

CHRONICLE

BI-ANNUAL NEWSLETTER OF ROCKLAND COUNTY • VOLUME 2 NO. 2 | WINTER 2024-25

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 - **Sain Building Development**
 - **2% Consecutive Tax Cut**
- and more...**

COUNTY HIGHWAY
FACILITY NAMED

Project OF THE YEAR

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

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VAMPIRE DEVICES: Save Money by Unplugging Energy Drains

Many residents are unaware of the hidden cost of “vampire devices”—electronics that continue to use energy even when turned off or in standby mode.

Devices like phone chargers, televisions, gaming consoles, and kitchen appliances can drain electricity as long as they are plugged in, slowly increasing your monthly utility bill.

According to a report from the National Resource Defense Council, Americans spend about \$19 billion per year on vampire energy costs. On average, that means about \$165 to \$440 per household depending on electricity rates and location.

To combat this, residents can take simple steps to save money:

- 1. Unplug devices** when not in use, especially chargers and small electronics.
- 2. Use power strips** to easily disconnect multiple devices at once.
- 3. Invest in smart plugs** that allow you to schedule when devices are powered off.



County Unveils Sain Building Development Strategy

In October County Executive Ed Day, alongside nine members of the County Legislature and Clarkstown Supervisor George Hoehmann, announced a critical strategy to redevelop the Sain Building located at 18 New Hempstead Road, which has been vacant since 2017, into mixed-use commercial space and workforce housing.

Following the Legislature's action to declare this property surplus in November, the County's Division of Purchasing is now issuing a Request for Proposals or RFP for the redevelopment of this roughly 3.69-acre site.

“Rockland County is at a crossroads,” said County Executive Ed Day. “We’ve heard from seniors, families, business owners, and young adults about the challenges they face in finding affordable housing. This housing crisis is not just about homes—it’s about the future of our community. We must act decisively to ensure that Rockland remains a place where people can live, work, and thrive.”

This is in addition to the County's Housing Action Loan Opportunity, providing direct loans for creating or preserving workforce housing. Demand for the program has been high, with application requests totaling over \$29.7 million. The County is also launching a Countywide Housing Education Campaign to inform residents about the county's housing needs and dispel common myths about affordable housing.

2% Consecutive Tax Cut

ADOPTED FOR 2025 BUDGET

Rockland County Executive Ed Day's 2025 \$876.5 million budget was adopted by the Rockland County Legislature. Highlights of the budget include:

- A consecutive **2% reduction** in County Property Tax
- Launching a Behavioral Health Training Institute and OPWDD Navigator Program.
- \$1.3 million to the HERROES College Tuition Reimbursement Program for volunteer emergency responders.
- 21% funding increase to nonprofit contract agencies and 224 agencies.



“It’s clear that across agencies, localities, and certainly state and federal governments that careless spending has gotten way out of control.”

“This is what makes the County of Rockland different. We are operating this administration the way government should operate... by keeping spending low, alleviating costs, and re-investing in our residents and I pledge to continue the prudent and protective practices that have gotten us this far.”

COUNTY HIGHWAY FACILITY NAMED Project



A Message from County Executive Ed Day

The County of Rockland's new Highway Facility has been named Project of the Year by the Rockland County Chapter of the New York State Society of Professional Engineers and the New York

Metro Chapter of the American Public Works Association.

Both "Project of the Year" awards acknowledge the outstanding engineering of the facility for features including the Environmentally Sensitive Design that will lower the County's carbon footprint, the state-of-the-art repair capability, and nominal site acquisition costs.

The County's highway facility, located at 26 Scotland Hill Road, Chestnut Ridge, opened in Fall of 2023. The \$40 million - 114,500-square-foot facility; consisting of 7 buildings; is sprawled across 20 acres that was purchased for just \$1 from New York State Department of Transportation.

The facility also has a large-vehicle wash building that will increase the life expectancy of County vehicles by 20%, saving about \$190,000 a year and a shared use component during times of urgency.

The prior facility was constructed in 1935 and first flagged for needed upgrades in the 60's. But it wasn't until 2020, when the County Executive along with the Rockland County Legislature passed a bond resolution for the construction, that the new facility became reality.

OF THE YEAR



THE FACILITY FEATURES:

- A new maintenance repair building.



- Indoor storage for our entire 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 office building – including natural and recycled materials for construction and passive solar.



“

Being named Project of the Year by the New York State Society of Professional Engineers New York State Society of Professional Engineers and by the New York Metro Chapter of the American Publics Works Association is a tremendous honor for our county

and a testament to the hard work and dedication of everyone involved, said County Executive Day.

This new highway facility reflects our commitment to excellence in public service and I couldn't be prouder of this achievement and what it represents for Rockland.

OFFICE FOR
THE AGING

Citizen Preparedness Training



Over 200 residents attended a Citizens Preparedness Training hosted by the Rockland County Office for the Aging in tandem with New York State this fall. This training provided valuable

information on how to effectively respond to emergencies and underscored the importance of preparedness. Every household should take the following steps to be ready:

- Create an emergency plan tailored to your family's needs.
- Assemble an emergency kit with essential supplies.
- Practice emergency drills at home to ensure everyone knows what to do in a crisis.

Being proactive with these measures can make all the difference in the event of an unexpected situation. **For more information on future Citizens Preparedness Trainings, residents can contact the New York State Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Services at (518) 242-5000.**

DEPARTMENT
OF SOCIAL
SERVICES

Be A Hero & Foster!

When a child enters foster care, our top priority is finding them that secure, supportive environment.

Fostering a child is an opportunity to make a profound difference in a young person's life. It's a chance to provide the warmth, care, and stability that every child deserves. That's why we're reaching out to compassionate individuals like you, who have the heart to help children in need.

At the Rockland County Department of Social Services (DSS), we value our foster parents immensely. They are true heroes—selflessly opening their hearts and homes to children who have experienced incredible hardships. From the very beginning of their journey, foster parents are welcomed into our community with the support and recognition they deserve.

Right now, we are actively looking to expand our community of foster and adoptive families, giving more children the chance to thrive. We are especially in need of homes willing to foster or adopt larger sibling groups. Keeping siblings together can provide a sense of stability, helping ease the trauma of separation from parents.

If you've ever considered becoming a foster parent or adopting, now is the time to take the next step. **For more information, visit our website at fosterrockland.com or call (845) 364-3535.**

DEPARTMENT
OF MENTAL
HEALTH

OPWDD Navigator Program

The Rockland County Department of Mental Health has officially launched a New York State Office for People with Disabilities, or OPWDD, Navigator program. This program is available to help families secure OPWDD Eligibility for themselves and/or loved ones with special needs.

Services provided include:

- Education and information on OPWDD Application Process
- Assist Individuals with application process
- Assist with gathering required documentation & evaluations

For additional information residents are encouraged to contact Capabilities, the agency operating the OPWDD Navigator program, directly at (845) 627-0627 or head to their website at www.mycapabilities.org

CONSUMER
PROTECTION

Warning Signs of Scammers

Scams are becoming increasingly common and more sophisticated as criminals target residents through phone calls, emails, texts, and social media. Criminals will pose as everything from government agencies and utility companies to even family members, all as an attempt to trick people into giving up personal information or money.

Warning signs include:

- Asking you to pay money or taxes upfront to receive a prize or a gift.
- Asking you to wire money, send cryptocurrency, send money by a payment app, a prepaid card or gift card.
- Creating a sense of urgency or emergency or reassuring you to "act now" or else the deal will go away.
- Threats of fines or arrest.

If something seems suspicious, hang up or delete the message, and report it to local authorities. Staying vigilant can help you avoid falling victim to scams and protect your hard-earned money.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact our office at (845) 364-3901 or via email at CPLCAL@co.rockland.ny.us.



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.
<https://mycivilservice.rocklandgov.com/exams>



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 PROGRAM

The Higher Education Recruitment and Retention Opportunities (HERRO) program reimburses up to \$6,000 in tuition annually for any college.



APPLY NOW



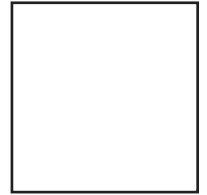
ROCKLAND COUNTY EXECUTIVE ED DAY

Allison-Parris County Office Building

11 New Hempstead Road

New City, New York 10956

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Current Resident

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

