

New Rochelle Review



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YOUR NEW COMMUNITY GUIDE IS HERE!

PRIVATEERS, LONG ISLAND SOUND AND THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION: *A Conversation with Author Eric Jay Dolin and Captain Donald Peacock, of the Lynx*

Pirates vs. privateers—what is the difference between these mariners and what do they have to do the American Revolution? These questions will be answered by best-selling author Eric Jay Dolin and Captain Donald Peacock, when they take the stage of the Hommocks Middle School on Thursday, October 15th at 6:30 for a conversation focused on Privateers, Long Island Sound and the American Revolution. The free program is suitable for middle, high school and college students and adults, and is sponsored by the Westchester County Historical Society and Revolutionary Westchester 250 (RW250), in cooperation with the Mamaroneck School District.



The Lynx

Author and historian Eric Jay Dolin will introduce his award-winning book, *Rebels at Sea: Privateering in the American Revolution*, and demonstrate how the rag-tag assembly of ships that constituted America's first navy was critical in winning our nation's independence. Armed with cannons, swivel guns, muskets, and pikes, as well as government certification to seize enemy ships, scores of privateers successfully commandeered British ships out on the Atlantic Ocean and closer to shore. Dolin relates tales of daring maneuvers and deadly encounters and presents the American Revolution as we have rarely seen it before.

Captain Donald Peacock will share

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Cocktails & Conversation with Emily Franklin, author of *Love and Other Monsters*

Most of us know the classic horror story *Frankenstein* but what about the real-life scandal behind its creation?

From the bestselling author of *The Li-oness of Boston* comes **LOVE & OTHER MONSTERS**, historical fiction based on the true story of Claire Clairmont, Mary Shelley's forgotten stepsister, who forever changed the course of literature. This is the origin story of *Frankenstein* that hasn't been told. BookPage calls it "a burning tale that does not make its readers wait for the payoff—indeed, nearly every page drips with juicy details."

Author Emily Franklin will return to New Rochelle to spill the tea on what really happened when she sits down with author/moderator Amy Bass for Cocktails & Conversation, the New Rochelle Public Library Foundation's popular series, on Thursday, October 29th.

Cocktails & Conversation with Em-

ily Franklin will take place at Alvin & Friends Restaurant (14 Memorial Plaza, NR) 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=96>

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 *Love & Other Monsters* will be available for purchase and signing on site from J Anderson's Books in Larchmont.

Described as Maggie O'Farrell's *Hamnet* meets Jane Austen's *Pride & Prejudice*, Emily Franklin's new book is an in-

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From the Office of the New Rochelle City Manager



NEW ROCHELLE CITY MANAGER
WILFREDO MELENDEZ

Dear Neighbors,

The sun is setting earlier and the temperatures are starting to drop. With only 3 months left in 2026 it'd be easy to fall into a lull, but our team here at City Hall are focused on continuing the work of making New Rochelle a great place to live.

One of our major focuses here at City Hall is to be responsive to the feedback we're receiving from our residents. We've received some complaints around some quality-of-life concerns around pet waste, rodent issues and refuse in parts of our City. During City. During our September 8th Committee of the Whole City Council meeting, my office proposed a number of code changes to address sani-

tation and property maintenance issues. Our City isn't unique in facing the problems presented by rodents, pet waste and improperly stored refuse but our team is committed to a multi-pronged approach incorporating education, enforcement and collaboration with residents to help alleviate the issues. We'll be holding a public hearing on this matter on October 13th and invite you to come share your thoughts.

With the school year fully underway, keeping New Rochelle's students safe a priority. This Summer, Governor Hochul signed a bill establishing a school speed zone camera demonstration program into law. As part of the program, our city will be authorized to set up and operate speed cameras in three school zones on Webster Avenue, Weyman Avenue and Quaker Ridge Road. This is just one step in keeping school zones and surrounding communities safe, as our traffic team will also be collecting data on other school zones to be included into the speed camera program. A public hearing on the school speed zone camera program will also be held on October 13th at 7 PM and we welcome your feedback.

September brought a lot of rain to New Rochelle, with extreme flooding happening in some of our neighboring

Westchester communities. Knowing that some of these extreme weather events are happening with increasing frequency, our Department of Public Works team has been hard at work on Stormwater Mitigation projects. One of those projects, the Sheldrake Culvert Replacement Project, is aimed at addressing potential flooding north of Quaker Ridge Road. By replacing existing infrastructure at the southernmost point of the Sheldrake River, the goal is to increase water conveyance of the river to prevent cresting and flooding for surrounding neighborhoods. Our teams have a number of 'mini-drainage' projects targeting localized trouble spots for flooding. While these projects may be smaller in scope, they're important in continuing our goals of replacing aging infrastructure and mitigating flooding issues facing residents and homeowners.

Budget season is in full swing here at City Hall. All of our departments have met with the Finance Department and submitted operating budget requests. The Proposed Budget will be submitted to the City Council by the end of this month, with Proposed 2027 Budget presentations going before City Council at the November 10th Committee of the Whole meeting and the November 17th Regular Legislative

Meeting. The proposed budget will be the subject of a public hearing on December 1st before the City Council votes to adopt the 2027 Budget on December 8th.

September 11th marked 25 years since the day that changed our nation. This year, the front lawn of City Hall played host to Remembrance Ceremony to honor those we lost on that fateful Tuesday morning, as well as the people who have passed in the following years due to 9/11-related illnesses. The program was kicked off by a Presentation of Colors by the New Rochelle Fire Department and New Rochelle Police Department, the singing of the National Anthem by students from New Rochelle High School's PAVE program, followed by a reading of the names of firefighters, law enforcement, military service members, as well as New Rochelle residents and alumni. I'm incredibly grateful to everyone who joined us for the solemn day of reflection.

October is shaping up to be a busy month in New Rochelle, with plenty of opportunities to get out and enjoy the fall. Parks & Recreation has a full slate of events planned will host Views & Brews at Hudson Park on October 3rd, while the "Taste of "series continues throughout the month. We'll also celebrate Halfway to

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46 Years of Music: A Whole New Sound for Summer

More than 46 years ago, Sister Beth Dowd, OSU, began a Songcatchers tradition: a sleepaway Choir Camp where children came together through music, friendship, and community.

This summer, Songcatchers carried that tradition forward with Camp Songcatchers, an expanded overnight camp combining music and performing arts with adventure, sports, creativity, and summer fun.

Held August 2–8 at Camp Eagle Hill in Elizaville, NY, near Rhinebeck, the weeklong camp included choir, drama, dance, and instrumental music, along with swimming, boating, fishing, archery, rock climbing, gymnastics, arts and crafts, go-karts, basketball, tennis, games, and a camp Olympics.

“Choir Camp was about so much more than singing,” said Karenann Carty, Board President of Songcatchers. “It was about bringing children together, giving them a place to belong, helping them discover their talents, and creating memories. Camp Songcatchers builds on that same spirit and expands it.”

Jennifer Lanser, Executive Director of Songcatchers, added, “Our children have different interests and talents. Some



find their voice through chorus, others through an instrument, drama, dance, art, sports, or simply being with friends. Camp Songcatchers brings those experiences together and gives every child a chance to shine.”

A Week of Music, Adventure and Fun: Throughout the week, campers worked with instructors in music and the performing arts while enjoying traditional camp activities and time with friends.

The week culminated in an art gallery

and capstone family performance featuring chorus, instrumental music, and Songcatchers’ production of Disney’s *The Princess and the Frog*, complete with simple costumes and choreographed dances.

Funding from the New Rochelle Campership Fund, New York State Council on the Arts (NYSCA), and gener-

ous donors helped keep tuition affordable at \$595 for the week for each camper some of whom received scholarships. Songcatchers is also grateful to the family owners of

Camp Eagle Hill for their support.

Continuing Sister Beth’s Vision:

While the camp has a new name and expanded format, its purpose remains rooted in Sister Beth’s belief that music and the arts can bring young people together and help them grow.

“Sister Beth started this tradition 46 years ago. Camp Songcatchers gives today’s children the opportunity to carry it forward,” said Ariana Barrios who helped run the camp and was a camper since she was 7 years old.

The Music Continues: Songcatchers’ After School Music Program begins at the end of September, offering children ages 7–13 affordable weekly instrumental music instruction.

Community members interested in volunteering to teach music lessons, can call (914) 654-1178.

Boys & Girls Club of New Rochelle Putting Youth at the Center of Public Policy at Oct. 24 Leadership Forum

Youths and young adults from New Rochelle and across Westchester County will channel their experiences and ideas into recommendations for real-world change when the Boys & Girls Club of New Rochelle hosts its inaugural Youth Leadership & Policy Forum on Saturday, Oct. 24.

Held from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Boys & Girls Club’s Remington Clubhouse, 1 Remington Place in New Rochelle, youths will identify issues affecting their lives and communities, collaborate on solutions and develop actionable policy recommendations to present to elected officials and community leaders. Youths and young adults from ages 14 to 24 are invited to be heard at the forum and can register at this link: <https://bit.ly/4dlbHXH>

“Young people have cogent, strategic ideas about the opportunities and challenges facing their schools, neighborhoods, communities and future, and those ideas deserve to be heard,” said Becky Mazzanobile, CEO of the Boys & Girls Club of New Rochelle. “This forum gives them more than a seat at the table; it gives them an opportunity to shape the conversation. We want youths to know that their voices matter, that their ideas can inspire change and that they have the power to frame the future they want to see.”

The forum’s theme is “Your Voice. Your Policy. Our Future.” Officials scheduled to

attend include Congressman George Latimer; representatives from the New Rochelle and Westchester County youth bureaus; City School District of New Rochelle Superintendent Dr. Corey W. Reynolds; Mamaroneck Schools Superintendent Dr. Charles Sampson; New York State Sens. Shelley Mayer and Nathalia Fernandez; Assemblywoman Amy Paulin; Assemblyman Steve Otis; Westchester County Legislators Terry Clements and Judah Holstein; New Rochelle Mayor Yadira Ramos-Herbert; City Council members Martha Lopez-Hanratty and David Peters; and a representative from the Westchester County Executive’s Office. They will be asked to consider legislative or policy action aligned with youths’ recommendations.

Policy discussions will focus on issues including civic engagement and youth voice; artificial intelligence, social media and digital citizenship; mental health and student wellness; education and college readiness; workforce development and career pathways; community safety and belonging; environmental sustainability; and financial literacy and economic opportunity.

The forum advances the Boys & Girls Club’s broader commitment to helping young people develop the confidence, skills and opportunities to become leaders in their communities. Learn more at BGCNR.org.

Cocktails & Conversation with Emily Franklin, author of *Love and Other Monsters*

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tense and propulsive story of love, lust, art and betrayal. Set in the stormy summer of 1816, the book introduces us to the famous young writers who gathered at a mansion on the shores of Lake Geneva, Switzerland: Brilliant Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley, her fiery fiancé Percy Shelley, the famously promiscuous Lord Byron, and -- at the group’s center -- Claire Clairmont, Mary’s 18-year-old stepsister. Together this gathering of Romantics changes the course of literature – but somehow Claire finds herself erased from the story. Author Emily Franklin once again brings a woman and her world vividly to life.

Emily Franklin is the bestselling author of twenty-five books including *The Lioness of Boston*, based on the life of trailblazer Isabella Stewart Gardner, now in its eleventh printing and recently featured

as a clue on Jeopardy! Her work has been published in *The New York Times*, *The Boston Globe*, *The Kenyon Review*, and *The Journal of the American Medical Association*, among many other places, as well as featured and read aloud on National Public Radio and named notable by the Association of Jewish Libraries. She grew up half in the UK and half in Boston where she lives now with her spouse and four children.

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*.

From the Office of the New Rochelle City Manager

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Earth Day on October 22nd, welcome the replica Revolutionary schooner The Lynx to Hudson Park as part of America 250 on October 17th, and enjoy an ArtsFest 4-day activation from the New Rochelle Council on the Arts from October 15th through October 18th. We’ll also look forward to the Mayor’s State of the City address at JCC Westchester on October 27th. For a full list of upcoming events, visit www.NewRochelleNY.gov/events

This column is just one of many ways our City Hall team works to stay connected with you. Our NewRo Alert system at <http://www.newrochelleny.gov/newroalert> lets you receive calls, texts and/or email updates from our Public Information office. We continue to monitor non-emergency concerns and requests through our MobileNR app, available on the Apple App Store Google Play Store and our City social media accounts on Facebook, Instagram and X are great resources to find out what’s happening and share your thoughts. And be on the lookout for my monthly City Manager Update, available at NewRochelleNY.gov/citymanager, to keep up with 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.

Development Commissioner Salgado Discusses Davenport Neck Zoning at City Council Meeting

BY STEPHEN E. LIPKEN

New Rochelle Mayor Yadira Ramos-Herbert convened the September 15th City Council meeting which included Bond Resolutions amounting to \$100,000 to finance the rehabilitation and replacement of trees and implementation of the Community Forest Management Plan; \$1,510,310 to finance construction of various City roads and streets, including the City-Wide Traffic Calming Program and Complete Streets Improvements at Pinebrook Boulevard, Lincoln and Webster Avenues.



An Ordinance amending Chapter 312, Vehicles and Traffic of the City Code was passed, establishing a School Speed Zone in front of Salesian High School on Main Street.

Other Resolutions encompassed approving the appointment of Carol Ann Jordan to the Board of Ethics, reappointing Caterina Massaregli to the Board of Assessment Review and appointing Councilman Shane A. Osinloye as a Representative of the City Council to the New Rochelle Business Improvement District (BID).

Adam Salgado, Commissioner, Department of Development began discussion of Davenport Neck Zoning. Salgado said that residents representing the Homeowners Association (HOA) raised many issues regarding density, traffic, access, resiliency and treatment of individual properties.

“As a part of that review, we are going to determine in any refinements that are necessary and what those refinements will be to the process. There is no action tonight. We will come back to Council with the zoning recommendations from comments that we heard. The timing of that will really depend on our initial review,” Salgado stated.

Councilman Albert Tarantino added that there were hundreds of people at the September 8th Public Hearing and that 99% were opposed to the project. He indicated that the City went door-to-door, talking to residents, getting input almost from a home-by-home basis.

“One of the things that came out over and over again was concern about higher density toward single residential areas,” Tarantino remarked. “Nobody is opposing building on those properties.

I think the concern is about the density area in certain areas. Tarantino recommended that City staff conduct “a robust consultation with the neighborhoods” while considering the proposal.

A Conversation with Author Eric Jay Dolin and Captain Donald Peacock, of the Lynx

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his nautical experiences as the captain of Lynx, a square topsail schooner that is a replica of an 1812 American privateer of the same name. Lynx is similar to the vessels that plied the Long Island Sound during the American Revolution. Dolin and Peacock will reveal the courageous endeavors of New England’s mariners and address questions posed by Hommocks Middle School students.

“Residents of the Sound shore communities may be surprised to learn that the American Revolution took place right in their own communities, beginning with significant events leading up to the October 28th Battle of White Plains,” said Barbara Davis, Executive Director of the Westchester County Historical Society. “250 years later, we have the opportunity to learn about heroic actions of the privateers and residents and actually ex-

perience it through living history experiences.”

The tall ship Lynx will be docked in New Rochelle’s Echo Bay from October 14–October 18, 2026, almost precisely 250 years after nearly 10,000 British and Hessian troops encamped in New Rochelle, many landing on Davenport Neck. Free public tours of Lynx will be available on Saturday, October 17, from 10:00 am–4:00 pm, with parking in New Rochelle’s Hudson Park. The Privateers, Long Island Sound and the American Revolution program and the ship’s visit are among multiple events under the umbrella of “Revolution on the Sound!”, made possible by Revolutionary Westchester 250 (RW250), Sound Shore municipalities, and historical organizations. Details and a full schedule of all activities can be found at <https://www.rw250.org/revolution-on-the-sound>.

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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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A Lasting Tribute to Congresswoman Nita M. Lowey

Westchester County honored the extraordinary life, leadership and legacy of Congresswoman Nita M. Lowey with the dedication of the United States Congresswoman Nita M. Lowey Community Green at Kensico Dam Plaza.

For more than three decades, Lowey served the people of Westchester County in the United States House of Representatives, earning a reputation as a tireless advocate for the communities she represented and a powerful voice on behalf of families, children, environmental protection, health care, education and critical federal investments.

Westchester County Executive Ken Jenkins said: "Nita Lowey dedicated her life to public service and to making life better for the people she represented. Her impact can be seen and felt throughout Westchester County, not only in the investments and initiatives she championed, but in the example she set as a leader of integrity, compassion and determination. It is fitting that this beautiful public space at Kensico Dam Plaza now carries her name and will serve as a lasting reminder of an extraordinary public servant and an extraordinary Westchester resident."

New York State Assemblywoman Amy Paulin said: "Congresswoman Nita Lowey was an extraordinary public servant and a true role model for all of us in public life. I always admired her intelligence and integrity, as well as her ability to work across the aisle to get things done. She was always available and accessible to me and the people who needed her, which was truly appreciated. She was deeply committed to the ideals of public service and to making a difference in the lives of the people she represented, which are values I've always tried to embrace in my own work. Nita was a role model for women in politics, and really for all elected officials. It is wonderful to see her legacy honored with the Nita M. Lowey Community Green, a fitting tribute to a remarkable woman."

New York State Assemblyman Steve Otis said: "For those of us Nita represented, she served with determination and dedication, fighting for critical funding for New York State and successfully bringing in resources regardless of who held the majority in the House. To the nation, Nita will always be remembered as a trailblazing leader whose skill and effective service brought breakthrough after breakthrough to benefit the environment, women's rights, education, childcare, and public health. We honor Nita and recognize her special place in American history with this dedication today."

Congresswoman Nita M. Lowey's District Director Patricia Keegan said: "Thank you to Westchester County Executive Ken Jenkins and the Westchester County Board of Legislators for dedicating this beautiful site as the Congresswoman Nita M. Lowey Community Green. Throughout her 32 years in the House of Representatives, Nita set a high standard for public service. She listened to her constituents' concerns, helped solved their problems and partnered with them to make our communities even better places to live, work and play. May the Community Green - a free, accessible park for celebrations of our country's democracy and our residents' cultures as well as quiet walks at every season of the year - inspire all of us to carry on her work of helping our neighbors and protecting our democracy."

Lowey represented parts of Westchester County in Congress from 1989 through her retirement in 2021. During her 32 years in the House of Representatives, she rose to become Chairwoman of the House Appropriations Committee, becoming the first woman in congressional history to hold the position. She died March 15, 2025.

Throughout her career, Lowey fought to bring federal resources home to Westchester and the region while championing issues of national and international significance. Her leadership helped strengthen local communities, protect the environment, support public transportation, expand access to health care and education, and improve the lives of children and families.

The dedication ceremony drew hundreds of attendees, including elected officials from every level of government, family members, friends and residents whose lives were touched by Congresswoman Lowey's decades of public service. Among those in attendance was former President Bill Clinton, who joined the community in honoring her extraordinary legacy.



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National Merit Semifinalist Named

New Rochelle High School senior **Justin Binu Daniel** has been named a semifinalist in the 2027 National Merit Scholarship competition, placing him among the nation’s top academic achievers.

Daniel was among 16,000 semifinalists out of 1.2 million high school juniors who entered the 2027 scholarship contest by taking the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. These academically talented high school seniors have an opportunity to continue in the competition for about 6,700 National Merit Scholarships worth approximately \$24 million that will be offered next spring.

“I was surprised to be named a semifinalist due to how competitive the program is,” Daniel said, adding that he “studied a lot” to prepare for it.

As for his parents, Daniel said they were excited by the news but focused more on the work he did to become a semifinalist than the accomplishment itself.

Daniel said he would like to study mechanical engineering in college because he likes solving problems. A member of the high school’s Wind Symphony, Daniel also helps run the Model United Nations Club, mentors underclassmen in the Ignite Program, and tutors and volunteers through honor societies.

To become a finalist the semifinalist and a high school official must submit a detailed scholarship application, in which they provide information about the semifinalist’s academic record, participation in school and community activities, demonstrated leadership abilities, employment, and honors and awards received. A semifinalist must have an outstanding academic record throughout high school, be endorsed and recommended by a high school official, write an essay, and earn SAT® or ACT® scores that confirm the student’s earlier performance on the qualifying test.



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New Rochelle High School Musicians Named to All-State

Two New Rochelle High School students have been selected to perform in this year's New York State School Music Association All-State Conference, with two additional students named as alternates

Seniors Jonah Choi (wind ensemble, flute 2) and Penelope Conway (symphony orchestra, violin 2) were selected for the honor, while juniors Campbell Edwards (alto 2, vocal) and Jackson Cavanaugh

(cello) were named alternates. The students were chosen from thousands of applicants statewide based on their top scores during NYSSMA's solo evaluations.

"I was very surprised to be selected as having amazing scores in All State auditions still doesn't guarantee acceptance," said Choi, adding that he was grateful to have achieved one of his greatest aspirations for high school.

"This is a tremendous accomplishment

for our students and a wonderful reflection of the strength of our Performing & Visual Arts Program," said Matthew M. Lucero, director of PreK-12 Performing and Visual Arts. "It also speaks to the dedication of our music teachers in preparing and supporting students as they develop the skills necessary to perform at this level."



L to R: Jonah Choi, Penelope Conway, Campbell Edwards, and Jackson Cavanaugh

Choi credited his music teacher, Scott Byers, with playing a significant role in preparing him for NYSSMA. "The interpretation and intonation skills I acquired by playing roles in very difficult music allowed me to properly open my ears on how to make beautiful music."

The 2026 NYSSMA Winter Conference will take place in Rochester, NY, from December 3-6. It will also feature the invited performance of our NRHS Wind Symphony, making this an especially exciting year for New Rochelle at the NYSSMA All-State Conference.

Lev Goldsmith Sworn In as Student Representative on the Board of Education



New Rochelle High School senior Lev Goldsmith is officially part of the City School District of New Rochelle Board of Education. Goldsmith was sworn in by Board President Makeda Lewis during the Sept. 10 meeting at New Rochelle High School's Linda E. Kelly Theatre. Goldsmith's term is from July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027.

Superintendent Dr. Corey W. Reynolds, who has already met with Goldsmith, congratulated him on his appointment. "I welcome you. It has been a pleasure working with you thus far, and I'm looking for-

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NEW ROCHELLE COUNCIL ON THE ARTS

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OCTOBER 15, 16, 17 & 18
newrochellearts.org

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Going Into Surgery? Make Sure Your Estate Planning Documents Are in Order

New Rochelle Crime Log

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

When preparing for surgery, most people focus on the procedure, recovery, transportation, and post-operative care. Estate planning documents, however, are often overlooked. Whether surgery is routine or serious, it is important to make sure the right people have the legal authority to act for you if you are temporarily unable to make decisions yourself.

Too often, people wait until the day before surgery—or even until they are already in the hospital—to address these issues. A little advance planning can make a significant difference.

Health Care Proxy: One of the most important documents to have before surgery is a Health Care Proxy. This document allows you to appoint someone you trust to make medical decisions for you if you are unable to do so.

Your agent may need to communicate with doctors, consent to treatment, address rehabilitation options, or make other important medical decisions. Choose someone who understands your wishes and can make difficult decisions under pressure. It is also wise to name an alternate agent in case your first choice is unavailable.

Simply telling a spouse, child, sibling, or friend what you would want is not the same as giving that person legal authority to act.

Living Will: A Living Will works together with a Health Care Proxy. While the Health Care Proxy identifies the person who will make medical decisions, a Living Will provides written guidance about your wishes concerning life-sustaining treatment if you cannot communicate.

These may include decisions involving artificial nutrition and hydration, mechanical ventilation, resuscitation, and other medical interventions. Although these can be difficult subjects to discuss, putting your wishes in writing can spare your family from having to guess what you would have wanted during a medical crisis.

Power of Attorney: Medical decisions are only part of the picture. If you are temporarily incapacitated after surgery, someone may also need to handle financial and legal matters.

A properly drafted Durable Power of Attorney can allow your agent to pay bills, communicate with banks and insurance companies, manage property, and handle other financial matters. Many people assume a spouse or adult child automatically has this authority, but that is not always the case.

Without a Power of Attorney, even routine financial matters can become difficult. In more serious situations, the lack of proper planning can result in the need for a costly guardianship proceeding.

Review Your Will, Trusts and Beneficiary Designations: Surgery is also a good reminder to review your Will and any trusts. Ask whether they still reflect your wishes and whether the people named as Executor or Trustee remain the right choices. Consider whether there have been marriages, divorces, births, deaths, or other significant family changes.

If you have a Revocable Trust, make sure it has been properly funded. Having a trust document is only part of the planning; assets generally need to be properly titled or coordinated with the trust.

You should also review beneficiary designations on retirement accounts, life insurance policies, annuities, and other accounts that pass directly to named beneficiaries. These designations can take precedence over instructions in your Will, so outdated information could unintentionally undermine your overall estate plan.

Don't Wait Until the Last Minute: Perhaps the most important advice is simple: don't wait until the day before surgery to begin estate planning.

Good planning takes time. Your attorney needs to understand your family, assets, goals, and concerns. Documents may need to be drafted or revised, and proper witnessing or notarization may be required.

Waiting until you are already hospitalized can create additional complications, particularly if anesthesia, strong pain medication, or a significant medical event affects your ability to make decisions. A hospital room is rarely the ideal place to make important estate planning decisions.

The better approach is to prepare while you are healthy and able to thoughtfully consider your options.

Plan Before You Need the Documents: Most surgeries go as planned, but preparing for the unexpected is an important part of protecting yourself and your family.

Before undergoing surgery, make sure your Health Care Proxy, Living Will, Power of Attorney, Will, trusts, and beneficiary designations are current. Make sure the people you have appointed understand their roles and know where important documents can be found.

The best time to prepare for an emergency is before there is one.

Bernard A. Krooks, Esq., is a founding partner of Littman Krooks LLP. He was named the 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) and is a past Chair of the Elder Law Committee of the American College of Trust and Estate Counsel (ACTEC). Mr. Krooks may be reached at 914-684-2100 or at www.littmankrooks.com.

ASSAULT

On Sunday, September 6, 2026, at approximately 4:39 a.m., New Rochelle Police Department officers responded to 23 1st Street on a report of a serious domestic assault. Upon arrival, officers learned that the victim, a 31-year-old female New Rochelle resident, had sustained significant injuries to her face and eye after being pistol whipped.

The suspect was identified as Ronald Rashad Givhan, 42, of the Brooklyn, NY. Although initial reports indicated that Givhan was still inside the apartment, officers determined he had fled the scene prior to their arrival. Investigators later confirmed that Givhan was also wanted by the New York City Police Department in connection with a double homicide that occurred in the Bronx in June 2026.

New Rochelle Police Detectives, working collaboratively with the FBI and NYPD, developed investigative leads that directed them to an apartment in Brooklyn, New York. On Monday, September 7, 2026, New Rochelle Detectives, NYPD Detectives, and the FBI located Givhan inside that apartment, he was taken into custody without incident. A firearm was recovered at the scene.

Givhan, who is currently in NYPD custody in connection with the Bronx homicide, will be charged with First Degree Assault charges in New Rochelle. After charges for that crime are formally filed with the Westchester County District Attorney's Office, New Rochelle court dates will be scheduled.

The New Rochelle Police Department extends its appreciation to both the FBI and the NYPD for their assistance and cooperation throughout this investigation.

ARRESTED:

Ronald Rashad Givhan, 42 years of age, of Brooklyn, NY

Formal charges to be filed with the District Attorney on a later date.



CANNABIS ARREST

On Tuesday, September 8, 2025, at approximately 5:25 p.m., New Rochelle Police received a report of a suspicious vehicle parked on North Avenue. The vehicle, a black sedan, was found with a broken passenger-side window and a male leaning into the car. It was initially unclear whether the vehicle had been forcibly entered or whether the individual was attempting to access his own vehicle.

Responding officers made contact with Joseph Fasce, 22 years of age of Yonkers, NY, who stated he was unsure how the window had been broken and produced documentation indicating the vehicle was a rental assigned to him. During the interaction, officers observed in plain view a substantial quantity of marijuana and concentrated cannabis packaging inside the vehicle. The amount visible was significantly above the legal possession limits.

Further investigation revealed that Fasce was in possession of approximately 23 pounds of concentrated cannabis and 4.5 pounds of marijuana. He was detained, stated the cannabis was for personal use, and subsequently arrested.

ARRESTED:

Joseph Fasce, 22 years of age, Yonkers, NY

CHARGES:

New York State Penal Law Sections:

PL 222.40 – Criminal Possession of Cannabis in the 1st Degree – D Felony

PL 222.30 – Criminal Possession of Cannabis in the 3rd Degree – A Misdemeanor

Westchester Parks Foundation Announces 2026 Gala Honorees

Westchester Parks Foundation (WPF) celebrated its 49th Anniversary Parks Are Essential Gala on Wednesday, September 16, 2026, at Glen Island Harbour Club in New Rochelle. The annual event honored individuals and organizations whose leadership, philanthropy and community commitment have helped preserve and enhance Westchester County’s nationally recognized parks system. FOX 5’s Richard Giacovis served as emcee.

Proceeds from the gala support WPF’s mission to invest in, advocate for and enhance Westchester County’s parks, trails and open spaces. The evening also marked the public launch of the Foundation’s year-long 50th Anniversary Celebration, leading up to its milestone anniversary in 2027.

“As we begin celebrating Westchester

Parks Foundation’s 50th anniversary, it is especially meaningful to recognize leaders whose dedication has strengthened our parks and enriched the lives of Westchester residents,” said Seth Mandelbaum, Chair of the WPF Board of Trustees.

2026 Honorees
Lifetime Achievement Award –
Kathleen O’Connor

Kathleen O’Connor was honored for nearly five decades of public service and her leadership in transforming the Westchester County Parks system. Appointed in 2010 as the County’s first female Parks Commissioner, she oversaw more than 260 employees, an \$82 million operating budget and more than 18,000 acres across 50-plus park facilities. During her tenure, she directed more than \$600 million in capital investments

supporting infrastructure, ecological restoration, conservation, biodiversity and expanded recreational programming. She also helped maintain the Parks Department’s national accreditation.

Business Impact Award – RXR

RXR was recognized for its corporate leadership and longstanding support of WPF. The real estate owner, developer and place-maker has supported the Foundation through financial contributions, employee volunteerism, board leadership and sponsorship of key initiatives, reflecting its commitment to vibrant communities and quality public spaces.

Philanthropy Leadership Award – The Romita Family

The Romita Family was honored for its multigenerational commitment to Westchester’s parks and WPF. From Mauro Romita’s early corporate support of Camp Morty to Michael Romita’s leadership and service with the County Parks Commission and WPF Board, and Izzy Romita’s current volunteer involvement, the family has demonstrated a lasting dedication to public service and philanthropy.

For more information, visit the Westchester Parks Foundation.

Lev Goldsmith Sworn In as Student Representative on the Board of Education
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ward to a very positive year with your involvement in this civic duty,” said Dr. Reynolds. Goldsmith praised the school district for its committed faculty and staff who care deeply about students, and for the myriad opportunities students are offered both in the classroom and beyond.

“I look forward to doing my part to help Board members see issues from a wide range of perspectives - especially student perspectives. It means taking the time to learn more, dig deeper, and better understand the issues facing our district,” said Goldsmith. “With those ingredients and real collaboration, we will continue to improve the school experience, not just for NRHS students, but for all students across the district. I made a promise to my peers during my campaign to ensure that each and every one of their voices is heard, and I plan to make sure that promise becomes a reality.”

Goldsmith said he looks forward to working with the superintendent and board trustees throughout the coming year to ensure that New Rochelle schools continue to thrive and be the school community that students and staff love.

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New Rochelle Review



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www.westchester-women.com

What's Happening at the New Rochelle Public Library

ArtsFest 2026: New Rochelle Art Association 110th Open Juried Show

Through November 1, 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

The New Rochelle Art Association's 110th juried open show will be on display in the Lumen Winter Gallery. The show is open to members and non-members and consists of artwork in 9 categories: Oil/Acrylic, Water Media, Sculpture/Fine Craft, Photography, Mixed Media, Graphics/Pastels, Digital Art. Location: Lumen Winter Gallery



Between Two Worlds Book Club: Hula by Jasmin Iolani Hakes

Monday, October 5, 6:15 pm - 7:30 pm

Join us for a discussion of Hula by Jasmin Iolani Hakes. Set in Hilo, Hawai'i, this sweeping saga explores family, culture, and identity across three generations of women. Richly layered and deeply moving, Hula offers a powerful story of heritage, connection, and resilience. Location: Community Gallery. Registration is required at bit.ly/Yiddish_Oct2026

Find Your Balance with Tai Chi & Qi Gong

Tuesdays, October 6, 13, 20, 27, 10:00 am - 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. Location: Meeting Room

Teen Jigsaw Puzzle Night

Tuesday, October 6, 3:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Help assemble a large Jigsaw Puzzle together with everyone! For teens and tweens in 6th - 12th grade. Location: Teen Room

American Red Cross Blood Drive

Thursday, October 8, 11:30 am - 3:30 pm

Prospective donors are currently being sought by the American Red Cross for this upcoming blood drive. Donors need to be at least 17 years of age. Register at bit.ly/NRPLBloodDrive Location: Meeting Room/Ossie Davis Theater

Knitting Club

Fridays, October 9, 23, 11:00 am - 1:00 pm

Join Master Hand 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 welcome. You must bring your own supplies. Drop in. FREE! Location: Community Gallery

Computer Class: Introduction to A.I. (Artificial Intelligence)

Saturday, October 10, 10:00 am - 11:30 am

This beginner-friendly class teaches you how to write clear AI prompts and refine answers through helpful follow-up conversations. No technical background is required. Location: Classroom (3rd Floor). Registration is required at bit.ly/NRPL_ComputerClasses

NRPL Film Series: A Century in Film - THE OMEN (1976)

Saturday, October 10, 2:00 pm - 4:30 pm

Join us for a 50th anniversary screening of The Omen. A series of shocking deaths leaves the American ambassador to Britain convinced that his adopted 5-year-old son is actually the Antichrist. This influential box office horror hit led to several sequels and remakes, and Jerry Goldsmith's chilling music score won an Academy Award. Location: Ossie Davis Theater. Registration requested at bit.ly/NRPL_FilmSeries

Brown Bag Book Club: MY FATHER'S HOUSE by Joseph O'Connor

Tuesday, October 13, 12:00 pm - 1:30 pm

A librarian-led book discussion. Newcomers welcome. A supply of the book to be discussed, My Father's House by Joseph O'Connor, is available to borrow from the first floor hold shelf. Drop in. Location: 2nd Floor Meeting Room

Tween Book Club: THE UNDEAD FOX OF DEADWOOD FOREST by Aubrey Hartman

Tuesday, October 13, 4:30 pm - 5:30 pm

Join us for snacks, trivia, and to chat about this month's book club pick! Featured Title: The Undead Fox of Deadwood Forest by Aubrey Hartman. Location: Children's Room. Registration required. Registration for each discussion begins four weeks before each discussion date. To Register: Call us or sign up at the Children's Room desk. The first 13 registrants will be given a free copy of the book.

ArtsFest 2026 - Adult Art Workshop: Paper Cutting Traditions

Thursday, October 15, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

As part of our Between Two Worlds program which explores Jewish culture and religion through Yiddish language, we will learn about paper cutting traditions around the world, with a focus on Jewish papercuts - used for wedding contracts, book illustrations and other artifacts. Join us and try out this beautiful craft. Location: Meeting Room

Liner Notes: A Deep Dive into Classic Albums

Thursday, October 15, 6:00 - 7:00 pm

Great albums have stories to tell. Kick off ArtsFest programming at NRPL with the first session of Liner

Notes: A Deep Dive into Classic Albums. This new series explores the music, artists, and cultural moments behind some of the most influential albums of all time. Each program combines a lively presentation, selected listening, and group discussion as we take a closer look at a classic album and the artist who created it. The first program will explore: The Beatles' Let It Be. Location: 3rd Floor Classroom. Registration requested at bit.ly/LinerNotes_10_2026

ArtsFest Kick Off Concert with FROG

Thursday, October 15, 7:00 pm

Ossie Davis Theater. New Rochelle's own indie rock band FROG returns home for a special ArtsFest performance while in the midst of their Frog For Sale Tour, with shows across the United States and the UK. FROG is excited to bring their distinctive sound back to their hometown and celebrate with the New Rochelle community. Registration requested at bit.ly/Frog_10_2026

Mindful Eating for Teens

Fridays, October 16 and 30, 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm

For teens and tweens in grades 6 - 12. Stressed about food choices? Need a moment to relax? Join us to create a fun mindfulness snack (Chex Mix Snack Hands, 10/16; Ghost Pizza Bagel, 10/30) for the Autumnal season! Take a moment to slow down, enjoy flavors, and build a healthier, more balanced relationship with food while decorating a snack. No registration required; just drop in! Location: Teen Room



ArtsFest 2026 - Friday Night Concert: Wayne Tucker

Friday, October 16, 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

As part of ArtsFest 2026, celebrate 100 years of Miles Davis with acclaimed trumpeter Wayne Tucker in a musical journey from Bebop to Funk. Experience the evolution of one of jazz's most influential artists through the sounds and styles he helped shape- from the cool sophistication of Bebop to the electrifying grooves of Funk. Location: Ossie Davis Theater. Registration is requested at bit.ly/WayneTucker_Oct2026

ArtsFest 2026: Dreams n' Screams Family Concert w. Armelle Gloaguen (at HCL)

Saturday, October 17, 11:00 am - 11:45 am

A favorite performer is back with an autumn and Halloween themed concert! Joining her is musician and rhythm master, Matthew Bauer. Come in a creative costume - or just as you are - and be prepared for a fantastic time on our patio! Afterwards check out our fun seasonal books and take home a Grab and Go "Make a Monster" bag (while supplies last). Location: Huguenot Children's Library



ArtsFest 2026: A Journey Through Italian Music with Brenda Quattrini

Saturday, October 17, 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm

As part of ArtsFest 2026 and in celebration of Italian Heritage Month, pianist Brenda Quattrini in a journey through Italian music, from Scarlatti and beloved opera composers Verdi and Puccini to Italian cinema and contemporary music. Location: Ossie Davis Theater. Registration is requested at bit.ly/Italian_Oct2026

ArtsFest 2026: Flower Making for Kids

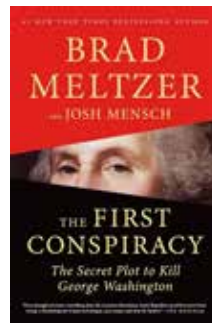
Saturday, October 17, 2:30 pm - 3:30 pm

Presented in English and Spanish, join us for ArtsFest 2026 to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month by making festive paper flowers! All programs are first come, first served due to limited space &/or supplies. Location: Lobby Program Space

ArtsFest 2026 - Sunday Afternoon Concert Series: An Afternoon of Piano & Cello

Sunday, October 18, 2:00 pm - 3:15 pm

Experience an afternoon of exceptional classical music as three accomplished young musicians-pianists Brielle Perez and Adam Jackson and cellist Ruth Stokes-take the stage as part of ArtsFest 2026. Location: Ossie Davis Theater. Registration is requested at bit.ly/Piano_Oct2026



The Past Pages Society: NRPL History Book Club

Saturday, October 24, 11:00 am - 12:00 pm

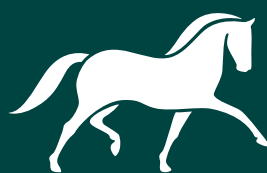
Love history - or just love a good story? Join the Past Pages Society, a monthly book club for anyone who loves history - or simply wants to understand it better. Each session features dynamic discussions on books exploring history, culture, politics, and untold stories. Join us in October as we read The First Conspiracy: The Secret Plot to Kill George Washington by Brad Meltzer and Josh Mensch. Location: 2nd Floor Meeting Room. Registration is requested at bit.ly/PastPages_Oct2026



Acoustic String Open Jam Session

Saturday, October 24, 3:00 pm - 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: Classroom (3rd Floor). Registration is requested at bit.ly/Acoustic_Oct2026



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