Two steps forward, one step back... That's a little bit of how it feels now that voter reform legislation, particularly early voting, has been passed, signed by Governor Cuomo, but not included in his proposed budget. Throughout the state, County Boards of Election will be making provisions to allow voters to cast their ballots days in advance of the formally designated Election Day on November 5th. This will require some new technology and manpower. Without support in the budget, this initiative becomes another unfunded State mandate, a financial burden to the counties. Change is often difficult and institutions routinely tend to resist it. The League advocated long and hard for this change that will provide access to voting for many people whose circumstances prohibited them from casting a ballot in a restricted timeframe. We can't let it fail because of lack of adequate funding. There is still time to have it included in the separate, proposed budgets of the Senate and Assembly that will be used in negotiations with the Governor. Please, contact your State Senator and Assemblyperson: tell them you want funding for early voting included in this year’s budget!

The LWVNY has developed a very readable explanation of voter reform legislation that has been enacted. They have also published their research about the projected costs associated with early voting. Those documents are available here and on their website at LWVNY.org. On another note, as an organization founded by women almost a century ago, we are happy to acknowledge and celebrate March as Women’s History Month. In recognition of it, our Coffee and Conversation on March 15th will feature New Rochelle's amazing City Historian, Barbara Davis, introducing us to notable, but perhaps lesser-known, women from New Rochelle's past - from movers and shakers to musicians and mistresses! We hope you will join us for this ‘special edition” of our monthly, Friday morning program at the New Rochelle Public Library.

-- Monica Grey
New Rochelle looks to reinvent Ward Acres property

Ward Acres Park is a forested eyesore with dilapidated structures surrounded by a middle-class neighborhood in the north end of New Rochelle.

City officials and admirers are now on a mission to return it to its glory days.

"This is the largest park in New Rochelle," Mayor Noam Bramson said. "We want to enhance one of the city’s most beautiful natural areas."

The 62-acre area was once part of the 500-acre Hillandale Farm owned by renowned horse breeder Watson Dickerman and housed the sires of two historic race horses: Atlantic Express and Bellini.

The 15,000-square-foot barn complex, which includes a horse barn, farm complex and barn stable, was built in 1906. Part of it was purchased by the Ward Family in 1925. Nearly four decades later, in 1962, the city bought it.

Ward Acres Park gradually fell into disrepair after decades of neglect, vandalism and flood damage.

"The complex has been subject to long-term neglect and most of the complex is in an advanced stage of deterioration with many interior locations unsafe," according to a recent city-commissioned study by Stantec. -- LoHud, 3/1/2019

READ THE REST AT WARD ACRES
Anne Firor Scott, Scholar of Women’s History

This 2/12/19 obituary of noted women’s history scholar, Anne Firor Scott, credits her early career with the League of Women Voters with laying the ground work for her landmark study of the under-appreciated role of women making social change.

Anne Firor Scott, a scholar who brought a new prominence to women’s history and taught generations of Duke University students how to study and appreciate it, died on Feb. 5 at her home in Chapel Hill, N.C. She was 97. Her family confirmed her death.

Her 1970 book, “The Southern Lady: From Pedestal to Politics, 1830-1930,” challenged the portrait of Southern women as prettily dressed, tea-sipping spectators to the cataclysmic events of the century of the title. -NYTimes, 2/12/19

READ THE REST AT SCHOLAR

What Is the Equal Rights Amendment, and Why Are We Talking About It Now?

Do you understand the Equal Rights Amendment? That's been my go-to party question lately, and to my surprise, most people don't politely excuse themselves for a refill when asked.

The most common responses I've heard, especially from women my age, were to the effect of: “Don’t we already have that?” or “That was a ’70s thing, right?” -- NYTimes, 2/22/2019

READ THE REST OF THIS OPINION PIECE AT ERA

WELL, ACTUALLY. VOTING FOR A WOMAN DOES MATTER

The 2020 Democratic primary is shaping up to center mothers and motherhood in ways that exceed my wildest hopes. Previous elections have hinged on cloying conservative pro-mommy sentiment, or obsessed over winning the votes of suburban white “soccer moms.” But this time around, it's different. The women in the Democratic primary race are pushing for a deep, and deeply feminist, re-evaluation of how women’s unpaid and invisible labor makes all our lives possible, and what the United States owes to the mothers working out of our sight and without our support. --DAME, 2/21/2019

READ THE REST AT DAME

JOIN THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS IN MARCH AND GET FIFTEEN MONTHS FOR THE PRICE OF TWELVE!
WHAT DOES A CITY COUNCILPERSON DO?

The City Council is New Rochelle's legislative body. It includes the Mayor, elected at large, and 6 Council Members, elected by district. The Mayor and City Council Members serve 4 year terms, and there are no term limits. The Mayor and Council are up for re-election in November 2019.

The City Council establishes policy, and directs the City Manager and staff to carry out its directives.

Specific duties of the City Council include setting policy, appointing the City Manager and City Clerk, approving the Budget, and enacting local laws, resolutions, and ordinances. Enactment of a local law must be preceded by a Public Hearing. To pass laws, a majority vote on Council is required. Council Members also make appointments to several Citizen Advisory Committees; for example, the Advisory Committee on Boating and Marinas.

In addition to legislative duties for the City, each Council Member responds to constituent issues on the local level, such as parking, potholes, and other issues specific to that district. Citizens reach out to their City Council Member, making City Council a representative governmental body.

The City Council meets twice a month, one time for the Council of the Whole (which includes Public Hearings and Citizens to be Heard), and one time for the Regular Legislative Meeting.

Council meetings are open to the public and televised live on Government Access Cable Stations 75 (Cablevision) and 28 (Verizon) and streamed live and on demand on the City's website. Meeting agendas are available on the City's website.

-- Liz Fried, LWVNR Member and New Rochelle City Council Member, District 6
CITY PEOPLE AND ISSUES

The League of Women Voters of New Rochelle presents two new interviews on its cable television program, “City People and Issues.” One is with Rabbi Scott Weiner, president of the New Rochelle Interreligious Council, and the other is with City Historian Barbara Davis. The programs will be shown on alternate weeks on Cablevision Channel 76 on Mondays at 7 pm, and repeated on Wednesdays at 10 pm and Thursdays at 9:30 pm. They will also be on demand at www.vimeo.com after the first showing on Cablevision.

Week of March 4: Theresa Kump Leghorn, president of the New Rochelle Council on the Arts, speaks with host Ina Aronow about why the arts are important and what is happening in the arts in New Rochelle (last week on Cablevision.)

Week of March 11: Rabbi Scott Weiner, president of the New Rochelle Interreligious Council, discusses the value of the Council in an interview with Tamar Tait.

Week of March 18: City Historian Barbara Davis talks about the importance of preserving the historic structures in New Rochelle as new development goes forward. She is interviewed by Ina Aronow.

Week of March 25: Repeat of Rabbi Weiner interview

The February interview with New Rochelle Mayor Noam Bramson, who discusses the positive impact of development on the city and the plans for catching up on long-delayed infrastructure needs, is now available on vimeo at https://vimeo.com/317590847.

RUNNING AND WINNING WORKSHOP GEARING UP FOR APRIL

The LWVW is sponsoring its 8th annual Running and Winning workshop, to be held on April 11th in White Plains.

The workshop is open to female-identified junior and senior high school students from Westchester County, and provides a day-long opportunity to interact with female elected officials and to engage in exercises designed to introduce students to establishing a campaign platform and communicating with voters as part of a campaign team.

Adult volunteers who are interested in spending a wonderful, rewarding day helping out as facilitators should contact Deb Morel at moreldeb@gmail.com.
Voter Service

We registered voters at the College of New Rochelle's Educational Symposium on February 13th (right.) The Hon. Pearl Quarles, former Westchester County Legislator and a LWVNR Board member, was a panelist at the Symposium. LWVNR Volunteers also registered voters at the Do it For the Culture Gospel Fest on 2/28 at The College of New Rochelle.

The Voter Service committee is working on a spring schedule of Voter Registration activities at local colleges and area high schools. The plan is to register students and then follow up before local primaries, if any, and the general election, to remind them to vote. An email for volunteers will be sent out when the program is finalized. Contact Joan at 914-715-3916 or royjoanalex@yahoo.com.

Trump administration inches closer to defunding Planned Parenthood

The US Department of Health and Human Services issued its draft final rule to revise the Title X family planning program Friday, jeopardizing a decades-old program that serves millions of low-income people, critics say.

Title X, established in 1970, provides more than $250 million in funding for birth control and other reproductive health care services to approximately 4 million people every year.

Central to opponents' concerns about the rule are provisions that prohibit health care providers who receive federal funding from performing abortions or even referring patients elsewhere for the procedure. --CNN, 2/23/2019 READ THE REST AT TITLE X

News from the League of Women Voters of New Rochelle is published by the Executive Board of the League of Women Voters of New Rochelle. We are Joan Alexander, Ina Aronow, Marilyn Brown (Contributing Editor,) Leona Newman, Susan Fleming, Monica Grey, Sydelle Herzberg, John Hessel, Peter Korn, Leslie Mignault (Editor,) and Pearl Quarles. Contact us at LWVNewRochelle@gmail.com.
H.R. 4: Voting Rights Advancement Act Introduced This Week!

LWV is proud to support the Voting Rights Advancement Act (VRAA), which would restore the VRA by updating the coverage formula to determine which states and localities must pre-clear election changes with the Department of Justice. The bill would essentially restore section 4 of the VRA, which was gutted in the Shelby County v. Holder decision. Read our statement on the VRAA.

League Urges Support for HR1 Companion in U.S. Senate

The League recently sent a memo to the U.S. Senate urging members to support and co-sponsor a companion bill to HR1, the For the People Act. Complementary democracy reform proposals in both the House and Senate will show a unified approach in Congress and are an important step forward in repairing our broken political system and our destructive campaign finance system. The League supports legislation led by Senator Udall that mirrors provisions of this historic bill.

HR1 Moving to the Floor of the U.S. House

HR1 has been "marked-up" in the House Committee on Administration and is set to go to the floor of U.S. House next week. Now is the time to urge your Representative to vote for this historic legislation. This bill to fix our democracy deserves bipartisan support. Contact your Representative today via email or call the capitol switchboard at 202.224.3121 to leave a message for your Representative.
JOIN THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF NEW ROCHELLE

The League depends on the work and financial support of all its members to carry out its programs. Membership is open to women and men of voting age. Joining our local league confers membership in the State and National Leagues, enables you to receive publications from all three levels, and provides the opportunity to be involved in local, state and national issues.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NAME __________________________________________
ADDRESS __________________________________________
CITY, STATE, ZIP __________________________________________
TELEPHONE ___________________ EMAIL ___________________

____ NEW MEMBERSHIP    ____ RENEWAL
____ INDIVIDUAL $60/YEAR  ____ HOUSEHOLD* $85/YEAR

* ADDITIONAL HOUSEHOLD MEMBER NAME __________________________
   EMAIL __________________________

PLEASE MAKE YOUR MEMBERSHIP CHECK PAYABLE TO LWV NR

____ I WOULD LIKE TO SUPPORT THE LEAGUE WITH A TAX DEDUCTIBLE CONTRIBUTION MADE PAYABLE TO LWV EDUCATION FOUNDATION
   ____ $100    ____ $50    ____ OTHER __________________

RETURN THIS APPLICATION WITH YOUR CHECK TO
The League of Women Voters of New Rochelle
45 Long Vue
New Rochelle, NY 10804

or

Join and/or Donate via PAYPAL on our website: www.lwvnewro.org
February’s guest was Geena Gokey (right,) Claims Specialist at the New Rochelle Field Office of the Social Security Administration. Ms. Gokey discussed Retirement and Medicare on February 15th and took questions from the audience.

On March 15th at 9:30 am, for Women’s History Month, City Historian Barbara Davis (left) will again present a digital slide presentation on some of New Rochelle notable women. This time, she will focus on individuals who are not so well-known to local residents, yet earned national prominence. The illustrious parade will include artists, musicians, writers, philanthropists and activists, as well as an inventor of an important everyday item – and two women involved in presidential scandals New Rochelle’s deep and wonderful history is bound to amaze and impress!

Coffee and Conversation is an ongoing series of informal public gatherings, with guests discussing public issues. The meetings, open to all, are sponsored by the League of Women Voters of New Rochelle. Coffee and Conversation is held in the New Rochelle Public Library’s first floor meeting room. Coffee and light refreshments are served. For further information, please call 914-632-8254.
Spring is Coming - Plant a Tree!

New Rochelle has a Plant-a-Tree program and they need to hear from us! To request that a tree be planted, use New Rochelle's “Plant-a-Tree” form.

CHANGES TO QUAKER RIDGE ROAD

With help from a New York State grant, New Rochelle is planning to make the biggest investment in Quaker Ridge Road since the street’s initial construction decades ago. In addition to basic (and much-needed) resurfacing, the goals of the project are to Enhance safety and efficiency at intersections, maintain smooth traffic flow, curb excessive speeding, and Improve sidewalks and cycling options. A community meeting was held on 2/27 at Beth El Synagogue to explain the project and to answer questions from the community.

Metro-North To Run Line For L.I., Westchester, Penn Sta.

An underused rail line in the east Bronx could become Metro-North Railroad's newest line. It would also become a transit link between Westchester, Long Island, Boston and Washington, D.C.

The new commuter line would run between New Rochelle and Penn Station instead of Grand Central, Metro-North's home terminal. Four new train stations, at Hunt's Point, Parkchester/Van Nest, Morris Park and Co-op City, would be built on the line.

New Rochelle's Mayor Noam Bramson said that Penn Access is vital to the economy, environment and security of the region. "For New Rochelle, it is a potential game changer, giving us the closest station to Manhattan with direct access to the east and west sides" Bramson said. -Patch, 1/29/19

READ THE WHOLE ARTICLE AT PENN

BRENDAN CONROY TO CHALLENGE INCUMBENT MAYOR NOAM BRAMSON

Brendan Conroy has been nominated by the city's Republican party to challenge the Democratic Bramson, who has been in office since January 2006. Conroy is currently a real estate salesperson at Houlihan Lawrence. Bramson has been overwhelmingly elected three times since he initially took office and previously served a decade as a member of the New Rochelle City Council. --NEW ROCHELLE DAILY VOICE, 2/26/2019
New York Counts 2020 Lobby Day: March 5th

The League recently became a coalition partner with New York Counts 2020. New York Counts 2020 is a broad-based, statewide coalition composed of racial, ethnic, immigrant, religious, health, education, labor, housing, social services, and business groups working in partnership with state and local government officials. Their aim is to ensure that New Yorkers across the state - particularly marginalized communities in hard-to-count districts - can fully maximize their participation in the 2020 Census.

On March 5th they will hold a lobby day in Albany in support of funding for educational efforts surrounding the census question. You can learn more about New York Counts 2020 [here](#) and sign up for their lobby day [here](#).

No Funding For Early Voting in Governor's Amendments

In mid-February, the Governor released his 30 day budget amendments. These amendments made changes to the Governor's original state budget proposal. We had hoped to see funding for early voting included in these amendments. Unfortunately, the only major change in the proposal was to the Governor's congestion pricing plan.

Now more than ever it is important to lobby your state Senators and Assembly Members to remind them that without funding, localities will be fronting the cost of early voting. The Senate and Assembly each craft their own budget proposals. Their one-house budgets are released in early March. Once the budgets are release the two houses and executive negotiate. We want to make sure that the Senate and Assembly include funding for early voting in their budgets.

The state League has created a budget lobby packet, available on our website [here](#).

Voter Friendly Ballot Act Passes in Assembly

It wasn't all bad news. Recently, the Assembly passed the Voter Friendly Ballot Act. This legislation would make comprehensive changes to the formatting of voting ballots in New York State. Changes include instituting a uniform font size, removing party emblems, and making a clear delineation between candidate names.
**COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD**

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

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**2020 Census Jobs**

Earn extra income while helping your community.

The U.S. Census Bureau is recruiting thousands of people across the country to assist with the 2020 Census count.

[APPLY NOW]

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**NY Election Law Reform: Unfinished Business**

**Hot Topics Breakfast**

Tuesday, March 19*  
8:30-10:00 am

Jazz Forum Club  
1 Dixon Lane, Tarrytown  
Parking: Municipal lots - McKeel Ave. & S. Washington St.

**Speaker: John Nonna**

New York ranks near the bottom of states for voter turnout. Not because New Yorkers don’t care, but because of barriers to voting. That should change with new election laws. Learn how these new laws will affect you, and what we still need to do so all NY citizens can exercise their right to vote.

*After the presentation, go vote! March 19 is Election Day for some of our villages.

Free Continental breakfast served; $10 donation optional

Questions? - info@lwv-rivertowns.org

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**DAY OF ACTION 2019**

March 12 | Albany, NY

Sign up at: bit.ly/2019PP_REG

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**A Collective Ribbon**

Making the Triangle Remembered
You're invited to join us Friday, April 5 for the largest celebration of volunteerism in our region.

Breakfast & Awards: 8:00 AM - 10:00 AM
Networking Reception: 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

For more info, please visit volunteernewyork.org/awards or call 914-227-9307.

Fostering Workshop
Saturday, March 16th
10:30am to 11:30 am

Women’s History Month Trolley Tour
WOODLAWNTOURS.ORG

Sunday, March 3rd
2 pm - 4 pm
Register HERE

DO YOU CARE ABOUT RESONSIBLE DEVELOPMENT?
Join SWAC Pac for a forum on COMMUNITY BENEFITS AGREEMENTS and how they can create:

Together we can demand more from Developers and build a stronger and better Westchester!

FRIDAY, MARCH 8TH @ 7PM
TEAMSTERS LOCAL 456 HALL • 160 S. CENTRAL AVE • ELMSFORD NY

SOUTHERN WESTCHESTER ACTION PAC
NYCDI16 INDIVISIBLE

Men speak most in best picture winning films
Proportion of words spoken by characters with more than 100 words

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<tr>
<th>Year and film</th>
<th>Women speaking</th>
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<td>2015, Birdman</td>
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<td>1991, Dances With Wolves</td>
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Source: ards Inclusion, The Bullett