beginning and end of the conver-

sation. As alleged by my office, this defendant completely ignored his victim's protestations and committed a violent act of rape against her. We will ensure he is swiftly prosecuted and faces accountability for his alleged conduct."

The allegations stem from an incident in the early morning hours of Dec. 29, 2024, wherein the defendant forcibly subjected the victim to sexual contact and penetrative sex at a New Rochelle hotel, despite her protestations against that conduct, according to a felony complaint filed in the case.

The investigation was conducted by the New Rochelle Police Department.

The case is being prosecuted by Sex Crimes and Human Trafficking Bureau Chief Michelle Lopez.

The charges against the defendant are merely accusations, and the defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

Bronx Man Charged with Raping Woman on Boat Docked at New Rochelle Marina

Westchester County District Attorney Susan Cacace announced that Carlton Bryan, 45, of the Bronx, was charged with raping a woman on his boat docked at a New Rochelle marina last August.

Bryan was arraigned before Judge Robert Prisco on an indictment charging him with Rape in the First Degree, a class B felony, Rape in the Third Degree, a class E felony, Sexual Abuse in the First Degree, a class D felony, and Sexual Abuse in the Second Degree, a class A misdemeanor. He pleaded not guilty to the charges.

The defendant is due back in court on April 7 and has previously posted bail. A temporary order of protection was issued on behalf of the victim.

DA Cacace said: "Sexual activity without consent is a crime, one that is vigorously prosecuted by my office.

"Victims of sexual assault will always have a champion in my administration. I am so proud of the victim in this case for

promptly reporting the incident to law enforcement so we could begin a thorough investigation. We will continue to support her through all phases of this process."

In the early morning hours of Aug. 4, 2025, on a boat registered to the defendant, Bryan engaged in sexual contact with a victim who was incapable of providing consent because she was physically helpless, according to a felony complaint filed in the case.

The victim awoke during the encounter and managed to flee.

The investigation into this incident was conducted by New Rochelle Police Department.

The case is being prosecuted by Sr. Assistant District Attorney Mollie O'Rourke of the Sex Crimes and Human Trafficking Bureau.

The charges against the defendant are merely accusations, and the defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

Four New Rochelle High School Seniors Advance to National Merit Finals

All four New Rochelle High School seniors named National Merit Scholarship Semifinalists last September have advanced to Finalist standing in the competition and will be considered for National Merit Scholarship Awards.

Ian McCloskey, Paxton Rogove, Cory Seelenfreund, and Regina Teran are among an elite 15,000 academically talented students nationwide who are under consideration for one of 6,870 Merit Scholarships totaling \$26 million. The scholarship awards will be announced soon.

"I'm incredibly honored and grateful to be named a National Merit Finalist. I'm so thankful for the immense support I have received from my teachers, family, and friends who encouraged me along the way - it could not have been possible with-

out all of them," said Seelenfreund. "I'm super excited to keep learning and exploring new opportunities!"

"I'm very happy to be named a National Merit Scholarship Finalist! It's amazing to see my work pay off, and I'm very happy to represent New Rochelle High School by being named. I want to thank the faculty and staff at New Rochelle High School for creating a learning environment conducive to my scoring highly, and my family for supporting me every step of the way."

The four Finalists were selected from 1.3 million juniors in 20,000 high schools who entered the NMSP when they took the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test in 2024. They represent less than one percent of high school seniors nationwide.



L to R: Ian McCloskey, Paxton Rogove, Cory Seelenfreund, Regina Teran. Photo credit: Ryan Paulsen Photography

High School Students Make Their Cases at Model UN Conference

A team of 20 New Rochelle High School students participated in the 25th annual Boston University Model United Nations Conference (BosMUN) Feb. 6 to 8, joining about 3,000 delegates from around the world. This program was sponsored by the New Rochelle Fund for Educational Excellence.

Freshman Samantha Aisner received a Diplomatic Commendation award from the three-day conference. The New Rochelle Model UN members participated in a variety of committees, engaging in debates to get their resolutions passed. Samantha represented San Marino in the UNESCO committee, arguing about the impacts of tourism on world heritage sites.

In advance of the Model UN conference, students are assigned a country and a committee and prepare to present a position paper, role-playing how the country would handle that committee. They meet with the committees, in which students from other schools represent multiple countries, and work together to solve the issue at hand. At the end of the weekend, a resolution is approved and passed by the committee and the moderating board.

"I believe Model UN is extremely valuable to our students," said social studies teacher Francisco Sandoval, who advises the Model UN Club with Alexis Velez, also a social studies teacher.

"It teaches them how to work in collaboration to solve the world's problems and creates confident speakers who will advocate for their ideas. We know our students will use these skills well beyond their time here at Model UN," Sandoval added.

The students agree.

"Model UN has strengthened my public speaking abilities and broadened my understanding of global politics and international affairs," said senior and Club Co-President Charlotte Fusco. "My time at New Rochelle High School wouldn't have been the same without the amazing Model UN community."

Senior and Club Co-President Mollie Aisner said, "Model UN gave me confidence in public speaking, collaboration, and problem solving. I am so grateful for all the people I have met through this club and the experiences that we had together!"

The Model UN Club meets every Thursday at New Rochelle High School in room 367.



New Rochelle Public Library Announces \$1.18 Million in State Funding for Critical Infrastructure Improvements

New York State Senators Shelley Mayer and Nathalia Fernandez and Assemblymembers Steve Otis and Amy Paulin joined leaders of the New Rochelle Public Library on March 3 to celebrate \$1,180,544 in total state funding secured by the four legislators to support critical capital improvements to the library's infrastructure.

The funding will enable several essential projects designed to maintain the safety, comfort, and long-term sustainability of the library's main building, which serves thousands of residents each year.

As part of this funding, the New Rochelle Public Library was awarded \$180,544 in State Aid for Library Construction to replace the theater and entrance roofs and renovate the multi-stack chiller needed to maintain the building's air conditioning system. These funds are part of the \$44 million allocated statewide for public library construction and broadband infrastructure projects in the FY2024-2025 New York State Budget.

In addition, Senators Mayer and Fernandez and Assemblymembers Otis and Paulin each secured \$250,000 through the State and Municipal Facilities Grant program, providing \$1 million in total funding to support the replacement of the main library building's roof. The program supports infrastructure improvements for public facilities throughout New York State.

"These investments are essential to maintaining the library as a safe, welcoming, and comfortable space for our community," said Eugenia Schatoff, Executive Director of the New Rochelle Public Library. "From protecting the integrity of the building's roof to ensuring that our climate systems operate reliably, these improvements help safe-

continued on page 11



Front row, l to r: Assemblywoman Amy Paulin; Eugenia Schatoff, Executive Director, New Rochelle Public Library; State Senator Nathalia Fernández; State Senator Shelley Mayer; Assemblyman Steve Otis. Middle row, l to r: Rhiannon Navin, Secretary, NRPL Board of Trustees; Vera Salter, Board of Trustees, New Rochelle Public Library; Tatiana Infante, Board of Trustees, New Rochelle Public Library; Fela Cortés, Board of Trustees, New Rochelle Public Library; Nancy Weinberger, Board of Trustees, New Rochelle Public Library. Back row: Corey Galloway, Vice President, NRPL Board of Trustees



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2026 SPRING HOME & GARDEN IMPROVEMENT

Start Planning Now for a Thriving Spring Garden

(Family Features) While winter weather puts outdoor gardening on pause in most parts of the country, the colder months offer a perfect opportunity to begin preparing for a lush garden come springtime.

With a little creativity, and some extra time spent creating a plan, you can set yourself on a path toward success before the growing season even begins.

Assess Your Space and Research Ideas

Evaluate your current garden, taking note of what worked well last season and where improvements can be made. Use this downtime to sketch an updated layout, research companion plants and decide which fruits, vegetables or flowers you want to grow next based on what did (or didn't) work last spring.

Build an Updated Blueprint

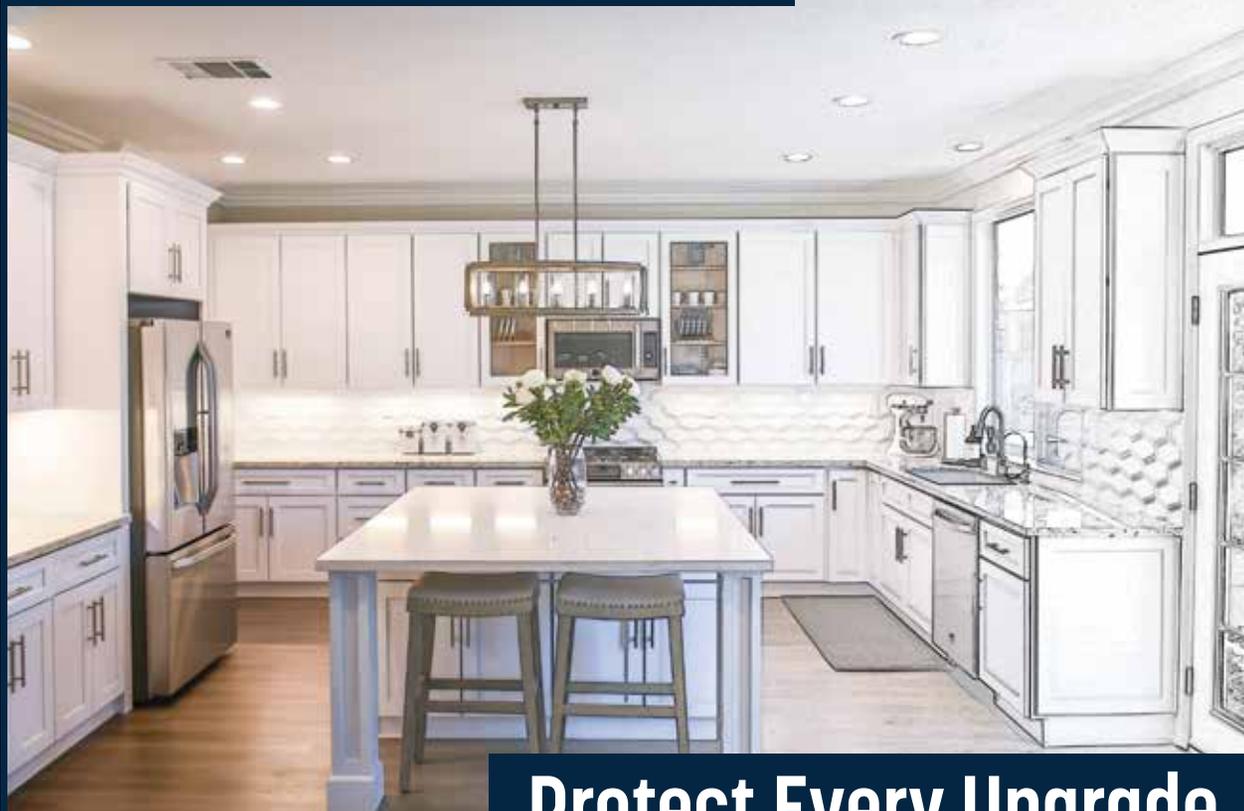
Winter is the ideal time to upgrade your garden design and make tweaks for efficiency. Use the offseason to consider crop rotation patterns for optimal soil health as well as ways to maximize your space such as raised beds, trellises or containers. You can also make a list of materials needed for any new features you may be adding, such as an irrigation system, and map out their placement so you're ready to build as soon as the weather allows.

Nourish the Soil

Even if the ground is frozen, you can



Renovating Your Space?



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prepare your garden beds by adding compost, leaves or organic matter in late winter, ensuring nutrients are available when spring arrives. Also remember to test your soil's pH level now, which can help guide your fertilization plan.

Start Seeds Indoors

If you're eager to get your hands dirty, consider starting your seeds indoors. Early seed starting gives plants a head start, allowing you to transplant stronger seedlings outdoors when temperatures warm.

Get Organized

Use the slower pace of winter to clean and sharpen your garden tools, sort through leftover seeds and make a supply checklist so you're ready to dig in when warmer days arrive.

Find more advice to get your garden ready to burst to life in spring at eLivingtoday.com. Photo courtesy of Shutterstock

Create a Cozy Outdoor Space with a Backyard Firepit

(Family Features) A firepit can serve as a warm and inviting backyard retreat, perfect for roasting marshmallows for s'mores or stargazing while wrapped in cozy blankets. Before you can share time around the firepit with loved ones, however, consider these tips to elevate your outdoor space.

Choosing the Right Design

When it comes to building a DIY firepit, the design you choose can significantly impact the aesthetics and functionality. From classic stone pits to modern metal designs, the options are nearly endless. Think about the size and shape as well. Circular designs are traditional and encourage conversation while square or rectangular pits offer a more contemporary look.

Gathering Materials and Tools

Essential materials include bricks, stones or metal parts for the structure, as well as gravel or sand for the base. Fireproof materials are a must to ensure safety and longevity. You'll also need tools such as a shovel for digging the base, a level to ensure even construction and adhesive or mortar for binding materials together. Depending on your design, you may require a metal fire ring, grill grate or mesh cover.



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Create a Cozy Outdoor Space with a Backyard Firepit

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Keeping Safety in Mind

Safety should be your top priority when building and using a backyard firepit. Always place your firepit at least 10 feet away from any structures, trees or flammable materials. Make sure the area is clear of dry leaves and other debris that could catch fire. Consider installing a spark screen to prevent embers from escaping and always keep a bucket of water or fire extinguisher nearby.



Enhancing Ambiance with Seating and Lighting

Creating a cozy atmosphere around your firepit involves more than just the fire itself. Comfortable seating is essential for making your outdoor space inviting. Choose weather-resistant chairs, benches or DIY log stools arranged in a circle to foster conversation. Ambient lighting from string lights, lanterns or solar-powered path lights can elevate the mood and extend the usability of your firepit into the evening. Consider adding citronella candles or torches to keep insects at bay while enhancing the ambiance.

Visit eLivingtoday.com to find more ideas to enhance your living spaces. Photo courtesy of Shutterstock



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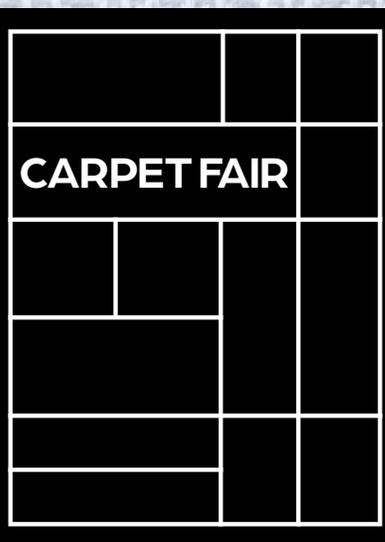
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Lucille Renwick, President of the New Rochelle Public Library Board of Trustees, Receives 2025 Velma K. Moore Award

The New Rochelle Public Library is proud to announce that Lucille Renwick, President of the Library's Board of Trustees, has been awarded the 2025 Velma K. Moore Award, presented by the Library Trustees Association Section (LTAS) of the New York Library Association (NYLA). The award was formally presented to Ms. Renwick at the March 12, 2026 meeting of the New Rochelle Public Library Board of Trustees.

Established in 1962 in honor of Velma K. Moore — a longtime public library trustee and leader in advancing library service across New York State — the award recognizes outstanding leadership by a public library trustee who has made significant contributions to the governance and mission of a library. The award includes a \$1,500 cash prize, presented to the library or system of the recipient's choice. Ms. Renwick has designated the New Rochelle Public Library as the recipient of the award.

Under Ms. Renwick's leadership, the Board navigated a pivotal transition period for the library. Following the retirement of the Library Director of 18 years, she guided the Board through the hiring of an Interim Director and a successful national search for a permanent Director. She has helped strengthen the Board's strategic focus and fostered a strong collaborative partnership with the new Director.

Ms. Renwick has also played a key role in strengthening relationships between the Library and community partners, including the New Rochelle Public Library Foundation, Friends of the Library, the



(pictured, l-r) Eugenia Schatoff, Executive Director, New Rochelle Public Library, Lucille Renwick, President, New Rochelle Public Library Board of Trustees, Edris Scherer, Board Member, Library Trustees Association Section of the New York Library Association, and Terry Kirchner, Executive Director, Westchester Library System

City of New Rochelle, and the New Rochelle School District. Her leadership has helped expand the Library's visibility and reinforce its mission to improve the lives of New Rochelle residents by encouraging lifelong learning, protecting intellectual freedom, and ensuring equitable access to information.

"Lucille Renwick's leadership has helped position the New Rochelle Public Library for the future," said Eugenia Schatoff, Executive Director of the New Rochelle Public Library. "Her dedication

to collaboration, community engagement, and strengthening the library's role as a welcoming and accessible resource reflects the very best of public service."

"Lucille's vision, energy, and commitment have strengthened our Board and expanded the library's impact throughout

the community," said Rhiannon Navin, Secretary of the Library's Board of Trustees. "The Board is proud to see her receive this well-deserved statewide recognition."

The Velma K. Moore Award is presented annually by the Library Trustees Association Section of NYLA to honor trustees whose leadership advances the mission and impact of libraries across New York State.

The New Rochelle Public Library (NRPL) is a community resource that seeks to improve the life of every citizen in our city. The Library offers a comprehensive print and digital collection that includes retrospective and current materials, up-to-date technology for public use, and a wide range of community services and programs tailored to a diverse audience. Chartered in 1894, NRPL is a school-district library with its own operating budget and a Board of Trustees composed of seven elected members. It has served the 81,500 residents of New Rochelle from its Main Library building in the downtown business district since 1979. A smaller branch, located in the park in front of the New Rochelle High School, was restored through a grassroots effort and currently operates as the Huguenot Children's Library. Learn more at nrpl.org. Follow us on Facebook and Instagram @NRPublicLibrary.

New Rochelle Public Library Announces \$1.18 Million in State Funding for Critical Infrastructure Improvements

continued from page 6

guard a public resource that thousands of residents rely on every year. We are deeply grateful to Senators Mayer and Fernandez and Assemblymembers Otis and Paulin for their continued advocacy and strong support for the New Rochelle Public Library."

The projects will help protect the library's building and ensure that its theater, collections, and public spaces remain accessible and comfortable for generations of New Rochelle residents.

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New Rochelle Racquet Club to Celebrate 50th Anniversary

The New Rochelle Racquet Club (NRRC) has been proudly serving New Rochelle for 50 years! To celebrate the 50th Anniversary of one of our longstanding businesses, the New Rochelle Chamber of Commerce is hosting a 50th Anniversary Cake Cutting Ceremony (instead of a Ribbon Cutting) for the New Rochelle Racquet Club on Tuesday, April 7th at 2:00pm at 130 Rhodes Street, New Rochelle.

You're invited to join us on Tuesday, April 7th at 2:00pm to celebrate this momentous anniversary. The NR Chamber always celebrates the ribbon cuttings of new businesses, but we cannot overlook the importance of our City's legacy businesses and their sustainability. So, we are celebrating with cake!

The New Rochelle Racquet Club is a leading indoor tennis facility in the Westchester community. Known for its outstanding programs for both children and adults, they are focused on enhancing and nurturing a player's tennis game through a logical progression, providing structured programs that are driven by love and passion for the game. Their pros are among the best in the industry, well versed in all levels of instruction and dedicated to helping players reach their goals on the court. They have 6 weather-proof, heated and air-conditioned indoor tennis courts. The New Rochelle Racquet Club offers USTA tournaments for all levels of competition, is the home of Westchester's top Junior tournament players and also the host of various regional competitions.

The New Rochelle Racquet Club is the part of Pine Brook Fitness - a multi-sports fitness facility in New Rochelle. Pinebrook Fitness has created 2 other businesses on their campus - The Rock Club and The Studios. The NR Chamber is thrilled by their constant reinvestment in New Rochelle and the longevity of their business success.

Learn more about New Rochelle Racquet Club at: <https://pinebrookfitness.com/new-rochelle-racquet-club/> and Pine Brook Fitness at: <https://pinebrookfitness.com/>

Standalone Trusts vs. Sub-Trusts



BY: BERNARD A. KROOKS, CERTIFIED ELDER LAW ATTORNEY
SPECIAL CONTRIBUTOR:
JOEL KROOKS, ESQ.

If you're having your estate planning prepared and want to create a trust for a child or family member, should you set up a standalone trust, or include trust provisions within your existing estate plan?

A standalone trust is a separate trust document created as its own standalone document. It is distinct from your main estate plan but can be referenced in your will or revocable living trust.

For example, your revocable trust might say that when you pass away, your assets should go into the "John Doe 2026 Trust," which was set up under a separate agreement on March 3, 2026. This separate document is called a standalone trust because it exists on its own, separate from your revocable trust.

The other option is a sub-trust, which is a trust that is written directly into your main will or revocable trust. This type of trust is not created until after you pass away. If it is created through a will, it only takes effect after the estate goes through probate, meaning it cannot avoid the probate process.

The purpose of the trust often drives whether you use a standalone trust or a sub-trust. Is it a special needs trust to protect a beneficiary who receives public benefits? Is it a descendants separate trust for one of your children? Do you want other beneficiaries to be able to see the terms of the trust?

Standalone trusts tend to be more ex-

pansive and complex, but they offer several benefits outlined below.

- Simplified Administration – Trustees may avoid showing the full estate plan to banks or financial institutions.
- Avoids Probate – Unlike testamentary trusts under a Will, a standalone trust can operate immediately upon funding without probate delays.
- Flexible Amendments – Changes can target the standalone trust without affecting your main trust.
- Facilitates Gifts from Others – Family members can contribute directly to the standalone trust.
- Comprehensive Coverage – Standalone trusts can address more contingencies than a sub-trust, without overloading the primary trust document.

A standalone trust often offers stronger protection, more flexibility, and can sometimes be easier to manage. However, whether it makes sense to create a separate trust depends on your situation, the size of your estate, and whether you ex-

pect to make changes in the near future.

If the trust's purpose is straightforward, funding is minimal, or the trust ends at a certain age then embedding trust provisions in your revocable trust or will may suffice. This keeps the plan simpler, especially if you don't anticipate major changes in the near future.

Discuss your goals with an estate planning attorney. Together, you can weigh the cost/benefit trade-offs and determine the most practical solution for your family.

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 past Chair of the Elder Law Committee of the American College of Trust and Estate Counsel (ACTEC). (914-684-2100) www.littmankrooks.com

Table Hopping with Morris Gut: Where to Dine After the Spring Orchid Show at NYBG!

The annual Orchid Show at the New York Botanical Garden in the Bronx runs through April 26TH. This year's colorful theme: 'Mr. Flower Fantastic's Concrete Jungle'. (For additional info: www.nybg.org) After taking in all that beauty, we do get hungry. Here are a few great stops on the way back to Westchester...

BASILICO: This lovely dining room and bar opened 6 months ago by hospitality veterans Nick Demaliaj and Jetmir Arifaj. It is a global mix of Mediterranean/Italian/American specialties. Chef Leonardo Pavia offers such dishes as Spaghetti Bolognese, Squid Ink Linguine, Braised Short Ribs, Zuppa di Pesce, a surprising Coq au Vin, even a big juicy Wagyu Truffle Burger. Nick & Jetmir had worked previously worked at the iconic Russian Tea Room in Manhattan. Open 7 days for lunch, dinner, weekend brunch. Prix fixe lunches available. Basilico Restaurant, 142 Fifth Ave., Pelham. 914-740-5900 www.basilicopelham.com

PELHAM PIZZERIA: Pelham Pizzeria & Ristorante has been marking over 45 years in Pelham with a classic Italian American menu and first-rate pizza specialties. The display case beckons with its fresh baked pizzas by the slice: Sausage Pie with signature lumps of tasty sausage; Spinach

Pie, White Pizza, and Chicken Cutlet Pie. Many of the classic Italian American red-sauce favorites are here: Veal, Chicken, Shrimp or Eggplant Parmigiana; Homemade Lasagna; Baked Manicotti; Veal or Chicken Francese; Shrimp Scampi; Veal Marsala; and hearty Grilled Chicken with Broccoli Rabe and Potatoes. Portions are generous. Pelham Pizzeria & Ristorante, 113 Fifth Ave., Pelham. Phone: 914-738-3554. www.pelhampizzeria.com

ONE RARE STEAKHOUSE: Veteran restaurateur Harry Sinanaj of Ben & Jack's Steakhouse in Manhattan has opened Westchester's newest upscale bastion of beef at the former Zachy's Wine Shop space right in the Village of Scarsdale. The team at this handsomely designed 120-seat restaurant with sparkling bar will lavish you. From Chef Admir's kitchen come such specialties as: a daily selection of East or West Coast Oysters, Wedge Salad, Pappardelle with short ribs, classic Surf & Turf, Porterhouse for 2 or more, and Tomahawk Steak. The bar is already a hot spot. Opens at 4 p.m.; weekends from 11:30 a.m. One Rare Italian Steakhouse, 16 East Parkway, Scarsdale. 914-330-8488 www.oneraresteakhouse.com

CAFÉ DEUX: Sisters Carrie and Charlotte Denoyer premiered Café

Deux in Harrison last year, an all-day café and restaurant serving breakfast, lunch and dinner. Highlights include a decadent bowl of soft scrambled eggs melded with gruyere and chives served with crusty sourdough bread. Classic French bistro fair: fresh pastries, sandwiches, entrees, and sweets including their signature 'cupped desserts' as complement their daily selection of curated coffees and teas. Cocktails, too. Jean Denoyer, their father, opened the original La Goulue in Manhattan over 50 years ago. Café Deux, 307 Halstead Ave., Harrison. 914-920-4110 www.cafedeuxny.com

TORCELLO: Imer Rraci and his veteran team reimaged the former La Riserva into a lovely setting for the Italian classics. Named after an island off the coast of Venice, this kitchen turns out such winning dishes as: colorful Mozzarella Caprice; Risotto Di Funghi with porcini; Linguine alle Vongole; Veal Chop Parmigiana; classic Rack of Lamb; and delicious Pollo Torcello, topped with applewood bacon and melted fresh mozzarella in a light bourbon mushroom sauce. Rraci had spent years working for the former Giambelli in Manhattan, and Valbella in Old Greenwich, CT. Open 7 days for dinner starting at 3:30 p.m. Bar/cocktails. Happy hours Wed. through Fri.



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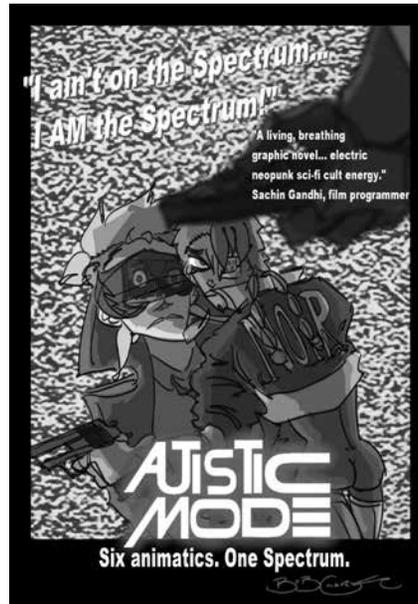
(Morris Gut is a restaurant marketing consultant and former restaurant trade magazine editor. He has been tracking and writing about the food and dining scene in greater Westchester for 30 years. He may be reached at: 914-235-6591. E-mail: gut-reactions@optonline.net)

New Rochelle Public Library to Screen Animated Anthology Autistic Mode for Autism Awareness Month

The New Rochelle Public Library will present a special screening of the animated anthology film *Autistic Mode* on Saturday, April 11, 2026, from 2:00–4:30 pm at the New Rochelle Public Library, 1 Library Plaza, New Rochelle, NY, in recognition of Autism Awareness Month. The program will include an introduction by New Rochelle librarian and film historian Chris Poggiali, followed by a post-screening discussion and Q&A with filmmaker Bob Clark.

Created by artists on the autism spectrum, *Autistic Mode* is a distinctive anthology of animated works that explore the lived experience of autism through imaginative storytelling and diverse visual styles. Presented in an animatic, storyboard-style format, the film highlights sensory experiences, special interests, creativity, and the challenges of navigating the social world. Blending humor, music, gaming culture, and science-fiction storytelling, the anthology offers an engaging look at neurodivergent perspectives and celebrates what its creators call “autistic cool.”

The program features five segments:



- **HARDMODE**, by Nix Busby, a JRPG-inspired adventure following a hero on a quest to conquer their anxieties.
- **HONEYJACK**, by Charles Moss, a musical comedy romp about an oddball bear and a misfit Girl Scout.
- **TOONED UP**, by Malcolm Thomas, a Tex Avery-inspired story about a cartoon enthusiast who comes face to face with the real world.
- **CANVAS**, by Gabrielle Teaford, an autobiographical music video about the hardships and triumphs in the life of an artist.
- **DREAMCATCHERS**, by Bob Clark, a sci-fi detective story in which psychic agents enter dreams to investigate conspiracies and battle mysterious Nightmares.

The screening is intended for ages 16 and older and contains profanity, violence, nudity, and flashing lights.

Admission is free and open to the public, but registration is requested at bit.ly/AutisticMode_04_2026.

Westchester County Youth Bureau Holds Third Annual Medtech & Finance Conference

The Westchester County Youth Bureau, in collaboration with Mercy University and Sister to Sister International, Inc. (STSI), recently hosted a day of career exploration for eighth to twelfth-grade students from across the County at the MedTech & Finance Conference. Close to 200 young people connected with experts from NewYork Presbyterian Westchester, St. John's Riverside Hospital and other industry leaders to discover exciting opportunities created by the intersection of medicine, technology and finance.

Dr. Mzimeli Morris, Director of Labor and Delivery at NewYork Presbyterian Westchester and an Assistant Professor of Women's Health in OB/GYN at Columbia University Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons kicked off the conference with a keynote address detailing her medical career journey and her role promoting health equity. Students then went on to participate in workshops that focused on a wide range of medical topics as well as the emerging role of AI, the importance of cybersecurity, honing your interview skills and managing finances to provide for your career.

Westchester County Executive Ken Jenkins gave welcoming remarks and said: “Events like the MedTech & Finance Conference showcase how County government can team up with private industry to open doors for Westchester's youth. We thank Mercy University and Sister to Sister International for their valuable partnership. Students, your presence here shows you are taking charge of your future and following your interests. By being pro-



active and finding your direction now, you are already well on your way to success.”

Westchester County Youth Bureau Executive Director Ernest McFadden said: “The 2026 Youth MedTech & Finance conference brings together an intersection of the fields of healthcare, technology and finance, where some of the most transformative solutions will emerge. Our goal is to empower young people with the knowledge, networks and inspiration needed to move forward in these critical fields solve global healthcare challenges.”

Mercy University Provost Dr. Kristin Greenwood said: “As Provost, I am honored that Mercy is once again hosting the Youth MedTech & Finance Conference. Engaging students from grades 8–12 in these critical fields reflects our commitment to cultivating the next generation, who will drive innovation across healthcare and finance. Our partnership with

the Westchester County Youth Bureau and Sister to Sister International further reinforces this commitment by helping us reach and empower a wider community of emerging scholars.”

Mercy University School of Business Dean Victor Petenkemani said: “The future of business is being shaped by rapid technological change, and our responsibility as educators is to prepare students to lead in that environment. We are integrating essential business skills throughout the Mercy University School of Business curriculum while training students on the ethical and responsible use of artificial intelligence. By continuously innovating our programs, we are preparing our graduates to succeed in a dynamic and technology-driven workplace.”

STSI Founder Dr. Cheryl Brannan said: “This conference gets better every year! Kudos to all of our community part-

ners. We continue to get rave reviews from the students who are either ‘explorers’ being exposed to new career paths, or ‘navigators’ who are already familiar and looking to learn more. The MedTech & Finance Conference is a tremendous resource for Westchester students!”

Morris said: “This is an extremely important event that

allows young people to explore the array of different fields within medicine, tech, and finance. I'm so honored to be a part of it as it allows me to share my experiences throughout my education and career. Many youth of color are the very first in their families to embark on these fields and I wanted to let them know that there is no one way to accomplish your goals. You don't have to fit inside of the boxes that academia has constructed to be what you want to be. It is more important to listen to yourself and embrace the way you learn material to be truly successful.”

Nicholas Kurumunda, a senior at New Rochelle High School said: “I really enjoyed the MedTech & Finance Conference at Mercy University. I was able to network and learn a lot from the professionals who were presenting the workshops. This is an opportunity that everyone who has an interest in the fields should experience if they can.”

Feeding Westchester's "An Evening in Good Taste" Returns April 16

Feeding Westchester will host An Evening in Good Taste, its premier tasting event and largest fundraiser of the year, on Thursday, April 16, 2026. The evening will bring together the region's culinary community and hunger-relief supporters to raise critical funds for Feeding Westchester's mission to provide healthy, nutritious food to the 39% of Westchester households at risk of hunger.

Guests will enjoy food and drink from nearly 40 Westchester-based restaurants and beverage partners, showcasing the best of the county's vibrant dining scene. Proceeds from the event help Feeding Westchester source and distribute over 20 million pounds of food each year through a network of 175 partner agencies, including food pantries, soup kitchens, community centers, and schools across Westchester County.

The event will again take place at Savor Food Hall at The Westchester, located at 125 Westchester Avenue in White Plains. In addition to tastings from top local chefs and restaurants, the evening will feature opportunities to bid on exclusive auction items, including sports outings, travel experiences, and private dining packages.

"An Evening in Good Taste is Feeding Westchester's largest annual fundraiser and a wonderful showcase of a community that cares," said Kristine Borok, President and CEO of Feeding Westchester. "At a time when many families are struggling with the rising cost of living and increasing food prices, we are proud to celebrate great food with Westchester's culinary community, generous supporters, and the collective effort to ensure our neighbors have the nutritious food they need."

Tickets for An Evening in Good Taste are available at <https://www.classy.org/event/an-evening-in-good-taste-2026/e762678>. Early Access ticket holders may enter the event beginning at 6:00 p.m., while Patron ticket holders will be admitted starting at 7:00 p.m.

The event is produced by Feeding Westchester's Event Committee in collaboration with The Westchester, ESP Creative, and Abigail Kirsch.

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April 2026 Events at the New Rochelle Public Library

New Rochelle Art Association 2026 Dermot Gale Award Show
April 1 - April 25
During regular Library hours

The New Rochelle Art Association presents the 2026 Dermot Gale Memorial Award for best 2D piece. This award was founded by Mr. Gale's family after his death in 1983. He was a former president of the Association, and an architect and painter who resided in Pelham and was a dedicated and active member of NRAA for 40 years. Location: Lumen Winter Gallery



Open Sewing
Wednesdays, April 8, 22, 29
10:30 am - 1:00 pm

Wednesday, April 15, 12:30 - 3:00 pm
The New Rochelle Public Library is excited to offer our Open Sewing Program for experienced sewists with state-of-the-art Necchi sewing machines. Patrons are responsible for bringing their own supplies, including fabrics, threads, patterns, and any other materials necessary for their projects. First come first served. Location: Community Gallery

Build, Make, Create: Egg Shaker Maracas
Thurs, April 2, 2026, 11:00am-12:00 pm
Decorate an egg that doubles as a musical maraca! Ages 2 to 5 yrs. Space is limited and tickets are required. Please pick up a ticket in the Children's Room the morning of the program. Location: Meeting Room

Slime Time!
Thursday, April 2, 2026, 2:00pm-3:00 pm
Ooey, gooey globs of fun as kids play mad scientist with this STEM-centered activity! Ages 5 to 12 yrs. Space is limited and tickets are required. Please pick up a ticket in the Children's Room the morning of the program. Location: Meeting Room

Turtle Dance Music!
Friday, April 3, 2026, 11:00 -11:45 am
April is Autism Acceptance Month! Celebrate with a special performance from Mr. Matt in an autism-friendly show filled with music, comedy, dance & bubbles! Ages 2 and up. Location: Meeting Room

MEGA-Game Afternoon!
Friday, April 3, 2026
2:00 -3:00 pm

BIG fun is to be found with our family-favorite array of video games & board games. Ages 5 to 12 yrs. Location: Meeting Room



Sing Your Heart Out! Workshop for Adult Singers

Saturdays, April 4, 11, 18, 9:30 - 11:30 am
Mondays, April 6, 13, 20, 27, 9:30 - 11:30 am
Music maestro Robert Puleo returns to lead the Spring 2026 "Sing Your Heart Out!" Workshop. Aspiring singers will gain the confidence required to sing as well as learn how to select music appropriate for their voice, and--most importantly--how to have fun throughout the entire 'learning to sing' process! The workshop culminates in a concert performance for the community that takes place on Saturday, June 27, at 12:00 pm. Location: Ossie Davis Theater. Registration requested at bit.ly/SYHO_April2026



Books & Badges! Police Storytime & Craft
Saturday, April 4, 2026, 11:00 am-12:00 pm
Join New Rochelle Police Officers as they share some of their favorite books & help out with a fun art activity afterwards! Ages 3 to 8 yrs. Location: Children's Room

The Basics of Medicare Coverage
Mondays, April 6, 13, 20, 27
10:00 am - 12:00 pm
Bilingual Medicare Advisor, Mercedes Stagnaro of Wellcare will be at the Library to answer your questions about Medicare coverage options. Location: HELP & Learning Center. Registration is required at https://bit.ly/Medicare_April2026

Chair Yoga
Mondays, April 6, 13, 20, 27
12:30 - 1:30 pm
Wednesdays, April, 8, 15, 22, 29
1:00 - 2:00 pm

Conquer stress and fatigue, and infuse your day with renewed energy and focus with a gentle yet invigorating session of chair yoga. No need to change clothing or lie on a mat. Space is limited; first come-first-served. FREE! Location: 1st Floor Meeting Room/Ossie Davis Theater



Knitting Club
Fridays, April 10, 24, 11:00 am - 1:00 pm
Join professional knitter Stephanie Lieberman Paley for a drop in knitting class. Bring a project you are working on or start something new if you wish. Stephanie will be here to guide you through your project. All levels are welcome. You must bring your own supplies. Drop in. FREE! Location: Community Gallery



Friday Night Concert: Wayne Henderson Sextet

Friday, April 10, 7:00 - 8:30 pm
Celebrate Jazz Appreciation Month with an unforgettable evening featuring the Wayne Henderson Sextet. Wayne Henderson has performed with an impressive roster of jazz greats, including Melvin Sparks, Irene Reid, George Benson, and the Harlem Renaissance Orchestra, and has appeared at renowned venues such as Avery Fisher Hall, Birdland, Lincoln Center, and Smoke Jazz Club. Location: Ossie Davis Theater. Registration requested at bit.ly/WayneHenderson_04_10_26

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