

New Rochelle Review



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IN THIS ISSUE: WW Magazine Fall 2026!

City of New Rochelle Celebrates Opening of Liliana’s Playground at D’Onofrio Park



The Department of New Rochelle Parks & Recreation has announced the recent opening and public donation of Liliana’s Playground at D’Onofrio Park, located between Morgan St and Emmet Terrace. The newly completed, state-of-the-art playground officially opened to the public on July 24 and was fully fund-

ed through a private charitable donation from lifelong New Rochelle residents Lou and Sandy Monteleone; and named after their granddaughter, Liliana.

“This is a historical day for our Parks Department,” said Parks & Recreation Commissioner Vin Parise. “For a funding gift to be this substantial and impactful

for the children of New Rochelle, is truly remarkable. I cannot thank Lou & Sandy Monteleone enough for their generosity and passion for the youth of our city. For a playground structure to be constructed this impressive, without any city tax dollar being used, is a once in a lifetime opportunity!”

In partnership with Gametime Playground Designers and the Parks & Recreation Department, the Monteleone family was involved in every aspect of the project, from the design of the playground to the selection of and play area amenities.

“What started out as a casual conversation with city officials, has now become a dream come true for my family,” said donor Lou Monteleone. “To see all of the smiling faces on the playground when we stop by D’Onofrio Park, could not make me and my wife more proud. We are ecstatic that our granddaughter’s name will forever be linked with a place that will make children happy for many years to

come. I thank Parks Commissioner Vin Parise, Councilman Al Tarantino, Mayor Yadira Ramos-Herbert, and the entire city administration for all of their cooperation and support throughout the process.

“The generosity of the Monteleone Family, for a project of this magnitude in our city, is so special and will forever be linked to this beloved part of D’Onofrio Park,” said City Councilman Al Tarantino.

“We are so grateful to the Monteleone Family for their love of giving back, their commitment to our City of New Rochelle, and for how the love of their granddaughter, will benefit so many New Rochelle families now and in the future,” said Mayor Yadira Ramos-Herbert.

Liliana’s Playground at D’Onofrio Park is now the fifth brand-new playground installed in New Rochelle within the last three years, joining new playgrounds at Maplewood Park, Eddie Foy Park, Sycamore Park and Hudson Park.

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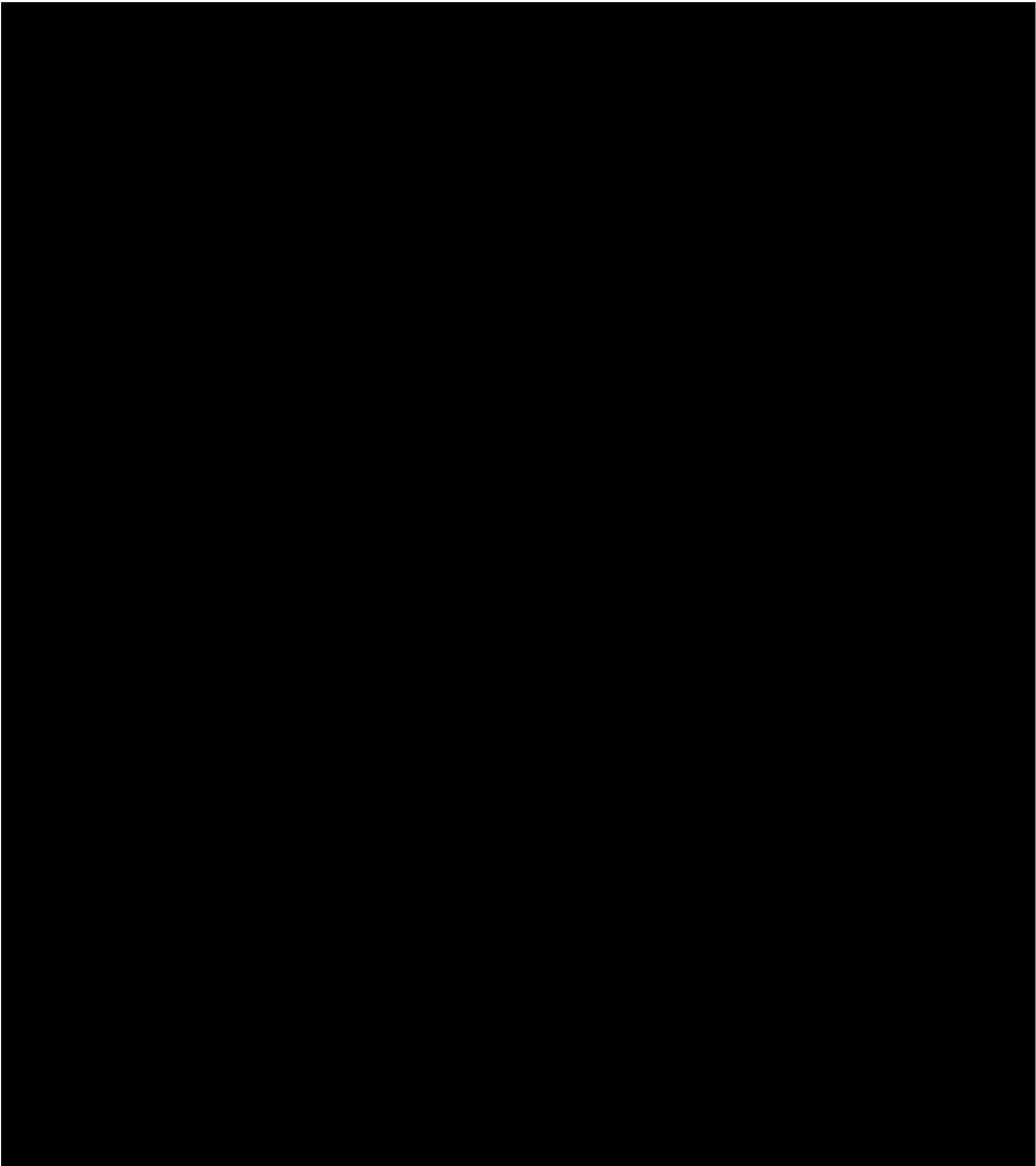
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From the Office of the New Rochelle City Manager



NEW ROCHELLE CITY MANAGER
WILFREDO MELENDEZ

Dear Neighbors,

It's hard to believe we've entered the last 4 months of the year. August was a time for many to squeeze out some of the last bits of fun from the summer, but our City team has been at work ensuring that we close out 2026 delivering essential services, improvements and changes for our residents.

On August 7th, we took a big step in helping students and families get ready to return to the classroom with our Back-To-School Supply Giveaway, in partnership with the Boys and Girls Club of New Rochelle. New Rochelle Youth Bureau staff and some of our Summer Youth Employment Program participants spent days

organizing pens, notebooks, crayons and backpacks to hand out to eager parents and students. And while extreme heat changed plans for staging distributions outside of City Hall, our staffers and volunteers moved the event indoors and successfully handed more than 1,000 donated items. We'd like to thank BGCNR, along with our other community partners and volunteers for helping students get prepared for the new school year.

The week of August 7th also marked the end of another successful year for the City's Summer Youth Employment Program. Led by the New Rochelle Youth Bureau, 500 of New Rochelle's young people ranging from ages 15 – 24 spent the summer working across more than 80 participating sites, developing valuable skills, aiding local businesses and City offices, all while earning a paycheck. This year, SYEP referred 20 youth to additional employment opportunities and increased the level of local businesses participated in the program by 60%. This program is a key investment in the future of our City and we couldn't be prouder to continue providing this opportunity.

Many of you may have noticed the latest development in the ongoing capital improvements at Ward Acres Park. On

August 13th, a groundbreaking ceremony kicked off the construction of the Ward Acres Park Comfort Station. Once completed, the new facility will include two bathrooms and a storage room to help support Parks Department operations and better serve visitors. Since water and sewer service will need to be installed, some temporary lane closures on Quaker Ridge Road will occur. We ask for your patience for any delays associated with this construction, knowing that the result will improve the community asset that is Ward Acres Park.

Last month, we became aware of reports of Immigration and Customs Enforcement activity in New Rochelle. While the City does not oversee or participate in federal immigration actions, we remain committed to ensuring that all residents can continue to access City services without fear and have the opportunity to thrive. I encourage anyone looking to learn more on this subject to visit NewRochelleNY.gov/immigration for additional information and answers to frequently asked questions.

Our City's advisory committees are a key part of our community-driven approach to governance. And in that spirit, we'd like to invite residents to apply for

our new Immigrant Affairs Advisory Committee (IAAC). This new, 9-member committee will serve as a link between City Council and the community, ensuring that New Rochelle remains a welcoming, inclusive and supportive home for residents of all backgrounds. Applicants must be current New Rochelle residents aged 18 or older, should have experience working with immigrant populations, non-profits, legal advocacy or community outreach and able to attend regular committee meetings. You can find out more about the IAAC and apply online by visiting NewRochelleNY.gov/iaac. Applications are due by September 11th.

This September 11th marks 25 years since the attacks the World Trade Center and Pentagon that changed life as we know it. It's hard to believe that much time has passed and there are teens and young adults who only know of the day from books and second-hand accounts. We plan to commemorate this milestone 9/11 anniversary with a special gathering on the Front Lawn at 10 AM here at City Hall and invite you to join us for this moment of community reflection and remembrance.

On Saturday, September 19th, a more festive tradition continues here at City

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Westchester County Executive Ken Jenkins Joins Volunteer New York! to Commemorate The 25th Anniversary of 9/11 Through Countywide Days of Service

To honor the lives lost and forever changed by the events of September 11, 2001, Westchester County Executive Ken Jenkins and Volunteer New York! will host the 16th annual 9/11 Days of Service across Westchester County from Sept. 8-11.

Jenkins said: “The 25th anniversary of Sept. 11 is an opportunity to remember those we lost, honor the heroes who answered the call and elevate the spirit of service that united our nation in the days that followed. Through Westchester County’s 9/11 Days of Service, we invite residents of all ages to come together and carry forward the legacy of compassion and resilience that emerged from one of our country’s darkest days. Every act of service, no matter how small, is a meaningful way to honor those whose lives were forever changed.”

Registration is now open at www.volunteernewyork.org/serve for volunteer opportunities that address local needs, including combating food insecurity and supporting a blood drive with the New York Blood Center. Activities include writing letters to deployed military personnel, packing 50,000 meals, preparing sandwiches and assembling hygiene kits for the unhoused, among other projects hosted at various locations across Westchester County.

Volunteer New York! Executive Director Polly Lagana said: “As our country commemorates the 25th anniversary of 9/11, we are honored to work with the county to make our 9/11 Days of Service the largest volunteer event in our County – open to all. Our community needs volunteerism more than ever, to meet the most critical needs facing our community and to build connection and unity. Resources will be available to inspire and educate our community members on ways they can participate in volunteerism throughout the year.”

Robison is the lead sponsor of this event, with additional support from Empire City Casino by MGM Resorts, 911Day and AmeriCorps, WMC Health, and The Construction Industry Council.

Robison General Manager Shannon Lambert said: “For the 11th year in a row, Robison is proud to support ‘9/11 Days of Service’ day of service in honor



Volunteer New York! Executive Director Polly Lagana

of those whose lives were changed forever by this tragic event. Amidst the catastrophic loss of life, we witnessed heroism and a unified spirit that strengthened our communities and brought out the best in all of us. Service to community is a value at the core of our business, and we thank Westchester County for allowing us to join Volunteer New York! in supporting this important remembrance.”

TAKE ACTION:

Online registration is now open for individuals, groups, schools and families at www.volunteernewyork.org/serve. Several family-friendly volunteer opportunities are available. Advanced registration is required to participate. Projects will take place Sept. 8-11.

2026 9/11 Days of Service EVENT SCHEDULE

www.volunteernewyork.org/serve

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

Yonkers Partners in Education

• YPIE Serves for 9/11 Day (Exclusive to YPIE Students)

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

Iona University

• Youth In Action for 9/11 Day: 4:30 PM – 6 PM

-- Create Laundry Sachets for HOPE Community Services

-- Assemble Hygiene Kits for WestCOP Oasis Emergency Overnight Shelter

-- Pack Snack Bags for the Boys & Girls Club of New Rochelle

-- Create Mindfulness Kits for Cancer Support Community of Greater NY & CT

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

Westchester County Center

• Give Back Together for 9/11 Day: Shifts from 12 PM – 1:30 PM, 2:30 PM – 3:30 PM, and 4:30 PM – 6 PM.

-- Create Scarves for the Westchester Continuum of Care Partnership for the Homeless

-- Create Cards & Activity Pouches for Troops served by United for the Troops

-- Create Laundry Sachets for Lifting Up Westchester

-- Create Mindfulness Kits for Hope’s Door

-- Make Sandwiches with One Sandwich at a Time
-- Donate Blood to the New York Blood Center

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

Monroe University

• Pack 50,000 Meals for 9/11 Day: Shifts from 11 AM – 12:30 PM and 1 PM – 2:30 PM.

About Volunteer New York! Volunteer New York!’s mission is to mobilize our community to address its greatest challenges. We envision a community that is vibrant, resilient, and equitable and see volunteerism and civic engagement as important and powerful strategies to achieve this vision. Volunteer New York! is a one-stop resource devoted to increasing volunteerism in Westchester and our surrounding communities.

Last year, Volunteer New York! helped to inspire more than 40,000 volunteers to take action and to coordinate more than 531,000 hours of service that supported more than 300 nonprofits and local organizations, providing a value of \$20.4 million back to our community.

Volunteer New York!’s Corporate

Champions include: The Journal News & LoHud.com, MasterCard, New York State Power Authority Canal Corporation, Regeneron, Morgan Stanley, M&T Bank, PKF O’Connor Davies, Robison, Webster Bank, Corporate AV, PCSB Community Foundation, WMC Health, Empire City Casino, Million Air, Neuberger, Paraco, RAND, Rethink Capital, UBS Financial Services, and Yankwitz LLP. With additional and ongoing support from U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, the New York State Office for Aging, and the Westchester County Department of Senior Programs and Services.

About 9/11 Day: Founded in 2002, the nonprofit 9/11 Day led the successful effort to establish September 11 as a federally recognized National Day of Service and Remembrance. Each year, tens of millions of Americans observe the day by performing good deeds in honor of those who perished, were injured or sickened; the survivors; the first responders; and all who rose to serve in the aftermath of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. Learn more at 911day.org.

NRPD Executes Search Warrant at Union Avenue Sports Bar; Gambling Devices Seized, Owner Arrested



On Friday, August 21, 2026, at approximately 8:30 PM, members of the New Rochelle Police Department Criminal Investigations Division executed a search warrant at 142 Union Avenue, commonly known as the Union Avenue Sports Bar.

During the search, investigators located a private room in the rear of the establishment containing illicit gambling activity. Four (4) video-style slot machines were seized.

The business will be referred to the New York State Liquor Authority for multiple violations and license review.

ARRESTED:

Gisselle Lopez, 35 years of age, of New Rochelle

CHARGES:

(4) Counts of PL 225.30 – Possession of a Gambling Device, A Misdemeanor

(1) Count of PL 225.05 – Promoting Gambling in the Second Degree, A Misdemeanor

Ms. Lopez was issued a Desk Appearance Ticket returnable on September 1, 2026, and released pending further court action.

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New Rochelle Board of Education Taps Kathryn “Katie” Castellano for Daniel Webster Elementary School Principal

The City School District of New Rochelle (CSDNR) Board of Education has appointed Kathryn “Katie” Castellano as the new principal of Daniel Webster Elementary School. The appointment was made at the Board’s July 28 meeting. Castellano will take the helm at the nearly 500-student Glenmore Drive school for the start of the 2026-2027 school year. She succeeds Melissa Passarelli, who retired in June.



Castellano has an extensive background in elementary education, serving most recently as principal of Roosevelt School in the Ossining Union Free School District. She was previously an assistant principal at Ossining’s Claremont School, an English as a New Language (ENL) Coordinator at P.S. 105, District 11, in the Bronx, and served 17 years as an elementary educator in the New York City Department of Education. Castellano also served a five-year term as a trustee of the City School District Board of Education.

“The collective choice to bring Katie back to New Rochelle as Principal of Webster Elementary is a huge win for our entire community,” said Dr. Corey W. Reynolds, Superintendent of Schools. “We have seen her passion for education firsthand as a Board member. She leads with heart, high expectations, and a relentless drive for student success. I know her leadership will inspire our Webster students to achieve incredible things.”

“New Rochelle is my home, and where I have trusted my own children’s education,” said Castellano. “Daniel Webster is a remarkable school, from its rich Arts and Humanities programs to its strong academic foundation. As principal, my priority is to make sure every child feels seen, supported, and challenged to reach their full potential. I look forward to elevating student, teacher, and family voices as we build upon Webster’s future together.”

Castellano earned an Education Leadership and Teacher Leadership graduate degree from Bank Street College in Manhattan. She holds a Master’s Degree in Childhood Education from Pace University.

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The City of New Rochelle Joins Bloomberg Philanthropies Youth Climate Action Fund

The City of New Rochelle will join Bloomberg Philanthropies’ Youth Climate Action Fund, which will provide capital and capacity to support municipalities in mobilizing young residents ages 15–24 in designing and delivering solutions aligned with citywide sustainability priorities. New Rochelle joins the Youth Climate Action Fund alongside 300 other city halls.

As part of this program, New Rochelle will open innovation competitions, inviting young people’s ideas, selecting the strongest proposals, and provide funding and technical assistance from Bloomberg Philanthropies. Projects will be sponsored by youth-led and youth-supporting organizations who will provide implementation support along with New Rochelle staff from start to finish, helping young residents lead in carrying their plans through to completion—creating public space, strengthening infrastructure, mitigating disasters, and building resilience.

“Solving the climate crisis is all about taking action today to ensure a better tomorrow” said Mayor Yadira Ramos Herbert. “And there are no better hands to empower than those of our young people who will be the future leaders stepping up to take on these challenges. Thanks to Bloomberg Philanthropies, New Rochelle’s youth will have the opportunity to partner with local organizations to build solutions for our City.”

“The Youth Climate Action Fund is helping city halls around the world work alongside hundreds of thousands of young people to take action on city climate challenges and improve their communities,” said Patricia E. Harris, CEO of Bloomberg Philanthropies. “They are showing how local government can be a partner on issues youth and residents care deeply about – and they are building trust along the way. We look forward to expanding on these efforts and inspiring a new generation of

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Gay Rosen

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Joel Kuadugah has always been driven by a passion for learning, creating, and finding solutions that make a difference. Through his work in Stepinac's Susan and Daniel P. Mahoney '67 Engineering Honors Academy, research, and hands-on engineering experiences, he has built a remarkable pathway fueled by curiosity and determination.

As he begins his studies in Biomedical Engineering at Columbia University, Joel is ready to turn today's ideas into tomorrow's innovations.



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OCTOBER 25 & 27



Broadway, Big Dreams, and Cultural Opportunities at Songcatchers

Songcatchers Celebrates Summer of Cultural Exploration and Life Skills



Songcatchers celebrated the culmination of a summer of cultural exploration, music, and life-skills development with a Dress to Impress Lunch at the Bib Gourmand, Maria's Restaurant in New Rochelle. The event provided 41 young participants with a unique opportunity to apply the social skills, cultural awareness, and confidence they developed at the Songcatcher' Summer Music Program.

Made possible through the THRIVE Grant, a partnership between the City of New Rochelle and the New Rochelle Campership Fund and direct funding from the New Rochelle Campership Fund, this multi-faceted program was designed to provide local youth with meaningful experiences that combine arts education, cultural learning, mentorship, and essential life skills.

The summer journey began with learning songs from Aladdin with Songcatchers' Choral Director, Robert Puleo, and discovering the musical traditions and cultural influences represented in the show. Children and Summer Youth Employment workers were introduced to the power of live theater, storytelling, and music by attending a Broadway experience at Disney's Aladdin at the historic New Amsterdam Theatre (see photos) by a charter bus.

The program offered many additional opportunities for participants to experience music in creative and meaningful ways. Certified sound bath technician, Urania Castaneda introduced students to music therapy through an engaging session featuring sounding bowls, giving participants an opportunity to explore the ways sound and music can support relaxation, focus, self-awareness, and well-being.



Students also explored the history of classical music through instruction by Debra Whitman, who introduced them to famous composers and the stories behind their music. These lessons helped participants connect the music they were hearing and performing with the people, cultures, and historical periods that shaped it.

To deepen this exploration, Songcatchers welcomed Armelle Gloaguan of Armelle for Kids, whose "Building Bridges with Music and Languages" program introduced students to Middle Eastern music, dance, and instruments. Through an interactive cultural presentation and live performance, students learned how music can connect people across cultures and create understanding, respect, and community.

The summer experience continued with the Dress to Impress Lunch at Maria's Restaurant with owners Giovanni & Peter Cuccolo, where students utilized the confidence and cultural awareness they gained through music and programming and applied it to important social and professional skills. Participants ages 5-13, along with Summer Youth Employment counselors ages 14-20, participated in an educational dining experience focused on etiquette, communication, and self-confidence.

During the luncheon, students put into practice: How a table is properly set; Dining etiquette and appropriate table manners; How to correctly hold a fork and other utensils; Restaurant etiquette, including using an appropriate indoor voice; The importance of conversation, active listening, and respectful communication; and How confidence and social

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Beyond the Dorm Room Checklist: Legal Planning for College Students

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

Sending a child to college involves more than selecting courses, furnishing a dorm room, and purchasing a meal plan. There are also important legal documents that every family should consider before the semester begins: a power of attorney and a health care proxy.

These documents may seem unnecessary for a healthy young adult, but emergencies are, by definition, unexpected. Once a child turns 18, a parent no longer has automatic legal authority to make decisions or handle matters on the child's behalf. This is true even if the student remains financially dependent on the parents, is covered by their health insurance, or is attending a college for which the parents are paying.

The Legal Significance of Turning 18

Until a child reaches adulthood, parents generally have legal authority to make medical and financial decisions for the child. Once the child turns 18, that authority ends. The student is now an adult in the eyes of the law, and parents may encounter significant obstacles if the student becomes ill, is injured, or is otherwise unable to manage their affairs.

For example, if a college student is hospitalized following an accident, medical providers may be restricted from sharing information with the parents. Similarly, parents may not be able to access the student's bank account, address an insurance issue, communicate with a landlord, or handle another urgent financial matter without proper legal authorization.

Advance directives allow the student to decide, in advance, who should have authority to assist if the need arises.

The Health Care Proxy

A health care proxy permits a student to designate a trusted person, usually a parent or another close family member, to make medical decisions if the student becomes unable to make or communicate those decisions personally. The student remains in control of all medical decisions for as long as the student is able to make them.

The document becomes especially important when a student is unconscious, under anesthesia, seriously injured, or experiencing a medical or mental health crisis that affects the student's ability to communicate. The designated health care agent can speak with physicians, review treatment options, and make decisions based on the student's wishes.

The student should discuss personal values and preferences with the selected agent. Although no family wants to contemplate a serious medical emergency, a brief conversation beforehand can provide invaluable guidance during a crisis.

A separate authorization permitting the re-

lease of protected health information may also be advisable. This can help parents obtain information and communicate with health care providers even when the student remains capable of making medical decisions.

The Power of Attorney

A power of attorney addresses financial and legal matters rather than medical decisions. Through this document, the student appoints an agent to act on the student's behalf.

Depending on the authority included in the document, the agent may be able to communicate with financial institutions, access accounts, address insurance claims, sign documents, handle housing matters, pay bills, file tax returns, or resolve other administrative problems. This can be particularly useful if the student is studying far from home, traveling abroad, or temporarily unable to manage these matters because of an illness or injury.

Signing a power of attorney does not prevent the student from continuing to control their own finances. It simply gives another trusted person the legal authority to assist when necessary. The document can also be revoked or revised while the student has legal capacity.

Choosing the Right Agents

The individuals selected under these documents should be trustworthy, responsible, and willing to act. A student may appoint the same person under both documents or choose different people for medical and financial matters. It is also wise to name a successor in case the first person is unavailable.

The documents should be prepared and signed before the student leaves for college. Copies should be provided to the appointed agents, and the student should know how to access them electronically. Because state laws differ, families should consult an attorney about the appropriate documents, particularly when the student attends college outside the student's home state.

A Simple Step That Can Prevent a Crisis

A health care proxy and power of attorney do not take independence away from a college student. To the contrary, they allow the student to decide who may help and what authority that person will have.

Most families will never need to use these documents. If an emergency occurs, however, having them in place can mean the difference between obtaining immediate assistance and facing delay, uncertainty, or even a court proceeding. Preparing advance directives should therefore be viewed as a routine part of getting ready for college, along with registering for classes, arranging housing, and packing for the semester.

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. Call 914-684-2100 or visit the firm's website at www.littmankrooks.com.

Broadway, Big Dreams, and Cultural Opportunities at Songcatchers

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skills help create positive first impressions.

The experience was about more than learning which fork to use or how to sit at a table. It gave participants an opportunity to see themselves in new environments, engage with others respectfully, and understand how confidence and cultural awareness can open doors to future opportunities.

The program also provided a valuable connection to the New Rochelle Youth Bureau's Summer Youth Employment Program, which helped support the participation and development of young people throughout the summer. Songcatchers worked with the Youth Bureau under the direction of Ariana Barrios, a former Songcatchers participant, and Jennifer Lanser, Executive Director. The involvement of young adults in the program created opportunities for leadership, mentorship, and professional development while allowing former participants to help inspire the next generation.

For Songcatchers, the connection to Ariana Barrios is especially meaningful. Her journey from Songcatchers participant to a leader working with young people reflects the lasting impact that arts, mentorship, and community-based programming can have on a young person's life.

By combining music, Broadway theater, cultural education, music therapy, composer studies, mentorship, employment experiences, and practical life skills, Songcatchers' summer programming demonstrated the value of creating opportunities that support the whole child. Participants were encouraged to explore new cultures, express themselves through music, build relationships, and develop skills they can carry into school, the workplace, and their communities.

For the young people who took part, the summer offered a reminder that big dreams can begin with small opportunities: learning a new song, experiencing live theater for the

first time, discovering the story of a great composer, experiencing the calming power of sound, meeting someone from another culture, or gaining the confidence to walk into a restaurant and know how to conduct themselves with poise.

Songcatchers is grateful to the City of New Rochelle and the New Rochelle Campership Fund for supporting this programming through the THRIVE Grant; to the New Rochelle Youth Bureau for its partnership through the Summer Youth Employment Program; and to the many teaching artists, mentors, counselors, and community partners who contributed their time and expertise.

Together, these partnerships helped create a summer filled with discovery, creativity, cultural understanding, leadership, and opportunity—giving New Rochelle's young people experiences they can carry with them long after the summer ends.

About Songcatchers

Songcatchers is dedicated to enriching the lives of children and families through music, education, cultural exploration, and community engagement. Through accessible programming and meaningful experiences, Songcatchers helps young people develop their talents, broaden their perspectives, and build the confidence and life skills needed to reach their full potential.

Songcatchers' work is made possible through the generous support of ArtsWestchester, the Westchester County Board of Legislators, and the New York State Council on the Arts (NYSCA), with support from Governor Kathy Hochul and the New York State Legislature, including local State Assembly representatives. These public and community arts partnerships help Songcatchers continue providing meaningful music and cultural opportunities to children, families, and young people throughout the community.

From the Office of the New Rochelle City Manager

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Hall with our 13th Annual New Rochelle Street Fair. In what's become a great tradition, vendors food trucks and families will fill North Avenue and Hamilton Avenue from 11 AM – 5 PM for a day filled with music, laughs and fun. We'd love for you to come and be a part of the fun.

With all of these developments out of City Hall, we also want to make sure you're aware of all the ways to connect with us. 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 Google Play Store, is also a great tool to let us know about any

non-emergency concerns in your neighborhood. Our City social media accounts on Facebook, Instagram and X are great resources to find out what's happening and share your thoughts. And my monthly City Manager Update, available at NewRochelleNY.gov/citymanager, will give you more insight into the City's initiatives, projects, and programs.

As we keep working for you and our City, we welcome any feedback and all feedback. 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.

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civic leaders.”

At a time when participation in public life has thinned, the results from the first wave of Youth Climate Action Fund cities point to a new approach. Survey research of the program’s youth participants showed that their trust in local government leadership rose from 61% to 83%—a 22 percentage point increase—while confidence in their own ability to address environmental challenges increased from 65% to 90%. Nearly three in four youth said their city hall values their input on climate policy—one of the issues they care most about.

Participating local governments also changed how they work. More than half established new, formal structures—such as youth councils, advisory boards, and participatory budgeting processes—to sustain young people’s engagement. 43% embedded youth input into long-term strategies and policies, while roughly 40% created dedicated staff roles. Nearly all report plans to expand the effort.

As part of the Youth Climate Action Fund, Mayor Ramos-Herbert has launched an open call for new and ambitious climate efforts led by young people.

Young residents ages 15 - 24 years are encouraged to visit the EngageNR.com/YCAF to learn more about the Youth Climate Action Fund, supported by Bloomberg Philanthropies, and how to submit ideas for the opportunity to receive funding.

To date, more than 300,000 young people across five continents have taken part in the Bloomberg Philanthropies Youth Climate Action Fund—working with their city halls to create over 1,600 green spaces, plant over 1.8 million plants and 235,000 trees, develop nearly 5,000 gardens, launch 268 composting stations, and collect more than 405,000 pounds of trash and recyclables—producing visible improvements in their communities and bettering quality of life for residents worldwide. As part of Bloomberg Philanthropies’ longstanding work to strengthen local state capacity through its Government Innovation program, the Fund also provides municipalities and their mayors with a model that extends beyond climate—galvanizing partnership with stakeholders citywide to advance progress on pressing problems—and opportunities—for the people they serve.

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Calendar of Events



Lykke Li
Wednesday, September 16, 2026, 7 p.m.
The Grace Rainey Rogers Auditorium
The Met, Fifth Avenue, 1000 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10028
Fifteen years after Lykke Li first topped charts with her hit song “I Follow Rivers,” the Swedish star has officially entered her “existential era” with her latest album, *The Afterparty* (2026). Join Li for a special performance that brings *The Afterparty* to life in a one-of-a-kind setting. Don’t miss this dreamy evening of lush soundscapes,

electric beats, and a singular voice’s exploration of the human psyche’s inner darkness. Ticket Prices: \$35–\$130. Visit <https://engage.metmuseum.org/events/metlivearts/2026-27-season/lykke-li/>



Free Fall Compost Giveaway
Wednesday, Sept. 16 – Croton Point Park, Croton-on-Hudson | 4 to 7 p.m.
Tuesday, Sept. 22 – Sprout Brook DEF Facility, Cortlandt | 4 to 7 p.m.
Wednesday, Sept. 30 – Household Material Recovery Facility, Valhalla | 4 to 7 p.m.
Saturday, Oct. 3 – Harrison Train Station, Harrison | 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Residents interested in purchasing compost bins or rain barrels must place their orders in advance and pick them up on Wednesday, Sept. 30, from 4 to 7 p.m. at the Household Material Recovery Facility, 15 Woods Road, Valhalla. Due to limited quantities, registration is required for all events. Residents must register online for a specific time slot to receive compost. Registration can be completed at: <https://environment.WestchesterCountyNY.gov/residential-compost-distribution-events>. Each registered resident will receive two one-cubic-foot bags of compost.. DEF staff will be on-site to verify registration and load pre-bagged compost into vehicles.



Hike Ward Pound Ridge
Please join Senators Shelley Mayer and Pete Harckham in partnership with Westchester County Parks for their annual guided hike at Ward Pound Ridge Reservation on Saturday, September 19 from 10 am to noon. The 1.2-mile hike will take approximately 1.5 hours to complete. The hike will launch from Meadow parking lot at 10am. The parking lot is located off Reservation Road, Pound Ridge. This is a free naturalist-guided hike of the River Trail. Registration is required: tinyurl.com/2026SenateHike For questions, contact Senator Harckman’s office at 914-241-4600 or email doody@nysenate.gov

Events at the New Rochelle Public Library



Find Your Balance with Tai Chi & Qi Gong
Tuesdays, September 1, 8, 15, 22, 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



The Balaboosta Chef (Online/ Virtual Program)
Tuesday, September 1, 6:30 - 7:30 pm
Get ready for the holidays with an engaging virtual cooking demonstration. “The Balaboosta Chef” shares recipes, tips, and techniques to help you cook with confidence and create memorable meals for family and friends. Location: Virtual. Registration is required at bit.ly/Balaboosta_Sep2026



Open Sewing
Wednesdays, September 2, 16, 23, 30, 10:30 am - 1:00 pm
Wednesday, September 9, 12:30 - 3:00 pm
The New Rochelle Public Library offers experienced sewists use of our 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



Knitting Club
Fridays, September 4, 25, 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

Brown Bag Book Club: LAS MADRES by Esmeralda Santiago
Tuesday, September 8, 12:00 - 1:30 pm
A librarian-led book discussion. Newcomers welcome. A supply of the book to be discussed is available to borrow from the first floor hold shelf. Drop in. Location: 2nd Floor Meeting Room

Open Play Mah Jongg
Thursdays, September 10, 17, 24, 1:00 - 3:00 pm
This program is for experienced Mah Jongg players - it is not an instructional class. Please be sure to bring your card, and a set if you have one. Invite your friends to join you. Location: Meeting Room . Registration is requested at bit.ly/MahJongg_Sep2026

Acoustic String Open Jam Session
Saturday, September 12, 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 is requested at bit.ly/Acoustic_Sep2026



Carlos Pavan in Concert
Sunday, September 13, 3:00 - 4:00 pm
Celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month with Music! Enjoy an enchanting classical guitar recital by Brooklyn-based composer Carlos Pavan, who blends the vibrant rhythms of Argentine tango and folklore with classical and jazz influences. Location: Ossie Davis Theater. Registration is requested at https://bit.ly/Pavan_Sep2026

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