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91st Assembly District  
Larchmont - Mamaroneck - New Rochelle - Port Chester - Rye Brook and Rye



August 12, 2022

Dear

Friends,

This newsletter brings news of the Governor coming to Westchester to sign bills to assist senior citizens as well as news of volunteer opportunities, early voting information and childcare assistance.

I also include a story on an exciting new program launched by the City of New Rochelle to help first-time homebuyers with down payment assistance.

Here is this week's lineup:

- New Rochelle's Innovative First-time Homebuyers Program
- Legislation to Strengthen Housing Affordability for Seniors and Families
- Early Voting Begins August 13 Congressional and State Senate Primaries
- Westchester Works Childcare Scholarships
- NYS Child Care Program for Underserved Areas Now Open
- The Sharing Shelf Backpacks to School Day August 13
- Helping Hands for the Homeless & Hungry - Backpack Event 8/17 & 18
- New Rochelle Summer Sendoff for Students at Lincoln Park August 20

- Rye Rotary – Rye Arts Center Butterfly Auction for Education

I hope these resources and information are helpful. Please contact me on any issue where I can be of assistance. My District Office number is 914-939-7028.

Warm regards,

*Steve*

**New Rochelle's Innovative First-time Homebuyers Down Payment Program**



This week I attended a meeting at Generations Church in New Rochelle for a presentation on the City of New Rochelle's groundbreaking First-time Homebuyer Down Payment Assistance Program. The city is the only community I am aware of that has established a municipal first- time homebuyer assistance program.

The purpose of the program is to make homeownership more accessible by providing 19% of the mortgage down payment. Homeownership allows a family to build wealth through ownership rather than paying rent but down payments can be challenge. Under New Rochelle's program the homebuyer would provide 1% and closing costs and obtain a mortgage for the remaining 80%. The program is for New Rochelle residents purchasing a house, coop or condo in New Rochelle. The program includes income eligibility criteria and a maximum price ceiling for the property to be purchased. More information can be found on the city's website at [HERE](#) or by calling 914-428-4507.

New Rochelle is using Federal housing funds to support this innovative program. The city deserves credit for developing the idea for using these funds for a program that will make ownership more accessible. There are other federal, state and county programs that assist first-time homebuyers. The New Rochelle program should be a model for other local governments to play a valuable role.



I joined presenters at the New Rochelle Down Payment Assistance Program Meeting Cecilia Alcantara (Westchester Residential Opportunities), NR Council Member Yadira Ramos-Herbert, Adam Salgado (NR Development Commissioner), Orisha Jennings Hudgins (NR Executive Director, Development Operations) and Minister Mark McLean of Generations Church and NR NAACP President.

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**Governor Hochul Signs Legislation to Strengthen Housing Affordability  
for New York Seniors and Families**





On Monday I joined Governor Hochul in Yonkers along with my colleagues in the Assembly and Senate for a bill signing for a legislative package aimed at expanding tax relief for New York homeowners, particularly senior citizens. The legislative proposals signed would help affordability for seniors with the following actions:

- Increases the maximum income for eligibility for New York's real property tax exemption to \$50,000 for people age 65 and over and people with disabilities. The previous maximum income eligible was \$29,000 per year for seniors and people with disabilities outside of New York City.
- Extends the option for local municipalities to provide a property tax exemption for first-time homebuyers purchasing newly constructed homes through 2028. The option had been set to expire at the end of this year.
- Expands eligibility rules for senior homeowners in need of emergency repairs by increasing the deadlines for RESTORE projects to 60 days and

the maximum cost allowed per project to \$20,000. [Residential Emergency Services to Offer \(Home\) Repairs to the Elderly \(RESTORE\) program](#)

In addition, Governor Hochul has announced that \$682 million in bonds and subsidies have been awarded to create or preserve more than 1,600 affordable, sustainable, and supportive homes across the state. The developments will leverage an additional \$218 million in private funding to create an overall investment of nearly \$901 million to further local economic development efforts, reduce homelessness, and advance New York's commitment to expanding safe, secure and healthy housing opportunities for individuals and families.

In our area, \$80 million was awarded for West View Apartments in the city of New Rochelle. The 24-story building at 26 Garden Street in the city's historic downtown will offer 186 affordable apartments and residential parking.



**Aug. 23, 2022 Primary Election**

On August 23rd, New York State will have its primary elections for State Senate and Congressional representation. Early voting start this Saturday and is available at the below locations. Please visit the Westchester board of elections to [find your polling place](#) for Primary Election Day Tuesday, August 23rd.

### **Early Voting Polling Locations in Our Area**

- Mamaroneck Town Center, 740 W. Boston Post Road, Mamaroneck
- Rye Brook Firehouse, 940 King Street, Rye Brook
- St. Gregory The Great Church, 215 Halstead Avenue, Harrison
- New Rochelle City Hall Annex – 90 Beaufort Place, New Rochelle
- United Methodist Church, 1200 North Avenue, New Rochelle

### **New Early Voting Hours**

- Saturday, Aug. 13, 2022 from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m.
  - Sunday, Aug. 14, 2022 from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m.
  - Monday, Aug. 15, 2022 from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m.
  - Tuesday, Aug. 16, 2022 from noon until 8 p.m.
  - Wednesday, Aug. 17, 2022 from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m.
  - Thursday, Aug. 18, 2022 from noon until 8 p.m.
  - Friday, Aug. 19, 2022 from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m.
  - Saturday, Aug. 20, 2022 from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m.
  - Sunday, Aug. 21, 2022 from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m.
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# Now Available

## Westchester Works Child Care Scholarship



**Scholarships are not just for college!**

**You may be eligible for help to make  
quality child care more affordable**

If you earn up to:

\$73,240 for a family of 2

\$92,120 for a family of 3

\$111,000 for a family of 4

For more information [CLICK HERE](#)

or call 914-761-3456 x140 or email [Scholarships@cccwny.org](mailto:Scholarships@cccwny.org)

Westchester  
gov.com

George Latimer  
Westchester County Executive





**State Program Now Open for \$30 Million in Additional Federal Funding to Expand Existing Programs in Child Care Deserts**

Governor Kathy Hochul has announced that the [portal](#) is now open to apply for \$30 million in additional federal grant funding to expand existing child care programs in areas of the state without sufficient child care slots, known as child care deserts. The funds, which are part of the \$100 million child care desert initiative approved in the FY 2022 Enacted Budget, are being made available through the American Rescue Plan Act and will be administered by the New York State Office of Children and Family Services. For additional information [CLICK HERE, Access Portal Here](#)

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**Sharing Shelf Backpacks to School Day**

This week I joined volunteers for the kickoff of the annual Sharing Shelf backpack assembly effort for students in need. You can volunteer or donate in this effort on August 13<sup>th</sup>.



# The Sharing Shelf | BACKPACKS TO SCHOOL

## BACKPACKS TO SCHOOL Community Packing Day

**JOIN US TO PACK BACKPACKS FOR LOCAL CHILDREN IN NEED**

**SATURDAY  
AUGUST**

**13**

**10AM - 12PM**

**47 PURDY AVE  
PORT CHESTER**

**VOLUNTEERS MUST BE AT LEAST 6 YEARS OLD**

**CHILDREN UNDER 17 MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY THEIR PARENT**

**MASKS ENCOURAGED | ALL VOLUNTEERS MUST BE VACCINATED**

**PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED. SPACE LIMITED.**



**SUGGESTED DONATION OF \$30 PER PERSON**

**WHICH PROVIDES A NEW BACKPACK FOR A CHILD IN NEED.**

**Click here to register**

**Email [info@sharingshelf.org](mailto:info@sharingshelf.org) for more information**

### **Helping Hands for the Homeless**

You can also volunteer with the Helping Hands for the Homeless and Hungry 2022 Mission Backpack Event on August 17 and 18.

**Please click the link below to complete our  
2022 Volunteer Form!**

**Wednesday, August 17th  
and  
Thursday, August 18th  
Rye High School Auxiliary Gym**

Enter from Milton Road

**\*\*MASKS OPTIONAL\*\***

**Wednesday UNLOADING and SETUP**

**9:30 am - 12 pm**

**Middle School students and up.**

**Thursday BACKPACK FILLING**

**10-12 pm**

**All ages welcome! Volunteers aged 6-10 must be  
accompanied by an adult.**

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**New Rochelle Sendoff to Student Celebration August 20th at Lincoln Park**

KINGDOM COMMUNITY CONSULTANTS

# SUMMER

*Sendoff*

**AUG 20**  
FREE

**LINCOLN PARK**  
LINCOLN AVENUE, NEW ROCHELLE, NY 10801

**1PM-6PM**

FOOD/COMIDA  
GAMES/JUEGOS  
LIVE MUSIC/MUSICA EN VIVO  
BOUNCE HOUSES/JUEGOS PARA NIÑOS

**FREE BACKPACKS/ MOCHILAS GRATIS**  
(FIRST COME, FIRST SERVE)

Rye Rotary – Rye Arts Center Butterfly Auction for Education





The Rotary Club of Rye and the Rye Arts Center collaborated on this public art project and fundraiser to benefit educational programs in the region. The butterflies are on display throughout the summer in Rye and will be available for purchase at their auction September 29th. Net proceeds from the auction and sponsorships will be utilized for educational programs and scholarships for students in our area.

