



Rockland County

CHRONICLE

BI-ANNUAL NEWSLETTER OF ROCKLAND COUNTY • VOLUME 1 NO. 1 | WINTER 2024

the
TRUTH
behind
THE MIGRANT CRISIS

PAGES 2-3

OUR PREMIERE ISSUE!

- **A message from
County Executive Ed Day**
 - **Rockland's New
Firefighter Memorial**
 - **Rockland Tourism**
- More Inside...**

Rockland County

Allison-Parris County Office Building
11 New Hempstead Road
New City, New York 10956
rocklandcountyny.gov

Follow us on



rocklandgov



@rocklandgov



@rocklandgov



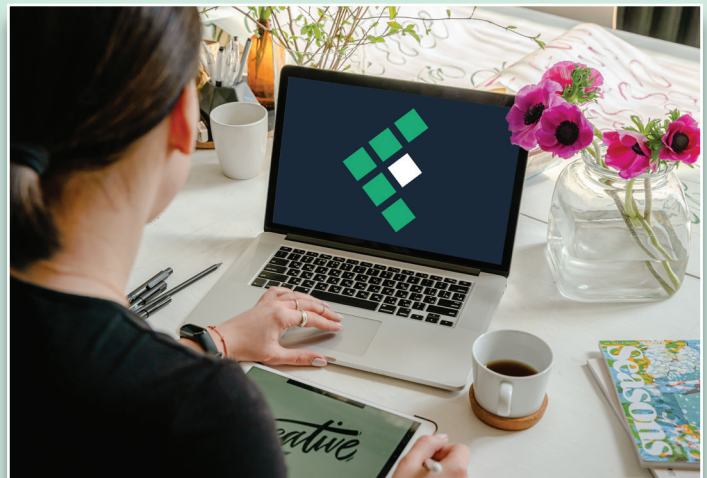
inside CHRONICLE

TABLE OF CONTENTS:

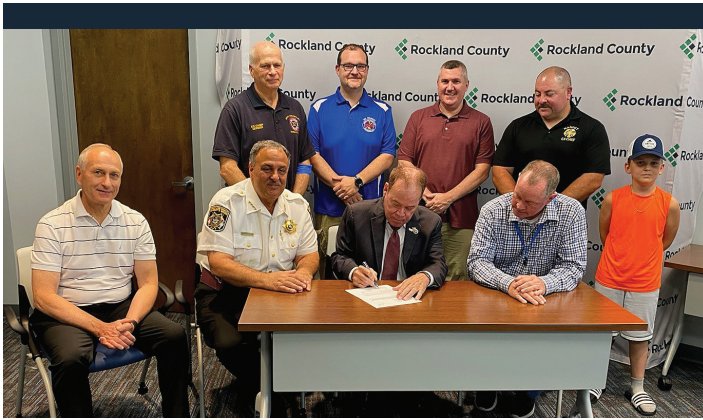
- Page 1..... Office of Fire & Emergency Services
Office of the County Executive
Human Rights Commission
Department of Mental Health
- Pages 2-3..... Message from County Executive Ed Day
- Page 4..... Tourism & Economic Development
Department of Health
Highway Department
Office of Community Development
- Page 5..... Volunteer and Employment Opportunities

**Check out the County's
new website which launched
on December 15!**

www.rocklandcountyny.gov



Layout and design by the Rockland BOCES Communications Service.



OFFICE OF FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICES

Rockland County Firefighter Memorial

Rockland County Executive Ed Day met recently with Rockland County Sheriff Louis Falco, Facilities Management Director Bob Gruffi and Office of Fire & Emergency Services Director Chris Kear to approve the design and construction of the new Rockland County Fallen Firefighters Memorial. The new memorial will be located on the grounds of the Rockland County Courthouse in New City. "This new memorial will pay tribute to those brave individuals who gave their lives while protecting our neighbors and our community," said County Executive Day. "This special place will help ensure that their sacrifices and dedication to the safety of others will not be forgotten."

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

2% TAX CUT Adopted for 2024 Budget



Rockland County Executive Ed Day's proposed 2024 \$870 million budget—which included a 2% County Property Tax cut—was adopted by the Rockland County Legislature. Other items in the budget include:

- Increasing amounts available for patriotic observances from \$1,250 to \$3,000.
- \$1 million for additional positions

to strengthen our Department of Social Services, seeing increasing demand.

- Another \$1.5 million for college tuition assistance for volunteer fire fighters and emergency responders.

“On the heels of zero County property tax increases two years in a row, this year I am proposing a 2% reduction in the County property tax, which is a huge leap from the double-digit tax increases from years past. Our economic turnaround is nothing short of miraculous. I thank our dedicated employees for staying true to our commitment to conservative spending which is enabling us to absorb costs while still providing reprieve for our residents in a responsible and balanced manner,” said County Executive Ed Day.

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

Nyack Satellite Office

The County of Rockland held the grand opening of the second Human Rights satellite office in Nyack. The office, located in Nyack Village Hall at 9 North Broadway, is open the first Tuesday of the month from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm.

The County also has a satellite office on the second floor of the Haverstraw Center at 50 West Broad Street in Haverstraw. That location is open every Wednesday from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. Both locations can assist with housing and employment discrimination claims and human rights issues. *We remind residents hate or bias incidents can be reported to the Rockland County Commission on Human Rights for investigation by calling 845-364-3886.*



DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH

Drug Take Back Day

In partnership with local police departments, and the District Attorney's office, our Department of Mental Health participated in a Drug Take-Back Day in October. Drug Take-Back Day is a safe, convenient, and responsible way for community members to dispose of unused or expired prescription drugs. It is also an opportunity for the County to join with law enforcement and local agencies to provide an outlet for our community to dispose of unwanted medications, obtain information on treatment and find support for substance use disorders. This Fall's event was a success with 185 pounds of drugs being recovered!





THE TRUTH behind THE MIGRANT CRISIS

A Message from County Executive Ed Day



Hello everyone and welcome to the very first Rockland County Newsletter which my administration plans to release twice a year to keep our residents informed about what's happening within the County of Rockland.

It's been a busy Spring as my administration continues to battle with the City of New York over its attempt to break New York State Social Services Law to shift its jurisdiction's Sanctuary City duty to the smallest County in the State of New York, despite our well-documented housing needs which is so extreme that it resulted in the County being unprecedentedly deputized by the State of New York to take over Building and Fire Code enforcement in the Village of Spring Valley.

It's been clear that the overwhelming majority of New Yorkers are opposed to Mayor Eric Adams' unplanned

and uncoordinated decompression strategy including 38 out of 57 counties outside of the City of New York, along with 3 towns, following our lead and enacting emergency declarations to stop it.

What's the reasoning behind most of these objections?

Simple. It would likely become a one-way ticket to homelessness or worse so we took action to preserve the care and treatment of these individuals, along with current residents of our County. The natural migration surge we are already seeing, which we first publicized back in March, includes overcrowded and unsafe living conditions, English as a Second Language, or ESL, teacher shortage and non-profits helping triple the amount of people.

What about any of that is indicative of the American Dream?

How can we welcome more people to Rockland when we don't even have safe housing for the people already here?

Quadrupling the number of homeless in this County overnight, as the City is intending to do will only compound all these serious issues impacting quality of life.

I pledge to continue fighting the City's poorly planned Decompression Strategy to prevent the pain and suffering it will undoubtedly cause current and future residents.

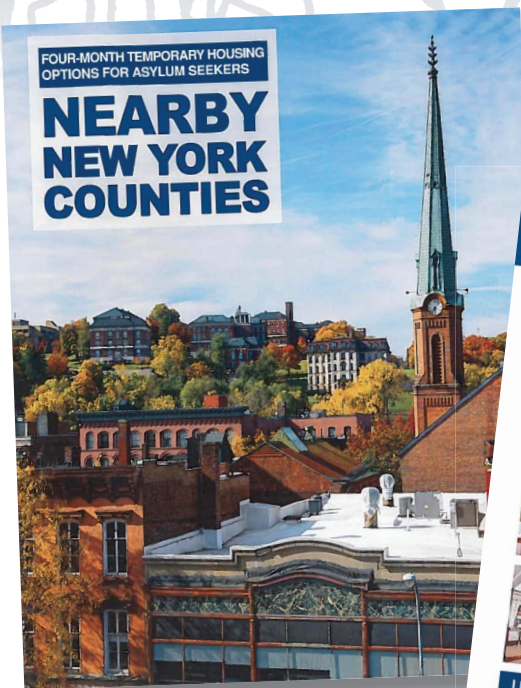


A recent **HOUSING NEEDS ASSESSMENT** found from 2018-2022:

177% increase in low-income/ subsidized rental housing calls

160% increase in rental payment assistance calls

63% increase in students experiencing homelessness.



FOUR-MONTH TEMPORARY HOUSING OPTIONS FOR ASYLUM SEEKERS
NEARBY NEW YORK COUNTIES



NEARBY NEW YORK COUNTIES
FOUR-MONTH TEMPORARY HOUSING OPTIONS FOR ASYLUM SEEKERS

New York has arranged for temporary housing and support services to help you and other asylum seekers. Located near the Hudson Valley, just outside New York City, these shelter options will include a warm environment, nutritious meals, and case workers to help adults over the age of 18 access what you need to care for yourself and transition to a new home.

TEMPORARY HOUSING

We have secured Double Occupancy Rooms for adults over 18 years old which include clean rooms and private bathrooms, housekeeping and medical consultations with a remote healthcare professional via telehealth for medical conditions. We will be providing you with a room at one of the two following hotels:

NEWBURGH



ORANBURG



MEALS

3 meals served each day - breakfast, lunch, and hot dinner

LAUNDRY SERVICE

Laundry service will be provided to you every other week. Case workers will coordinate a pickup day and time for your laundry, which will be returned to you in your room.

ADDITIONAL AMENITIES

Housekeeping, medical consultations with a remote healthcare professional via telehealth for medical conditions, hygiene kits and more.



The City of New York was distributing brochures to migrants under their decompression strategy which intended to relocate 350 adults to Rockland County.

TOURISM & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Tourism Continues to Triumph

For the year 2022, were it not for the tourism-generated state and local taxes, the average household in Rockland County would have to pay an additional \$581 to maintain the same level of government revenue, a 4.5% increase compared to 2021.



In 2022, tourism also generated:

- 6,532 jobs in Rockland County, a 7.6% increase over 2021.
- \$513 million in visitor spending, a 104.7% increase to 2019 and 18% increase vs. 2021.
- \$1.4 million in Occupancy Tax revenue, a 26% increase over 2021.

These results demonstrate that the tourism industry in Rockland County is thriving thanks to County investments yielding a strong return on investment. Some of those investments include annual tourism grants which in 2023 awarded \$278,000 to local organizations to promote their events to those outside of the County and attract more visitors.

The County also had another billboard displayed in Manhattan from October through November along with similar ads on buses in New York City throughout November and December.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

New Highway Garage



Rockland County Executive Ed Day and County Highway Superintendent Skip Vezzetti proudly held a ribbon cutting

for the County's brand-new highway facility located at 26 Scotland Hill Road, Chestnut Ridge. The \$40 million, 114,500-square-foot facility, is sprawled across 24 acres that was purchased for just \$1 from New York State Department of Transportation and consists of 7 buildings featuring:

- A new maintenance repair building
- Indoor storage for our fleet
- Able to store 10,000 tons of salt, doubling our current capacity
- Generators and fuel capacity to maintain operations for two weeks without outside assistance.
- A green building—including natural and recycled materials for construction and passive solar.

The facility also has a large-vehicle wash facility that will increase the life expectancy of County vehicles by 20%, saving about \$190,000 a year.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Childhood Immunization Campaign

The Rockland County Department of Health (RCDOH) rolled out a new campaign over the summer to empower parents with information on immunizing their children against harmful diseases such as Polio, Measles, and Pertussis, among others.

The campaign included new educational pamphlets in English, Spanish, Yiddish, and Creole languages that were distributed to Houses of Worship, doctor's offices, and daycares throughout Rockland. The aim of the materials is to teach parents the importance of keeping up with vaccinations for children aged 2 and under which includes Hepatitis B, DTaP, IPV, MMR, HiB, Varicella, and PCV inoculations. Local digital and print advertisements were also used to communicate the importance of childhood immunizations to parents in the County.

From January through August of 2023, RCDOH increased clinic visits by 40% compared to 2022, and tripled them compared to 2021.



OFFICE OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

County Housing Forum



Our Office of Community Development Director Alexandra Obremski partnered with our Commission on Human Rights for the first-ever Rockland County Housing Forum in April. Over 200 people attended including developers, real estate professionals, municipal leaders, and not-for-profits to strategize how to overcome Rockland's housing challenges. The event

included early findings of the County's first-ever comprehensive community and affordable housing needs assessment and discussions on affordability, regional development challenges and future real estate market conditions.

Help Shape the County You Love!

Join Rockland County's Boards and Commissions

Members of Rockland County's Boards and Commissions can help impact policies and shape equitable laws while serving in important Voluntary Advisory Capacities

- Agricultural & Farm Protection Board
- Arts in Public Places Committee
- Board of Appeals
- Board of Electrical Examiners
- Board of Ethics
- Board of Health
- Board of Towers
- Community Services Board
 - Chemical Dependency Subcommittee
 - Developmental Disabilities Subcommittee
 - Mental Health Subcommittee
- Disability Advisory Council
- Environmental Management Council
- Fair Housing Board
- Fire Advisory Board
- Historic Preservation Board
- Home Improvement Licensing Board
- Human Rights Commission
- Industrial Development Agency
- Local Emergency Planning Committee
- Office for the Aging Advisory Council
- Park Commission
- Planning Board
- Plumbing, Heating, Air Conditioning, Refrigeration and Sheet Metal Examiners Board
- Rent Guidelines Board
- Rockland County Soil and Water Conservation District
- Rockland County Traffic Safety Board
- Sewer Commission
- Workforce Development Board
- Youth Bureau



For more information, please email:
BoardsAndCommissions@co.rockland.ny.us
 or use QR Code



Rockland County

PERSONNEL



Visit our website to learn more about employment in Civil Service and to search for a variety of employment opportunities available to you within Rockland County.
<http://rocklandgov.com/departments/personnel/>



Rockland County Volunteer Fire & EMS Personnel

RECEIVE COLLEGE TUITION ASSISTANCE

If you are in good standing and meet the minimum qualifications, the County of Rockland can help you pay for college!

HERRO AND EDGES PROGRAM

The HERRO Program reimburses up to \$6,000 in tuition annually for any college. The EDGES Program waives tuition at Rockland Community College.



APPLY NOW



Rockland County

ROCKLAND COUNTY EXECUTIVE ED DAY

Allison-Parris County Office Building
11 New Hempstead Road
New City, New York 10956

rocklandcountyny.gov

PRSR STD
U.S. Postage
PAID
Monsey, NY
Permit #7017

County Contacts

Office for the Aging

845-364-2110
845-364-2100

Board of Elections

845-638-5172

Office of Buildings & Codes

845-364-3700

Consumer Protection

845-364-3901

County Clerk

845-638-5070

County Executive

845-638-5122

Economic Development & Tourism

845-364-2170

Fire & Emergency Services

845-364-8800

Health Department

845-364-2512

Highway Department

845-638-5060

Human Rights Commission

845-364-3884

Mental Health

845-364-2378

Office for People with Disabilities

845-364-2378

Rockland Codes Investigations

845-364-2585

Social Services

845-364-3300

Personnel

845-364-3737

Planning

845-364-3434

Probation

845-638-5544

Public Defender

845-638-5660

Public

Transportation

845-364-3333

Rockland County Sheriff

845-638-5400

Youth Bureau

845-364-2929

Veterans Service Agency

845-638-5244

