

New Rochelle Review



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Flood Mitigation Projects Discussed; Snow/Pothole Recap Update Presented



BY STEPHEN E. LIPKEN

City of New Rochelle Mayor Yadi-ra Ramos-Herbert called the April 14th Committee of the Whole meeting to order, beginning with Department of Public Works (DPW) Flood Mitigation Update for 2026. by DPW Commissioner Alvaro Alfonso Larrain and City Engineer/Deputy DPW Commissioner Gino Frabasile, P.E.

Frabasile presented an overview of Flood Mitigation Projects, reviewing awarded grants and anticipated grants, ready for Public Hearing, late 2026-ear-

ly 2027. “There were six construction and two engineering projects between late 2024 and early 2026, targeting flood-prone areas throughout the State, including design and construction of stormwater piping upgrades at Harmon Drive and Storer Avenue.

“It is important to note that the Emerson Avenue Project, although it was a study, did actually emphasize some improvements that we will make late 2026 with a shallow surface channel to improve stormwater demands. It is located in a

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New Rochelle Public Library Launches Ambitious Plan to Revitalize the Building with a \$55m Bond

The New Rochelle Public Library Board received unanimous approval from the New Rochelle School District to place a \$55 million bond before voters. The measure will appear on the ballot as part of the May 19 school and library board and budget vote.

The bond is part of a bold, multi-year plan to update and renew every part of the Library—the most active in the Westchester system. A cultural and civic hub for the city, the Library has not undergone any renovation since it was built in 1979. The funding will support critical revitalization of the library, fully modernizing all aspects—from its infrastructure to meeting spaces—and include welcoming, functional areas for reading, learning and gathering.

Lucille Renwick, President of the Library Board, said, “First, we are grateful to the New Rochelle School District Board for their support. They understand both the urgency of the need for a more modern library to serve our community. A modernized library with community spaces, improved infrastructure and overall building is so needed for all of New Rochelle. Now, we will work to ensure that New Rochelleans see that vision as well when they go to vote on May 19.”

“This investment represents a first step toward ensuring the Library can serve the com-

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Lucille Renwick

79 MOUNTAIN AVENUE
LARCHMONT WOODS

Mimi Magarelli Team SCAN FOR PROPERTY INFORMATION

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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,

It's hard to believe we're nearly halfway through the year, but long days and warmer weather are the clearest indications that time marches on. Here at City Hall, we've been hard at work to drive forward all of the plans we've made for 2026 and are seeing the results all around.

The City of New Rochelle is moving forward with once-in-a-generation investments at Ward Acres Park, continuing the long-term vision shaped by years of community input and thoughtful planning. These improvements aim to increase accessibility, safety, and the overall visitor experience, while preserving the park's natural beauty and ecological integrity.

Planned upgrades include a welcoming new main entrance with updated signage and landscaping, construction of a restroom and storage facility, and restoration of the park's historic stone bridge. Additional improvements feature a signalized mid-block crosswalk on Broadfield Road to enhance pedestrian safety and access, ADA-accessible pathways linking key areas of the park, and a comprehensive trail signage and wayfinding system to help visitors better navigate and enjoy the park. For more information and to follow project progress, please visit newrochelle.gov/wardacres.

In April, our Department of Public Works gave a detailed presentation to City Council on their ongoing work on the City's Flood Mitigation Program. Our programmatic approach to addressing and alleviating flooding issues throughout the City has produced six completed construction projects, two completed engineering studies, and nine additional projects in varying stages of development - - from conceptual planning and design/permitting to bidding and early construction. The ongoing work is part of our goal to strengthen New Rochelle's stormwater infrastructure, make our city more resilient to heavy rainfalls and minimize flood

risks in vulnerable areas.

In the wake of a harsh winter marked by record snowfall and prolonged freezing temperatures, the Department of Public Works (DPW) has taken the opportunity to apply lessons learned from this past winter's weather events. During a follow-up presentation to City Council, DPW outlined key challenges and identified several improvements for future winter operations, including the implementation of a new radio system to strengthen communication with field crews and the exploration of new technology to monitor operational progress in real time. This system would help track which streets have been plowed and treated, with the potential for a public-facing component to help better inform residents.

DPW is also preparing a pre-winter public education campaign for release this fall. It will highlight key signage—such as snow emergency routes and two-inch snowfall streets—explain how the City handles plowing and snow removal, and clarify property owner responsibilities to support efficient snow response city-wide. And the snow recovery also extends to potholes. DPW crews have mobilized around the city to fill nearly 1,800 potholes by mid-April, a 24% increase in pot-

holes addressed over the same period in 2025.

I am proud to report that our city continues to lead the way in expanding opportunity for young people, employing approximately 500 youth through the Youth Bureau's Summer Youth Employment Program—the largest of its kind in Westchester County. This year, more than 900 residents ages 14 to 24 applied for approximately 500 positions, reflecting both the strength of the program and the growing demand for meaningful work opportunities. Through career-based internships, municipal roles, and placements with New Rochelle businesses, this initiative provides young people with valuable experience and skills that will serve them well into the future.

One big initiative from City Hall that's garnered a lot of attention is the proposed 2026 Downtown Overlay Zone Amendments. The planned changes to zoning are taking into account a decade of lessons learned since the DOZ was originally adopted. Some of the refinements include making adjustments to attract new 'missing-middle' housing styles, changing ground floor frontage requirements to help alleviate retail vacancies and using

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Police Blotter

Domestic Incident Possible Stabbing Church Street

On April 1st, 2026, at about 8:35pm, New Rochelle Detectives arrested Ijahnee Simmons for Assault 2nd Degree in regards to this incident. After a thorough investigation detectives determined that Simmons assaulted the victim during a domestic dispute. The victim's name is not being released at this time.

Arrested:

Ijahnee Simmons, 28 years of age, of New Rochelle

Charges:

New York State Penal Law Sections:

120.05 Assault 2nd Degree - D Felony

Police Investigating Domestic Incident at Church Street Residence: On April 1, 2026, at approximately 6:33 a.m., officers from the New Rochelle Police Department responded to 12 Church Street following a report of a possible stabbing.

Upon arrival, officers located a 31-year-

old male victim who had sustained a puncture wound to his upper thigh. He was treated at the scene for significant blood loss and transported to a local hospital, where he underwent surgery. He is currently listed in stable condition.

A 28-year-old female suspect was taken into custody at the scene without incident.

Police are investigating the incident as a domestic matter. The exact circumstances surrounding how the victim sustained the puncture wound remain under investigation. Charges against the suspect are being evaluated and will be determined upon completion of the investigation.

The New Rochelle Police Department continues to actively investigate this matter. No further details are available at this time.

Fourth Suspect Arrested in Connection with April 4th Shooting at Heritage Homes

On April 16th, 2026, New Rochelle Police Detectives arrested Jamal Sinclair, 37, of Mt. Vernon, in connection with the shooting that

occurred on the evening of April 4, 2026, at the Heritage Homes. Sinclair is the fourth suspect arrested in this incident.

Detectives identified Sinclair during their investigation, which is ongoing; he was taken into custody without incident. Upon arrest, Sinclair was charged with the following offenses under the New York State Penal Law:

265.03 Criminal Possession of a Weapon

in the Second Degree - C Felony

120.25 Reckless Endangerment in the First Degree - D Felony

The investigation remains active. New Rochelle Detectives are asking that anyone with information related to this incident to contact the New Rochelle Police Department at (914) 654-2300 or anonymously at (914) 632-COPS.

Kenya Tilford Sentenced to Life in Prison Without Parole

Westchester County District Attorney Susan Cacace announced that the first torture-murder trial in Westchester County history has yielded a sentence of life in prison without the possibility of parole for the defendant, Kenya Tilford.

Judge George Fufidio imposed the sentence Thursday morning and provided permanent orders of protection for Tilford's multiple victims.

Tilford, 43, of New Rochelle, was convicted at trial last month of Murder in the First Degree, under the torture-murder provision of that statute, in addition to multiple other felonies.

DA Cacace said: "There are no words that can adequately convey the horrors experienced by Concetta Morton at the hands of the defendant, who tortured her with deliberate cruelty for three months before suffocating her to death.

"Today, after years of sustained effort from this office, the New Rochelle Police Department, the Dunn family and the surviving victims of Ms. Tilford's sexual abuse, the Westchester community can finally begin to heal from these traumas.

Ms. Tilford will be spending the rest of her life in prison.

"I want to commend the tireless, painstaking work of the New Rochelle police, who investigated this case so thoroughly, and the ingenuity of my office's Hi-Tech unit, which unlocked critical pieces of evidence for use at trial. The frontline prosecutors and trial assistant who so expertly managed this case helped ensure today's resolution.

"I hope that with this sentence, Ms. Morton may finally rest in peace, and that the Dunn family may find a small measure of comfort knowing she has finally achieved the justice in the afterlife that was denied to her during her brief time on Earth."

The case was investigated by the New Rochelle Police Department and the Hi-Tech Unit within the District Attorney's Office.

The case was prosecuted by Deputy Division Chief Lana Hochheiser and Sr. Assistant District Attorney Courtney Johnson with the assistance of Alessia Vicari.

Flood Mitigation Projects Discussed; Snow/Pothole Recap Update Presented

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floodplain, wetland area."

Regarding Snow/Pothole Recap and Update:

- 47 water main breaks and
- 1,769 potholes repaired
- 19 locations listed for enhanced repairs
- 82 streets in need of pothole repairs

Finance Commissioner Alistair Featherstone presented a proposed amendment to the City Code, regarding a Property Tax Exemption for veterans with 100% service-related disability, passing by voice vote.

Other business included proposed authorization to execute Intermunicipal Agreement with Westchester County re: BPL-26 Storm Water Management funding for Sub-Basin 5 Stormwater Improvements and amending Ordinance No. 198 of 2025, the Budget of the City for 2026;

Proposed Acceptance of NYS Dormitory Authority (DASNY) relative to

grant awards for Reservoir No. 1 Lake Isle Dam; Proposed Authorization to Submit Grant Application re: NYS Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) Roadway Departure Safety Action Plan (RwDSAP) Local Call for Projects for Pinebrook Boulevard.

Police Department business encompassed Proposed Amendment to Chapter 312 of the City Code re: Vehicle Impound Authority-Ordinance of City Code amending Chapter 312 "Vehicles and Traffic" in relation to removal and impound of vehicles and definition of abandoned vehicles; Proposed Amendment to the 2026 Budget re: NYS Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Services (DHSES) Tactical Team Grant Award in the amount of \$75,000 and amending Ordinance No. 198 of 2025, the City Budget for 2026; Ordinance accepting DHSES Explosive Canine Team Grant amounting to \$60,000.

From the Office of the New Rochelle City Manager

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targeted strategies to bring large format retail to the Downtown. In April, we held a Public Hearing where many residents provided feedback on the potential impacts of the DOZ. We want to ensure that we're bringing you along as this process continues. If you'd like to learn more about the proposed 2026 DOZ Amendments, visit NewRochelleNY.Gov/DOZ2026.

Speaking of the Downtown, this Spring, we expanded our Downtown parking space inventory at three of our garages, adding 80 spots at the Skyline Garage, 80 spots at 2 Clinton Park, and 36 spots at 11 Garden Street. That makes combined 196 new parking spaces - - - a 7% boost to parking in the heart of Downtown that'll help boost mobility, help residents and visitors get to their destinations easier and spur support and continued growth for our local businesses.

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 <http://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. You can also look to our City social media accounts on Facebook, Instagram and X. And, don't forget about the monthly City Manager Update to learn more about City's initiatives, projects, and programs. To view the update, please visit: newrochelleny.gov/citymanager.

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. Thanks for your continued support and partnership and I look forward to connecting with you.



Join us for **Open Plays** all day or sign up for a **FREE Intro to Pickle Clinic** to try it out. Monthly memberships now available ranging from a \$20. Try before you buy 7-day option to an ALL inclusive annual plan.

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3 Maria Regina High School Students Win Top Awards in Annual Valhalla American Legion Auxiliary Poppy Poster Contest

Three talented Maria Regina High School visual artists have won top awards in the recent Annual Valhalla American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) Unit 1038 Poppy Poster Contest.

Their striking tributes using the poppy to commemorate the sacrifices of U.S. Armed Forces members who died in defense of their country were among the entries from elementary and high schools in the area that captured top honors in the highly competitive judging.

In an email to Maria Regina, Post 1038 President Emmy L. Cheskey noted: "The 59 posters submitted beautifully told the story of the poppy in many unique and moving ways, some even brought a tear to the eye of a veteran. Our judges had a very difficult task, as there were so many outstanding entries".

The winners, who are members of the all-girls Catholic high school's acclaimed Visual Arts Program, captured two first-place and Commander's Award honors. They are:

- Keitumetse Rankoe of New Rochelle, First Place in Class VI (grade 12).
- Brooke Muto of Port Chester, First Place in Class V (grades 10 and 11)
- Layla Rabadi of Yonkers, Commander's Award.

Their winning posters will be on display during an Open House that will be held at the Valhalla Post following the village Memorial Day parade and ceremony, an event that will include the participation of Maria Regina's trailblazing and popular all-girls marching band.

In addition, copies of the posters have been submitted to the New York State ALA Poppy Poster Contest that will be held at the organization's Convention in July.

Principal Maria Carozza-McCaffrey (Class of '99) congratulated the students on their triumphant showing in this year's contest. "We are deeply proud of how our students exceptionally distinguished themselves and Maria Regina with their singular creativity that honors the memory of those in our community who lost their lives in defense of our freedom," adding, "their artwork serves as a powerful bridge between past sacrifices and future hope, proving that your voices are as impactful as they are inspired."

She also noted that Keitu, Brooke and Layla are the latest chapter of Maria Regina Visual Arts Program artists shining in the Valhalla Post 1038 Poppy Poster Contests. Five students were honored two years ago including Ariela Franco (Class of '24) of hometown whose poster won the top prize both in Valhalla and New York State, earning her the honor of competing in the American Legion's national poster contest.

"What makes this artistic success truly extraordinary is how it integrates with the school's pioneering academic culture," explained Carozza-McCaffrey, continuing: "Maria Regina is one of the few schools in the region to offer the AP Capstone™ Diploma program. While the Poppy Poster contest showcases students' creative empathy, the Capstone program challenges these same students to master college-level independent research and oral defense."

"This means a Maria Regina student isn't just an artist or a scholar; she is a multidimensional leader capable of winning a statewide art competition one day and defending a 5,000-word academic thesis on global policy the next. It is this rare fusion of high-level creative expression and rigorous investigative research that defines the Maria Regina student."



Cocktails & Conversation with Restaurateur Sabrina Rudin, author of *Healthy With A Side of Happy* to Benefit NRPL Foundation

Looking for an evening out that's both delicious and inspiring? Join the New Rochelle Public Library Foundation for our next Cocktails & Conversation event at The Dining Lab at Monroe University, featuring restaurateur and food influencer Sabrina Rudin, owner of Spring Café Aspen and New York.

Sabrina will be here to talk about her first cookbook, *Healthy with a Side of Happy*, and share what she's learned about how to cook, eat and live in a healthier way for ourselves, our families and our planet. Monroe University's renowned culinary team will prepare and serve samples from Rudin's cookbook,



which will be available for sale and signing.

Cocktails & Conversation with Sabrina Rudin will take place on Thursday, May 14 at The Dining Lab Restaurant at Monroe University (434 Main Street, New Rochelle) from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm. Tickets cost \$70 and include delicious nibbles and two drinks. Tickets can be purchased on line from nrplfoundation.org <https://wl.donorperfect.net/weblink/weblink.aspx?name=E248603&id=91>

Tickets can also be purchased by mail with a check payable to NRPLF sent to New Rochelle Public Library Foundation,



1 Library Plaza, New Rochelle, NY 10801. Proceeds from this event will benefit the New Rochelle Public Library Foundation.

Copies of *Healthy with a Side of Happy* will be available for purchase and signing on site from J Anderson's Books in Larch-

mont. Want to preorder a copy? Just call at 914-670-1084.

Sabrina Rudin is an entrepreneur, writer, and recipe developer in the food and wellness space. She is the founder of Spring Café, an organic vegetarian restaurant concept with locations in Aspen, Colorado and Greenwich Village, New York. Through her restaurants, writing, and social media community, Sabrina shares recipes and practical guidance for healthier living that is centered on what's nourishing, joyful, and sustainable.

Cocktails & Conversation is one of the NRPL Foundation's signature events, designed to bring book lovers together for lively conversations. Each evening features an author discussion moderated by Amy Bass, Ph.D., NRPL Foundation Board Member, historian, and acclaimed author of *One Goal: A Coach, A Team, and the Game That Brought a Divided Town Together*.

RXR Introduces Toast Coffee + Kitchen, A New All-Day Café and Neighborhood Dining Destination

RXR, the master developer of Downtown New Rochelle, announced that Toast Coffee + Kitchen, an award-winning breakfast and brunch concept, has signed a retail lease at its luxury residential tower, One Clinton Park. Marking its first New Rochelle location, Toast will occupy approximately 5,000 square feet on the ground floor and is expected to open in early 2027.

"The addition of Toast to One Clinton Park reflects our continued commitment to creating a vibrant Downtown New Rochelle," said Whitney Arcaro, Chief Revenue Officer, Residential at RXR. "By bringing energized day-into-evening experiences directly to Clinton Park, we are enhancing everyday convenience, fostering community vibrancy, and supporting a revitalized New Rochelle daily lifestyle for our residents. With Golf Lounge 18 also opening later this year, Toast adds to the exciting momentum in the area, and we look forward to welcoming them and the value they bring to our neighborhood."

"We're excited to see Toast Coffee + Kitchen coming to New Rochelle and can't wait to welcome them to One Clinton Park," said New Rochelle Mayor Yadira Ramos-Herbert. "This is exactly the kind of destination that adds energy to our downtown and creates new places for people to gather. Their investment here reflects the work we've done to reimagine our retail corridors through the Vanguard



Initiative by bringing more great businesses to our streets and continuing to build a vibrant, connected city."

Bringing an energetic, hospitality-driven concept to the community, this will be Toast's seventh location—its first in Westchester County. Building on the brand's success across Long Island, each location is uniquely designed to reflect its surroundings. Toast has established itself as a go-to gathering place, offering a curated selection of coffee and tea alongside a diverse menu featuring breakfast, lunch and vegan options.

"Bringing Toast Coffee + Kitchen to New Rochelle is an exciting milestone for our brand as we continue to grow in dynamic, experience-driven communities," said Terence Scarlatos, Owner of Toast

Coffee + Kitchen. "We've built Toast around elevated everyday dining—where quality, creativity, and hospitality come together from morning through early evening. Partnering with RXR at One Clinton Park gives us the opportunity to introduce that energy to a new market and create a space that feels both distinctive to Toast and authentic to the neighborhood."

The news follows the recent announcement of Golf Lounge 18, which will occupy approximately 7,700 square feet adjacent to Toast and is expected to open later this year. Both leases combined further establish One Clinton Park Plaza as a flourishing community destination and gathering location. RXR plans dynamic year-round programming at the Plaza—located in between One Clinton Park and its sister property, Two Clinton Park—with upcoming events including Earth Week celebrations, Kids Fun Day, a free public event featuring food, kid-friendly games, and an opportunity to meet the Westchester Soccer Club.

The project aligns with Downtown New Rochelle's broader economic strategy to reshape the retail landscape through targeted investments, including a Tenant Improvement Fund, strategic infrastructure upgrades, and updated zoning tools designed to attract a wider mix of experience-driven retail and hospitality concepts.

Early indicators from the City's Van-

guard Initiative, a Mayor-led effort designed to accelerate leasing and attract new retail, point to a substantial increase in retail demand, which is projected to grow further as resident-driven spending rises and the district continues its transformation into a vibrant destination.

Since 2015, RXR has played a leading role in the transformation of Downtown New Rochelle, advancing a long-term vision centered on housing, economic development, and placemaking. To date, RXR has developed over 1,000 residential units across multiple assets, generating significant local employment and investing in the infrastructure and public realm that support a vibrant, mixed-use downtown.

A cornerstone of this effort, One and Two Clinton Park deliver over 740 modern rental units and 50,000 square feet of amenity and outdoor space across Clinton Park Plaza, which hosts a variety of community events throughout the year. One Clinton Park, home to Toast Coffee + Kitchen, opened in 2022 and features 390 residences alongside thoughtfully curated indoor and outdoor amenities, complemented by sweeping views of the Long Island Sound. Together, the two towers—and the activation of Clinton Park Plaza—reflect RXR's continued commitment to the revitalization and long-term vibrancy of Downtown New Rochelle.

Allen Boulous at EverNest brokered the deal on behalf of the tenant.

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May Events at the New Rochelle Public Library

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



“Our Children Our Artists”, City School District of New Rochelle (Elementary Schools)
Through May 8
During regular Library hours. Exhibit Reception: “Our Children, Our Artists” (Elementary Schools): Wednesday, May 6 at 4:00 pm
Location: Lumen Winter Gallery.
The Basics of Medicare Coverage
Mondays, May 11, 18, 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

Chair Yoga

Mondays, May 11, 18, 12:30 - 1:30 pm

Wednesdays, May 6, 13, 20, 27, 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

NEW! Find Your Balance with Tai Chi & Qi Gong

Tuesdays, May 5, 19, 26, 10:00 - 11:00 am

Slow down, breathe deeply, and restore your energy. This gentle “meditation in motion” class blends flowing Tai Chi and Qi Gong movements to improve balance, flexibility, circulation, and mental focus—while reducing stress. Drop in. Location: Ossie Davis Theater



Spring Cleaning Your Documents and Photographs

Thursday, May 7, 2:00 - 3:00 pm

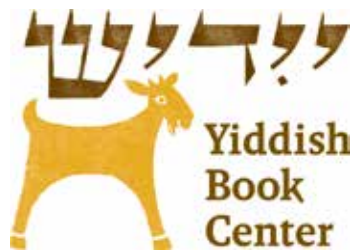
Learn how to care for personal collections: paper, photographs, textiles, and books. Anyone who saves personal documents, letters, and photos will eventually face the problem of clutter. Personal documents require proper storage to enhance the longevity of collected materials. This workshop will provide advice and the best archival practices about preserving individual and family treasures. Location: 2nd Floor Meeting Room

(2A). Registration is required at bit.ly/SpringCleaning_May2026

Yiddish Book Center Visit (Virtual)

Thursday, May 7, 2:00 pm

NRPL has been selected as one of 40 libraries nationwide to participate in the Yiddish Book Center’s Public Libraries Program on the theme “Between Two Worlds: Exploring Jewish Culture and Religion through Yiddish Literature.” The Yiddish Book Center’s Public Libraries Program brings Yiddish literature in translation to libraries nationwide, encouraging connections and sparking cross-cultural dialogue. Take a virtual trip to the Yiddish Book Center in Amherst, MA, a leading institution dedicated to preserving Yiddish language and culture. Learn how the center was founded, explore its exhibits, and discover its wide-ranging programs and digital resources, including the Yiddish Digital Library. Registration required at bit.ly/YBCTour_05_2026. Presented as part of the Yiddish Book Center’s Public Libraries Program, in partnership with the ALA and funded by the Lilly Endowment, Inc.



NRPL 2026-2027 Budget Hearing/ Meeting

Thursday, May 7, 7:30 - 8:45 pm

The 2026-2027 NRPL Budget Hearing will take place on Thu., May 07 at 7:00 pm in the Ossie Davis Theater. The budget hearing will be followed by the regular meeting of the NRPL Board of Trustees. Members of the public are invited to attend. Location: Ossie Davis Theater



Knitting Club

Fridays, May 8, 22, 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

The Past Pages Society: NRPL History Book Club

Saturday, May 9, 11:00 am - 12:00 pm

Join us as we read *Revolutionary Summer: The Birth of American Independence* by Joseph J. Ellis. This vivid and fast-paced account brings to life the pivotal summer of 1776, when the fate of American independence hung in the balance. Ellis moves between the diplomatic and political decisions taking place in Philadelphia—where the Declaration of Independence took shape—and the critical military actions unfolding in New York. Location: 2nd Floor Meeting Room. This program is part of the New Rochelle Public Library’s commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution, in collaboration with Revolutionary Westchester 250 and New Rochelle 250. Registration requested at bit.ly/NRPL_PastPages

NRPL Film Series: “1776”

Saturday, May 9, 1:00 - 4:30 pm

As part of the countywide RW250 celebration, New Rochelle librarian and film historian Chris Poggiali will introduce and discuss a screening of the 1972 musical *1776*. This fun-filled adaptation of the Tony Award-winning Broadway musical chronicles the drafting and signing of the Declaration of Independence by America’s founding fathers. Location: Ossie Davis Theater. Registration requested at bit.ly/1776_05_2026. This program is part of the New Rochelle Public Library’s commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution, in collaboration with Revolutionary Westchester 250 and New Rochelle 250.



Wild About Books! A Children’s Book Week Celebration

Saturday, May 9, 2:00 - 3:30 pm

Join us for a roaring good time in honor of Children’s Book Week with special guests & activities that are sure to inspire a love of literacy and libraries. Location: Children’s Room. The afternoon includes: Award-winning picture book author Jyoti Rajan Gopal sharing her book *Over in the Mangroves*; Meet & Greet with Curious George and Cookie Decorating!

American Red Cross Blood Drive

Tuesday, May 12, 11:00 am - 3:30 pm

Prospective donors are currently being sought by the American Red Cross for this upcoming blood drive. Location: Ossie Davis Theater/ Meeting Room. Registration required at bit.ly/NRPLBloodDrive

“Our Children Our Artists”, City School District of New Rochelle (Secondary Schools)

May 14 - May 22

During regular Library hours. Exhibit Reception: “Our Children, Our Artists” (Secondary Schools): Wednesday May 20 at 4:00 pm. Location: Lumen Winter Gallery

Acoustic String Open Jam Session

Saturday, May 16, 3:00 - 4:30 pm

Looking for other musicians to play with in an informal and judgement-free environment? Come join our new monthly acoustic string instrument jam session! Bring your guitar, ukulele, mandolin, banjo, etc. and join together with other like-minded aspiring musicians to share your love of music and song. Location: 3rd Floor Classroom. Registration requested at bit.ly/NRPL_AcousticJam



Traditions of Chinese Acrobatics

Saturday, May 23, 2:00 - 2:45 pm

Li Liu performs amazing acrobatic feats while incorporating Chinese culture and language into her performance! Select volunteers will get to join her on stage too! Fun for the whole family. Location: Ossie Davis Theater

Art Workshop for Adults: Upcycled Spring Collages

Thursday, May 28, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Celebrate spring by using clothing, tags and other small pieces of cardboard to build your own small collages of flowers, and then use them to make a hanging gallery with string and clips. Location: Meeting Room

Chinese Knotting: Threads of Connection

Saturday, May 30, 2:30 - 3:30 pm

Children (ages 8-12), teens and adults are invited to this hands-on, intergenerational craft workshop that introduces participants to traditional Chinese knotting and the symbolism behind it. Location: Community Gallery. Space is limited and tickets are required. Please pick up a ticket in the Children’s Room the morning of the program.

Planning for Emergency Hospitalizations: An Estate Planning Perspective

BY BERNARD A. KROOKS, CERTIFIED
ELDER LAW ATTORNEY
SPECIAL GUEST CONTRIBUTOR:
AMY C. O'HARA, CERTIFIED ELDER LAW
ATTORNEY

No one expects to be hospitalized suddenly. Yet accidents, unexpected illnesses, or medical crises can happen at any time. While we cannot control when emergencies occur, we can prepare for them. From an estate planning perspective, thoughtful preparation for an emergency hospitalization can reduce stress, protect your wishes, and ensure that your loved ones are able to help when you need them most.

Emergency planning is not just for older adults or those with chronic illness. Every adult should have a plan in place that allows trusted individuals to step in quickly if they become unable to communicate or manage their affairs.

Health Care Directives: Your Voice When You Cannot Speak: At the core of emergency planning are health care directives. These documents allow you to legally appoint someone to make medical decisions for you if you cannot make them yourself and provide guidance about your wishes.

A Health Care Proxy designates a trusted person to make medical decisions on your behalf if you are unable to do so. This person should understand your values and be willing to advocate for your wishes, even in stressful situations. It is recommended to name at least one alternate agent in case your primary agent is unavailable.

A Living Will expresses your preferences regarding life-sustaining treatment, such as resuscitation, artificial nutrition and hydration, and mechanical ventilation. While not every situation can be anticipated, providing written guidance helps your health care agent know your wishes.

A HIPAA authorization should also be included. This document allows medical providers to share your health information with the individuals you designate. Without it, even close family members may have difficulty obtaining updates from doctors or hospitals.

Power of Attorney: Managing Financial and Legal Matters: An unexpected hospitalization can also interrupt your ability to manage finances or legal matters. A **Power of Attorney** allows a trusted agent to handle financial tasks such as paying bills, managing accounts, communicating with insurance companies, or handling real estate matters if you are incapacitated.

Without this document, your family may need to pursue a court-appointed guardianship to manage your affairs, which can be time-consuming, costly, and emotionally draining. A properly drafted power of attorney allows someone to step in immediately and keep your financial life running smoothly.

Create an Emergency Information Packet: In addition to legal documents, it is important to assemble a practical emergency

information packet. This packet should be easy to access and shared with key individuals. Consider including the following:

Emergency Contact List: Prepare a list of people who should be contacted in an emergency, including family members, close friends, and professional advisors. Include phone numbers, email addresses, and the order in which they should be contacted. Make sure your designated health care agent is clearly identified.

Medication List: Maintain a current list of all medications you take, including dosages, prescribing physicians, and any allergies. In an emergency, having accurate medication information can be critical to safe treatment. Update this list regularly and keep a copy in your wallet or phone.

Doctor and Medical Provider List: Include contact information for your primary care physician, specialists, therapists, and pharmacy. This helps hospital staff quickly obtain medical history and coordinate care.

Insurance Information: Keep copies of your health insurance cards, Medicare or Medicaid information, and any supplemental policies. Knowing your coverage can help your loved ones navigate billing and coverage issues more easily.

Care for Dependents and Pets: Emer-

gency planning should also address the needs of those who rely on you.

If you care for minor children, older relatives, or individuals with disabilities, create written instructions about their daily routines, medications, and key contacts. Identify who will step in temporarily to provide care if you are hospitalized. While formal legal arrangements may be necessary for long-term care, even short-term planning is invaluable during an emergency.

Do not forget about pets. Identify a trusted friend, neighbor, or family member who can take responsibility for them on short notice. Provide information about feeding schedules, veterinary contacts, medications, and any special needs. Some people include a small emergency fund or written authorization to allow a designated person to obtain veterinary care if needed.

Where to Store and Share Information: Having documents and information prepared is only helpful if they can be located quickly. Store originals of your estate planning documents in a secure but accessible location. Inform your agents and trusted family members where to find them. Consider providing copies to your health care agent and keeping digital versions in a secure, shared folder.

Many people also carry a wallet card not-

ing that they have a health care proxy and listing an emergency contact. Some smartphones allow you to display emergency contacts and medical information on the lock screen.

Review and Update Regularly: Emergency planning is not a one-time task. Review your documents and information at least every few years, or after major life events such as marriage, divorce, relocation, or changes in health. Ensure that the individuals you have chosen as agents are still willing and able to serve.

Preparing for emergency hospitalizations may feel uncomfortable, but it is one of the most thoughtful gifts you can give your loved ones. By putting clear legal documents and practical plans in place, you reduce uncertainty and ensure that your wishes are honored.

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). Mr. Krooks may be reached at (914-684-2100) or by visiting the firm's website at www.littmankrooks.com.

Table Hopping with Morris Gut: Outdoor Farmers Markets Reopen

Get ready for some delicious spring/summer foraging...

THE PELHAM MARKET Opens May 10th. Sundays 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Harmon Ave. & Fifth Ave. Go to Facebook, or www.pelhammarket.org

LARCHMONT FARMERS MARKET, Metro North Station at Chatsworth Ave./Myrtle Blvd., Larchmont. Saturdays, Year round. 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. www.downtoearthmarkets.com

SCARSDALE FARMERS MARKET Sundays, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Spencer Place at Chase Road, near Metro-North station. www.downtoearthmarkets.com

RYE FARMERS MARKET, operates Sundays, 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., Rye parking lot, Theo Fremd Ave. www.downtoearthmarkets.com

WHITE PLAINS FARMERS MARKET, the popular outdoor White Plains Farmers Market is in full swing on Wednesdays, 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. It takes place on Court Street between Martine and Main Streets. www.cityofwhiteplains.com

MUSCOOT FARMERS MARKET Starts May 10. Muscoot Farmers Market, part of Muscoot Farm on Rt. 100 in Ka-

tonah, has reopened for the season. The market operates every Sunday from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. thru November. Free admission. For further info: 914-864-7283, or www.muscotfarm.org

IRVINGTON FARMERS MARKET Year Round. Main Street School Lot, 110 Main St., Irvington. Sundays, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. www.theirvingtonfarmersmarket.org

PLEASANTVILLE FARMERS MARKET It will continue to operate at 10 Memorial Place every Saturday from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Parking at the Metro-North parking lot. www.pleasantvillefarmersmarket.org

MOUNT KISCO FARMERS & MAKERS MARKET Every Sunday starting May 17th thru November. Kirby Plaza near Metro North. 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. www.mkfarmersmarket.com

GOLD SPRING FARMERS MARKET NOW AT BOSCOBEL The popular Cold Spring Farmers Market has moved to the historic Boscobel Estate Museum in Garrison. A lovely setting. It takes place every Saturday from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. www.coldspringfarmersmarket.org

FARMERS MARKET AT JOHN JAY HOMESTEAD John Jay under construc-

tion. The farmer's market will continue to run every Saturday thru November, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. Lot 2, 190 Katonah Ave., Katonah Village. First pick for members. www.johnjayhomestead.org

OSSINING FARMERS MARKET 'Down to Earth' Farmers' Market, corner of Main & Spring Streets, Ossining. Year round, Saturdays, 8:30 to 1 p.m. www.downtoearthmarkets.com

PEEKSKILL FARMERS MARKET, 1 Bank Street, Peekskill. (914-737-2780) The 2023 season will kick off on Saturday, June 6th, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., rain or shine. <https://discoverpeekskill.com>

CHAPPAQUA FARMERS MARKET at the Metro-North Station. Starting Saturday, May 9th. www.chappaquafarmersmarket.org

HUDSON VALLEY FARMERS MARKET, 15 Mount Ebo Road South, Brewster. Year round: Sundays 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

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

Call for Applicants for New Rochelle Municipal Housing Authority Board of Commissioners

Applications are currently being accepted for the New Rochelle Municipal Housing Authority Board of Commissioners (NRMHA) through Friday, May 8, 2026 at 4:30 PM.

The NRMHA is a public agency dedicated to providing safe, affordable housing for low- and moderate-income residents throughout New Rochelle. Established in 1941 under New York State law, the Authority serves as a vital community resource, supporting individuals and families through quality housing and rental assistance programs.

NRMHA manages 100 public housing family units at the Peter Bracey Apartments, located at 345 and 361 Main Street, and administers Housing Choice Vouchers through the federal Section 8 program. In addition, the Authority oversees two senior housing communities: La Rochelle Manor at 111 Lockwood Avenue, with 91 residences, and Queen City Towers at 50 Sickles Avenue, with 112 residences.

Working in partnership with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), NRMHA plays a critical role in expanding access to stable housing, strengthening neighborhoods, and enhancing the overall quality of life for New Rochelle residents.

“Access to safe, stable, and affordable housing is fundamental to a strong and thriving community,” said Wilfredo Melendez, City Manager. “The work of the New Rochelle Municipal Housing Authority ensures that residents of all ages—from families to seniors—have the support they need to live with dignity and security. “We are looking for individuals who are ready to contribute their expertise and passion to help shape the future of housing in the City.”

Role and responsibilities:

The Board of Commissioners is responsible for setting policy, approving budgets, and overseeing the long-term strategic direction of the NRMHA. Key duties include but are not limited to:

- Approving admission policies and rent structures
- Adopting strategic plans for capital improvements
- Ensuring compliance with US. Department of Housing and Urban Development regulations
- Providing financial oversight of annual operating and capital budgets
- Attending public meetings and hearings, and representing the residents and

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New Rochelle Review



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New Rochelle Students Advance to International Science and Engineering Fair

New Rochelle High School seniors Scarlett Hartzman and Carlos Del Aguila have earned a second straight trip to the International Science and Engineering Fair after placing in the top 20 out of 827 competitors at the Westchester Science and Engineering Fair.

They will compete at the international fair in Phoenix, Ariz., May 9-15.

Scarlett's project explored potential travel routes for rovers on Mars and identified geological targets for future human missions to Mars. Carlos's project focused on how a federal food assistance program affects quality of life across the United States.

"I'm extremely grateful and beyond excited to represent New Rochelle High School at ISEF," said Scarlett, who won in the physics and astronomy category. "I love my field of research and hope to one day work in the space industry where I can help bring the first humans to Mars."

Carlos, who won in the behavioral science category, said "ISEF is the greatest opportunity a student can have to not only share their findings, but also to be surrounded by other science-driven students



like oneself. I'm excited to meet and interact with the international community."

New Rochelle Science Research Program Coordinator Erica Curran praised Scarlett and Carlos, the first two New Rochelle students to advance to ISEF two consecutive years.

"Scarlett and Carlos have worked tirelessly for years on their research, and their awards are well deserved," Curran said. "They are both making meaningful

impressive contributions to the body of research in their field. We are so proud that they will be representing New Rochelle High School and our research program."

New Rochelle Science Research sent 48 research students to WESEF, the Westchester Science and Engineering Fair, this year, the highest number in the program's history. In addition, New Rochelle had the

greatest number of students winning first through third place medals, and the greatest number of first place winners of any participating school with five overall.

Scarlett, salutatorian for the Class of 2026, has devoted much of her time in high school to science research and musical pursuits, but she has made time for fun. Among other things, she founded the Crochet Club and the Robotics Club, and participates in the Chess Club. She has also won numerous awards for her science research.

Carlos, who will be the first in his family to attend college, is a Questbridge Scholar and will attend Harvard University to study applied mathematics with a focus on sociology. He is President of New Rochelle High School Student Government.

Trinity Elementary Students Raise and Release Trout

Fourth graders from Trinity Elementary School journeyed to Rockefeller State Park on April 8 to release 125 trout fingerlings into the Pocantico River.

The trip marked the completion of a six-month "Trout in the Classroom" project that saw the students raise the juvenile brown trout from eggs. Along the way, students learned about the life cycle of trout, the need to protect our waterways, and the connection between humans and the ecosystem.

On release day, students from Griselda Pena's class and Terri Agravat's STEAM class were joined by partners at New York State Parks and the New York City Department of Environmental Protection, who helped them acclimate and release the trout.

Students learned about how the trout's needs will be met in their new natural habitat. They also observed macroinvertebrates that the trout eat in the wild, such as caddis fly larvae, scuds, and threadworms.

Now in its seventh year at Trinity Elementary, the Trout in the Classroom program, sponsored by Trout Unlimited, a nationwide not-for-profit dedicated to conservation, teaches students the importance of protecting water quality.

For a period of six months, students help feed the trout and monitor the water quality of the tank. They test levels of pH, ammonia, nitrites, and nitrates in the water and learn about stream ecology, aquatic habitats, watershed protection, trout anatomy and life cycle, and the food chain.

"This amazing first-hand experience allows students to make connections between the trout, the environment, and our precious water resources. It helps to foster a sense of environmental stewardship in our students," said Agravat.

The students were excited and protective of the fingerlings they had raised.

"I think it was so much fun. I learned that the trout need it to be around 50 degrees," said Catherine A. "Hopefully, no one eats my trout."

Idris M. said, "It was fun and different. I liked releasing the fish."

Like a proud parent, Amelia A., declared the fish "really cute."



New Rochelle Public Library Launches Ambitious Plan to Revitalize the Building with a \$55m Bond

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munity for generations to come," said the Library's executive director, Eugenia Schatoff. She went further to say, "I have worked in libraries my entire career because I believe in what they stand for: that knowledge should be free, that opportunity shouldn't depend on where you come from, and that every person in a community deserves a welcoming place to learn and grow."

The New Rochelle Public Library holds a special place in the life of the community so much so that the Library's board listened when the community expressed its desire to preserve the building several years ago.

Today, New Rochelle is experienc-

ing a period of significant growth, with new development rising throughout the area. The Library remains centrally located along the Huguenot Corridor, within walking distance to the Metro-North train station and bus depot, restaurants, and shopping, and is adjacent to Ruby Dee Park—reinforcing its role as a central and accessible gathering place.

Two information sessions will be held at the New Rochelle Public Library to present the plans and answer questions. These will take place on April 16 and April 28. The sessions are free and open to the public. For more information, call (914) 632-7878 or visit www.nrpl.org.

Call for Applicants for New Rochelle Municipal Housing Authority Board of Commissioners

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the broader public interest.

Qualifications:

The City encourages applications from residents or individuals with a strong connection to New Rochelle. Ideal candidates will possess professional expertise in areas such as:

- Property management or real estate development
- Housing policy, finance or accounting
- Legal or governance matters
- Social services and community leadership.

Commissioners should expect a monthly time commitment of 5 to 10 hours for board meetings, committee work and HUD or NY State required training.

How to Apply:

Interested individuals can apply through Friday, May 8 2026 at 4:30 p.m. Applications may be submitted in two ways:

- Online: Complete and submit the digital application form at <https://www.newrochelleny.gov/nrmha>
- In person: Download the paper application and return it to the Office of the City Clerk at City Hall, 515 North Ave, New Rochelle, NY 10801, during business hours (Monday – Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.)

For more information regarding the NRMHA and the Board of Commissioners, visit <https://www.newrochelleny.gov/nrmha>



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