

CHRONICLE

BI-ANNUAL NEWSLETTER OF ROCKLAND COUNTY • SUMMER 2026

INSIDE:

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County Executive Ed Day**
 - **2026 State of the County**
 - **Rockland Roundtable
podcast launched!**
- and more...**



**KEEP
ROCKLAND
HOME**

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11 New Hempstead Road
New City, New York 10956
rocklandcountyny.gov

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COUNTY LAUNCHES Rockland Roundtable Podcast!



The County of Rockland is happy to announce it launched the **Rockland Roundtable** podcast, hosted by Jenna Nazario, the Director of the Rockland

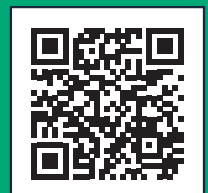
County Office of Economic Development & Tourism, and Beth Cefalu, the Strategic Communications Director for the County and County Executive Ed Day. The Rockland Roundtable is the county's brand new podcast that dives into all things Rockland County—from local initiatives and economic development to parks, programs, and the people working every day to make our community stronger.

New episodes air every 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month on Youtube, Spotify, Apple, iHeartRadio, & Podbean.



Scan the QR code
to Watch **HERE**

Scan the QR code
to Listen **HERE**



2026 STATE of the County

County Executive Ed Day shared the **2026 State of the County Address**, highlighting Rockland County's continued fiscal responsibility, infrastructure investments, and initiatives to improve the quality of life for all residents.

■ PUBLIC SAFETY AND CONSUMER PROTECTION:

- **Office of Consumer Protection** recovered over \$114,000 in refunds for victimized homeowners in 2025, a 75% increase compared to years past, in addition to collecting \$720,000 in fines & penalties against contractors who were either unlicensed, uninsured, or otherwise not in compliance.
- **Veterans Service Agency** secured \$1.1 million in additional benefits for veterans. VSA also doubled the size of its Veteran Food Pantry, serving 242 veterans & surviving spouses.
- **Office of Fire & Emergency Services** purchased advanced firefighter training simulators including Backdraft, Flashover, and SCBA Maze systems to enhance realistic emergency training. Also added a Hazardous Materials response vehicle and Technical Rescue response trailer to strengthen specialized emergency response capabilities.

■ HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES:

- **Department of Health** audited 50 schools and day-cares, leading to increased compliance with vaccination requirements. DOH's Center for Environmental Health inspected 415 units for lead hazards.
- **Department of Mental Health** expanded our response to the opioid crisis, opening our second Oxford House to create 10 new recovery beds for women and women with children. Drug-related deaths declined by 6.5%.

- **Department of Social Services** helped 49 individuals experiencing homelessness move into stable housing.
- **Youth Bureau** through its Youth Employment Program trained and employed a record 595 young people across Rockland County who contributed more than 140,000 hours of aid work experience.

■ ENVIRONMENTAL AND INFRASTRUCTURE INITIATIVES:

- **Division of Environmental Resources** facilitated the largest Open Space Acquisition in County history with the 236-acre Eagle Valley Assemblage in Sloatsburg.
- **Department of Personnel** modernized the County Job Opportunities webpage, which saw nearly 491,000 views — a 131% increase.
- **County Purchasing Division** implemented a Contract Lifecycle Management system to streamline procurement processes.
- **Department of Public Transportation** provided 1.9 million rides this year on Transport of Rockland, or TOR, fare-free. The County has also begun upgrading our bus fleet, programming the replacement of 14 buses, and installing equipment that will soon provide real-time bus information for riders.



“Even in a challenging fiscal environment, the County has refused to scale back essential services but mind you, there is the very real possibility of unexpected state and federal programs — some of which border on draconian measures — that could push local governments toward a fiscal cliff. Rockland County continues to find smarter ways to move forward thanks to the dedicated public servants who work every day to strengthen our community,” said County Executive Day.

KEEP ROCKLAND HOME



A MESSAGE FROM COUNTY EXECUTIVE ED DAY

Our county is facing a housing crisis, and I want to speak directly about what we're doing

to meet that moment. In April, at our annual Rockland County Housing Forum, we announced the launch of our new Keep Rockland Home affordable housing campaign — a focused effort to break down stigma, correct misinformation, and make sure every Rocklander understands who affordable housing serves and why it matters to our entire community.

Affordable housing isn't an abstract policy issue. It's the difference between a family staying in the community where they grew up, a teacher being able to live near the school where they teach, a nurse or first responder not having to commute hours each day, or a senior being able to afford a safe, stable home to age in place.

Too many of our neighbors are stretched thin: more than 20% of Rockland households spend more than 30% of their household income on housing. That leaves little for groceries, medicine, transportation, or an emergency.

Keep Rockland Home shows the truth about affordable housing — that it provides safe, quality, accessible homes for a broad range of residents:

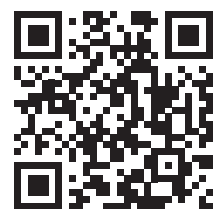
seniors, recent college graduates, teachers, essential workers, first responders, and more. The campaign is about facts, not fears. It will dispel rumors and inaccuracies that too often derail projects that could help stabilize our workforce and preserve the character of the neighborhoods we all cherish.

I'm grateful to Alexandra Obremski, our former Community Development Director, for her leadership in framing how affordable housing supports economic growth and strong community connections. And I want to thank Nora Madonick and Arch Street Communications for leading the campaign's marketing work and helping us elevate facts over fiction.

This campaign is not about changing Rockland — *it's about keeping Rockland a place people can call home.* By building and preserving affordable homes across every income level, we protect our local workforce, support small businesses, and keep our neighborhoods vibrant and diverse.

Together, we can ensure that Rockland remains a place where people can live, work, raise families, and grow old with dignity.

Learn more about the campaign at KeepRocklandHome.com.



“

This campaign is not about changing Rockland — it's about keeping Rockland a place people can call HOME.



20%

of Rockland households spend more than 30% of their household income on housing

21%

of Rockland households spend more than 50% of their household income on housing

\$750K

Median Home Sale Price Far Exceeding Affordability for Median Income Families

A housing deficit of
4,200 units
for those making under \$60,000

OFFICE OF
COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT

County Selects Developer for Sain Building Redevelopment

Rockland County Executive Ed Day and the Office of Community Development announced that Regan Development and the Rockland Housing Action Coalition (RHAC) have been selected to redevelop the approximately 3.69 acre Sain Building site at 18 New Hempstead Road in New City. Their proposal was chosen through a competitive Request for Proposals issued in June 2025, with four submissions reviewed before awarding an Exclusive Negotiating Agreement.

“Today marks an important step forward in transforming a long vacant property into high quality, affordable housing for seniors, vulnerable residents, essential workers and volunteers,” **said County Executive Ed Day.** “We are helping ensure that long time residents—and those who serve our community—can continue to live and thrive here.”

The proposal includes:

- 23 age restricted affordable senior rental units
- 25 non age restricted affordable rental units
- Preferences for veterans, first responders/essential workers, and individuals with Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities (IDD)
- 40,000 square feet of recreation and park space
- A mix of units affordable to households earning 30–80% of Area Median Income (AMI)

Final project details will be determined during the negotiation phase.

DIVISION OF
ENVIRONMENTAL
RESOURCES

County Secures 20 Acres of New Open Space



Rockland County Executive Ed Day & Division of Environmental Resources Coordinator Kevin McGuinness announced the purchase of a 20 acre undeveloped parcel at 2 Old Stone Road in Valley Cottage, protecting a scenic mountaintop area that has faced development pressure for more than a decade.

The property offers 360 degree views and expands preserved land on West Hook Mountain to a total of 67 acres, building on earlier conservation by the Town of Clarkstown.

The County purchased the parcel for \$1.7 million, supported by \$1.35 million in ARPA funds.

“This acquisition strengthens Rockland’s commitment preserving natural landscapes for future generations,” **said County Executive Ed Day.**

County Implements \$3 Gas Sales Tax Cap

Rockland County government leaders have approved a measure to ease the burden of rising fuel costs by capping the amount of sales tax collected on gasoline.

According to AAA, the average price of gasoline in Rockland County is approaching \$4 per gallon. Under the measure, the County’s 4% sales tax on gasoline will be applied only to the first \$3 per gallon, rather than the full retail price. “This is no windfall, but we are doing what we can to help families,” **County Executive Ed Day said.** “Government should not benefit from higher prices - it should step in to provide relief. This action delivers immediate, albeit modest, savings and continues our efforts to ease costs for residents when and where possible.”

Adopted by the County Legislature and to be signed by County Executive Ed Day, the cap will be in effect from June 1, 2026, through March 1, 2027. The cap applies only to the County’s portion of the sales tax. New York State’s per-gallon taxes, including the state excise tax and the Metropolitan Commuter Transportation District (MCTD) assessment, remain unchanged.



DEPARTMENT
OF HEALTH

Mosquito Control Program



The Health Department implements the county’s mosquito control program to help reduce the mosquito population and reduce the risk of mosquito-borne diseases in our county.

During the spring and summer, staff monitor 16 active adult mosquito trap sites to assess them for disease. Staff also treat over

20,000 catch basins and storm drains, which have the potential to breed mosquitoes. Seasonal staff assist with monitoring and treating over 1,000 natural sites such as woodland pools and wetlands.

Mosquito Dunks are available to residents to reduce the mosquito population on their own property. The Health Department distributes Mosquito Dunks® for use in closed or unused residential swimming pools and hot tubs.

Dunks are available by appointment only for pickup at the Robert L. Yeager Health Complex in Pomona. To place an order, call 845-364-3173 or email wvn@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
- Climate Smart Communities Task Force
- 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

We're HIRING - Your Skills Belong Here!

Build a meaningful career in public service and make an impact in your community. Gain hands-on experience in roles from entry-level to executive leadership across multiple fields.

Positions in Rockland County Government offer competitive pay, comprehensive benefits, NYS pension, retirement savings options, professional development, tuition assistance and more!



Questions?
 Call (845) 364-3737 or email
RCjobs@co.rockland.ny.us

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



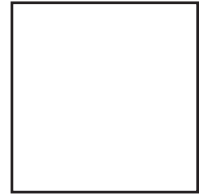
ROCKLAND COUNTY EXECUTIVE ED DAY

Allison-Parris County Office Building

11 New Hempstead Road

New City, New York 10956

rocklandcountyny.gov



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

845-364-3511

Mental Health

845-364-2378

Office for People

with Disabilities

845-364-3980

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

