

# MINORITY REPORTER

FROM INFORMATION TO UNDERSTANDING

THE  
**BLACK**  
*Culture Festival*  
JULY 27th & 28th 2024  
12PM - 8PM



**Mayor Evans Targets  
Homeownership**

*Black is Beautiful*  
**Celebrate Black  
Culture, Beauty &  
Diversity**



**Gun Violence Awareness Day  
and Wear Orange Weekend,  
June 7-9**



**City Councilmembers Unveil the  
Vision Zero Initiative**

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# LOCAL

## MAYOR EVANS TARGETS HOMEOWNERSHIP



Mayor Malik Evans

By Staff

Mayor Malik Evans says he has been dedicated to addressing the needs of renters and landlords for the past 2 years. He called upon the Housing Quality Task Force to establish partnerships, improve City programs, and coordinate efforts with state, county, and partner organizations to boost homeownership opportunities and provide better assistance to existing homeowners.

"Homeownership is a key way for families to build wealth and create stability for future generations," Evans emphasized. "We must concentrate on empowering homeowners to maximize the value of their homes, while

also assisting renters in transitioning to homeownership to establish roots and invest in themselves and our city."

The Housing Quality Task Force was formed in February 2022 with a 90-day mandate to develop policies and programs to enhance housing quality in Rochester. Since then, the City has implemented a Landlord-Tenant Bill of Rights and Responsibilities, expanded its code enforcement team, introduced an online property management platform, and compiled a database of vacant properties.

The mayor affirmed that initiatives like the Buy The Block program and the Rochester Land Bank contributed to the increase of available quality

housing. Evans noted that a specialized City team, including a housing attorney, has been established to target non-compliant landlords and address long-standing Certificate of Occupancy and code violation cases.

Evans believes with these accomplishments under their belt, the Housing Quality Task Force now has 60 business days to broaden its scope, develop strategies for promoting homeownership, offer additional support to current homeowners, and engage new partners.

To learn more about the Rochester Housing Quality Task Force, visit [www.cityofrochester.gov/hqtf](http://www.cityofrochester.gov/hqtf).

## PROPOSALS NEEDED FOR NATHANIEL HAWTHORNE (SCHOOL NO. 25) BUILDING



Nathaniel Hawthorne (School No. 25) Building

By Staff

The City of Rochester has released a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the sale of the Nathaniel Hawthorne (School No. 25) building at 965 North Goodman St. in the city's Northeast Quadrant. The City said that the property includes two potential parcels, combining for a total land area of approximately 3.38 acres: the former school building at 965 N.

Goodman St. and an adjacent undeveloped playground at 576 Bay St.

The report confirms proposals should focus on the redevelopment of the existing structure, incorporating parking and green space, and should aim to boost the city's economic development, expand the tax base, complement nearby developments, stabilize neighborhood property values, and promote environmentally sustainable construction. The document noted only proposals that involve renovating and reusing the existing building will be considered.

"This historic property is ripe for a new chapter and offers a unique opportunity for our community," said Mayor Evans. "Revitalizing this property has

enormous potential to strengthen our neighborhoods and drive economic growth, reinforcing our commitment to building a safe, equitable, and prosperous Rochester by inspiring hope and providing opportunities for everyone."

According to an independent appraisal by Midland Appraisal Associates in April 2024, the property sale offers two purchase options:

\* For use as a school or educational facility, the combined parcels at 965 N. Goodman St. and 576 Bay St. are priced at \$820,000.

\* For adaptive reuse, such as housing or commercial purposes, only the primary property at 965 N. Goodman St. is available for \$800,000, with the City retaining ownership of 576 Bay St.

The City will hold a virtual informational meeting at 2 p.m. on Wednesday, June 26, 2024, via Zoom. Building and site inspections are scheduled for:

- \* 10 a.m., Thursday, June 20, 2024
- \* 2 p.m., Monday, July 8, 2024
- \* 10 a.m., Wednesday, July 17, 2024

For more details, including a comprehensive property description, zoning requirements, purchaser eligibility, proposal submission requirements, and evaluation criteria, please review the Nathaniel Hawthorne School No. 25 RFP. Interested parties can also contact the City's Director of Real Estate, Paul Scuderi, at [Paul.Scuderi@CityofRochester.gov](mailto:Paul.Scuderi@CityofRochester.gov) with any questions and to submit proposals.

**OFFICE ADDRESS:**  
2269 Lyell Ave, Rochester, NY  
14606 Suite #103

**MAILING ADDRESS:**  
P.O. Box 26352, Rochester, NY  
14626

**PHONE:**  
585-301-4199  
Toll-free: 1-888-792-9303

**FAX:**  
1-888-796-6292

**EMAIL:**  
[editor@minorityreporter.net](mailto:editor@minorityreporter.net)

**PUBLISHER**  
Dave McCleary  
[davemc@minorityreporter.net](mailto:davemc@minorityreporter.net)

**EXECUTIVE EDITOR**  
Tyronda James  
[tyrondajames@minorityreporter.net](mailto:tyrondajames@minorityreporter.net)

**ART DIRECTOR**  
Sasha Smith  
[sashasmith@minorityreporter.net](mailto:sashasmith@minorityreporter.net)

**REPORTERS**  
Tyronda James  
[tyrondajames@minorityreporter.net](mailto:tyrondajames@minorityreporter.net)  
Shanique Byrd  
Veronica Sizer

**ADVERTISING**  
Dave McCleary  
[advertising@minorityreporter.net](mailto:advertising@minorityreporter.net)

**ACCOUNTS MANAGER**  
Dave McCleary  
[davemc@minorityreporter.net](mailto:davemc@minorityreporter.net)

**CONTRIBUTORS**  
Howard Eagle  
Julianne Malveaux  
Dr. E. Faye Williams  
David W. Marshall

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# CITY COUNCILMEMBERS UNVEIL INITIATIVE TO REDUCE TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS

By Staff

City leaders, Thursday, unveiled a plan they say will help to eliminate traffic fatalities and injuries.

The initiative, called "Vision Zero" incorporates a 10-point priority action plan that includes things like establishing a task force to obtain and provide input on street design and traffic safety policies and Identifying "Traffic Safety Champions" who will engage and communicate with the community.

*Other parts of the plan are as follows:*

\* Establish a Safe Speed Initiative: Implementing 25 MPH speed limit on city streets.

\* Targeted Enhancement Initiative to inventory and identify sidewalks and intersections for safety and mobility improvements.



- \* Enhancing Marked Crosswalks to develop location spacing standards at intersections, bus shelters and side streets.
- \* A 63-mile connected bicycle network to support biking corridors and priority intersections; 19 miles are currently in place.
- \* Enhanced Snow & Ice Removal Initiative to increase frequency of sidewalk and bus shelter clearing, evaluate opportunities for treatment on bike lanes.
- \* Work with New York State to implement speed and red light camera deployment, with revenues dedicated to Vision Zero initiatives.
- \* Lake Avenue Enhanced – create a rapid bus transit corridor to reduce collisions and enhance public transportation along this dangerous stretch of road.
- \* Vision Zero Report: To include key outcome and activity-based metrics. City Council members noted the City has the ambitious goal of eradicating

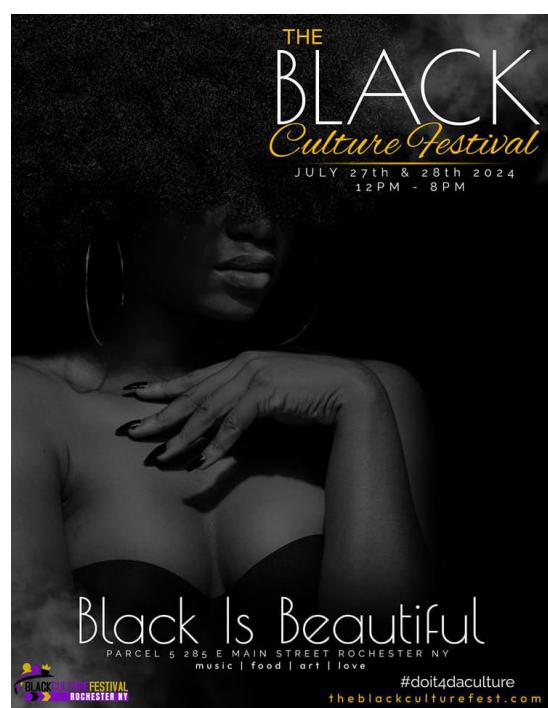
all traffic-related fatalities and severe injuries within the city.

They believe adopting the Vision Zero plan marks a significant achievement for the City Council's Pact with the People, which vowed to advocate for the plan to enhance Rochester's safety, housing quality, and equitable opportunities.

"Vision Zero is a roadmap for the City to create a safer, more equitable transportation system," said Rochester City Councilmember Mitch Gruber. "As we follow this plan and effectively engage the community, the City of Rochester will foster a culture of safety and responsibility on our streets."

In 2010 the city instituted a red light camera program but after facing a lawsuit over the program and facing major opposition from city residents, Lovely Warren, the mayor at the time, decided to not renew the program when it expired in 2016.

## CELEBRATE THE BLACK CULTURE FESTIVAL



By Staff

Mark your calendars for the 5th Annual Black Culture Festival presented by Willpower Media Company. This year's celebration will take place on July 27th and 28th, 2024, both days from 12 p.m. - 8 p.m. at Parcel 5, 285 E. Main Street, Rochester, NY 14604.

Organizers stated the festival celebrates Black culture and serves as a platform to uplift and support Black businesses and artists. This year's theme, "Black Is

Beauty," aims to shine a light on the beauty and diversity within the Black community.

### *Looking back at the festival's history:*

- \* Inaugural Festival (2020): Welcomed 300 attendees and featured 18 Black-owned businesses at Genesee Valley Park.
- \* Second Year (2021): Relocated to downtown Parcel 5, expanded to a two-day event, and drew 5000 attendees with over 50 Black businesses.
- \* Third & Fourth Festivals (2022 & 2023): Each attracted 3000 attendees with over 50 Black-owned vendors.

The festival is sponsored by the City of Rochester, Monroe County, MVP Healthcare, Redco, Turntable Lofi Lounge, Super 7 Party Supplies, 1st Player Video Game Truck, The Beat 105.5, and Sun Lion Financial Group.

### *Activities and events at the festival:*

- \* Shopping & Food: Featuring a diverse selection of local vendors.
- \* Youth Activities: BCF Kid Zone powered by Super 7 Party Supplies and First Player Video Game Truck, offering bounce houses, laser tag, and more family-friendly activities.
- \* Entertainment: Comedy Show by the Basement Comedy Team, Main Stage Concert showcasing Upstate New York's top talent, Live Bands, Youth Dance and Step Competition with a Grand Prize of \$500, Poetry Showcase, Spades Tournament with a Grand Prize of \$500 sponsored by Sun Lion Financial Group.
- \* New Additions: Fashion Show, Hair Show with a Grand Prize of \$500, Black IS Beauty Art Expo.



\* Scholarship Presentation: A scholarship award for a high school senior attending an HBCU in the fall.

For more information visit [www.theblackculturefest.com](http://www.theblackculturefest.com) or <https://www.facebook.com/blackculturefestival>

# FROM THE COMMUNITY

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## GUN VIOLENCE AWARENESS DAY AND WEAR ORANGE WEEKEND, JUNE 7-9



Mayor Malik D. Evans

From the City of Rochester, County of Monroe News Release

This weekend, Friday, June 7 through Sunday, June 9 is Gun Violence Awareness Day and Wear Orange Weekend in Rochester and Monroe County, joining a national movement to associate gun violence with the color that hunters wear to protect human life. Gun Violence Awareness Day and Wear Orange Weekend are recognized each year by communities across the country on the first Friday and weekend of June.

Mayor Malik D. Evans and Monroe County Executive Adam J. Bello joined dozens of community members representing ROC Against Gun Violence Coalition, Moms Demand Action, Rise Up Rochester, Pathways to Peace, the Rochester Peace Collective, and others outfitted in orange on June 1 to read the joint proclamation and announce a city-wide End Gun Violence pledge to enhance community collaborations against gun violence.

"The City of Rochester and the County of Monroe are committed to ending gun violence together

with our law enforcement agencies at the local, state, and federal levels and our host of devoted community partners, including ROC Against Gun Violence Coalition, Moms Demand Action, Rise Up Rochester, Pathways to Peace, and the Rochester Peace Collective," the Mayor and County Executive stated in the joint City-County Proclamation."

The wear orange movement was initially conceived by the classmates of 15-year-old Hadiya Pendleton of Chicago, who was shot and killed on a school playground one week after marching in President Barack Obama's inauguration parade.

"We call on the people of Rochester and Monroe County to wear orange this weekend and to come together as one community to heal, offer comfort, promote gun safety, honor the lives lost to gun violence, and join the movement to abolish gun violence," Evans and Bello said.

The ROC Against Gun Violence Coalition seeks to end gun violence in Rochester by bringing attention to the root causes and effects of gun violence and promoting improved quality of life in Rochester's neighborhoods.

The Coalition is made up of several community partners and stakeholders who are working to end gun violence.

\* Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America, a national grassroots advocacy agency with a chapter in Monroe County, and it has played a leading role in promoting the message across the country.

\* Rise Up Rochester, Incorporated is a nonprofit that empowers the community to establish and maintain a nonviolent culture and provides support to crime victims and their families.

\* Pathways to Peace is a street-level team that



Hadiya Pendleton

provides support and nonviolent alternatives for youth who are resorting to violence to settle disputes or becoming involved in gangs and drugs.

\* The members of the City's Pathways to Peace team are available to help safeguard the lives of these youth, trained to diffuse potentially violent situations, and help them get on track to a better life.

The City's Rochester Peace Collective guides investments in innovative and proven programs that work to prevent violent crime by collaborating with community-based organizations and agencies working in the fields of conflict resolution, youth development, re-entry, and violence prevention.

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## RHA HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHER PROGRAM APPLICATION WAIT LIST DEADLINE EXTENDED UNTIL FRIDAY, JUNE 14

From Rochester Housing Authority (RHA)

The Rochester Housing Authority (RHA) announced that it is extending the deadline to apply for its Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) waiting list, a HUD-funded program. RHA is extending the deadline to 4:00 pm on Friday, June 14 from the original deadline of June 7 to allow enough time for all interested applicants to apply online. Online applications may be placed 24 hours a day and continue until 4:00 pm on June 14, 2024.

Interested applicants may apply directly through RHA's website as follows:

\* Go to [www.rochesterhousing.org](http://www.rochesterhousing.org)

\* Click "Learn More" to be sent to the bob.ai website (RHA's partner service) to create an account with a current email address and phone number



\* Enter application information

\* Once completed, applicants will receive confirmation by email and/or text message

\* Within 90 days, RHA will contact all applicants to inform them of their status

\* Incomplete applications, duplicate applications,

applications that falsify information or are fraudulent will NOT be accepted. Applicants are encouraged to have the following information available for all household members: names, dates of birth, social security numbers, income, and assets.

For application assistance, local libraries are offering computer support. Housing Choice Vouchers assist many eligible families and individuals to enable them to live in high-quality, safe, and affordable housing where RHA administers the HCV program. Anyone with a disability requiring a reasonable accommodation to complete the online application should call 585-697-6105. Individuals with a hearing impairment should contact 711 TTY service.

Updated information will continue to be posted on: [www.rochesterhousing.org](http://www.rochesterhousing.org)

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# FROM THE COMMUNITY

## INTERNATIONAL PLAZA TO HOST BLOCK PARTY SUNDAY



### International Plaza to Host Block Party Sunday

The International Plaza, 828 N. Clinton Ave., is hosting a Block Party from 1 to 5 p.m., Sunday, June 9, 2024, featuring live music and performances by Chris Sumner, DJ Shawn Estrich, Day Badara, Dane Jah and the band Tru Soul.

Managed in collaboration with the City of Rochester and the Ibero American Development Corp., the International Plaza brings the world to Rochester with a variety of food, merchandise, and entertainment from vendors and performers highlighting a wide assortment of global cuisine, culture, and heritage. Community partners will also be on site to present information on services and resources for residents.

Sunday Markets at the International Plaza will continue through Oct. 13, offering an ideal, affordable location for merchants seeking to engage di-

rectly with the public. Vendor spaces are available with rates starting at \$20 per week. Discounts are available for multiple weeks and for the season.

For vending information applications or questions, please visit [www.cityofrochester.gov/internationalplaza](http://www.cityofrochester.gov/internationalplaza), or call Erika J. Perez at (585) 428-7282 or email [pmarket@cityofrochester.gov](mailto:pmarket@cityofrochester.gov).

The Ibero American Development Corporation offers residents assistance with starting and growing a business. Contact the Ibero Business Center at [agustin.rodriguez@iaal.org](mailto:agustin.rodriguez@iaal.org), call (585) 256-8900 ext. 125 or visit [www.ibero.org/ibc/](http://www.ibero.org/ibc/) for more information.

Follow the International Plaza on social media: @theinternationalplazaroc/.

## ROC JUNETEENTH TO SPONSOR RUN/WALK AND JAZZ EVENTS



rector Gloria Johnson-Hovey. "One part of that legacy is a beautiful art form, jazz music."

This series of performances will honor Black and Brown jazz musicians and is free. However, tickets are needed and can be retrieved at Eventbrite.com.



This year, Roc Juneteenth is holding: its eighth annual 5K run/walk, along with a day-long jazz. Roc Juneteenth will present "Roc Juneteenth Jazz," from 1 to 8 pm Sunday, June 16, at Highland Park, in Highland Bowl.

Juneteenth recalls the trauma of enslavement and celebrates the end of that horrific institution.

"Juneteenth also reminds us of the resilience and creativity, the influence, and the legacy of Black people," says Roc Juneteenth Race Di-

p.m. at Genesee Valley Park, Riverbend Shelter, located along the Genesee River. To register for the walk/run visit [itsyourrace.com](http://itsyourrace.com). If unable to attend the run/walk, event, there is sign up for the virtual events.

The free concert, featuring RJ and Friends celebrating the accomplishments of Black musicians, will take place from 4 p.m. to 6 pm Wed., June 19, at the Roundhouse Shelter, across from the Riverbend Shelter.

"We had a wonderful community response to the evening jazz concert last year and decided to expand it, to grow it to a stand-alone event," says Ms Johnson-Hovey. Next year, Roc Juneteenth will expand that one-day event.

"We feel that jazz music and Juneteenth should not be separate; connecting the two is imperative, especially during the month of



June, Black Music Month," she said. By holding two jazz events, she added, "we are honoring Rochester's deep history with jazz."

Bring your lawn chair or blanket, and relax, or dance to the sounds and rhythms of jazz.

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- ✓ Engaging activities promote social growth and early learning
- ✓ Full-day programs at schools and community agencies
- ✓ Indoor/outdoor play and rest time everyday
- ✓ Free monthly RTS bus pass for parents

**PreK for 3- and 4-year-olds is FREE  
for all city residents!**

If your child turns 3 or 4 by December 1, enroll online now for a high-quality nationally recognized PreK program near you. **Classes begin September 2024.**



**Enroll online today or learn more at:**  
[www.rocprek.org](http://www.rocprek.org) / 585-262-8140

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# FROM THE COMMUNITY

## NEW STORYWALK AT EL CAMINO PROMOTES LITERACY, HEALTH, AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

From the City of Rochester

City leaders and partners celebrated the grand opening of the new StoryWalk at El Camino with a ribbon cutting ceremony on Friday, May 31.

A StoryWalk promotes literacy, health, and community engagement by taking the pages from an illustrated children's book and displaying them sequentially along a walking route in the community or a trail.

Mayor Malik D. Evans and City Council President Miguel Meléndez were joined by members of the Rochester Latino Rotary Club, Ibero-American Development Corporation, and the Genesee Land Trust for the celebration for the new StoryWalk along El Camino Trail.

"This StoryWalk will turn the experience of reading a book into an opportunity for children to play and have



Kids at the Ribbon Cutting

fun," Evans said. "It pulls the pages out of a book and puts them out here in the world where children and their families interact with them and talk about them as they walk along the trail and discover each new page like a hidden treasure. So, thank you to all the partners and sponsors who made this project possible."

The new StoryWalk at the Thomas R. Frey Trail at El Camino disassembles the pages of an illustrated children's book and displays them sequentially to promote literacy, physical activity, and family time together in nature. The Rochester Latino Rotary Club initiated the project to encourage

families to spend time together while enjoying walking and reading to promote healthy habits and good literacy habits.

"Our hope is that families will enjoy reading the book pages together, develop walking as a healthy habit and create beautiful memories," said Miriam Vazquez, literacy chair of the Rochester Latino Rotary Club.

The Ibero Development Corp. and Genesee Land Trust also served as partners on the StoryWalk. The sponsors are Healthi Kids: A Common Ground Initiative, the Latino Giving Circle, M&T Bank, Key Bank, Eugenio Maria de Hostos Charter School, Wiegmans and Burgos Income Tax.

The first StoryWalk book is "Just Ask! Be Different, Be Brave, Be You" by Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor. Books will be rotated at the trail every 2-4 months.

**IADC International PLAZA MARKET Days!**

**SUNDAYS 1-5 P.M.**

**MAY 5 - OCTOBER 13, 2024**

Plaza also open Thurs. to Sat. for container vendors.  
Apply at: [CityofRochester.gov/InternationalPlaza](http://CityofRochester.gov/InternationalPlaza)

**828 N. Clinton Ave.  
Rochester NY**

**MAY 12** MOTHER'S DAY CELEBRATION

**JUNE 2** PRIDE FESTIVAL

**JUNE 19** JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION

Malik D. Evans, Mayor  
City of Rochester, NY • Rochester City Council

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## MULTIPLE GRANTS SUPPORT HOMELESS ROCHESTER STUDENTS



Photo by Beth Tate on Unsplash

From Spirit NYS

Homeless and parentally insecure students will receive mentoring, school supplies and other support through \$12,500 in grants to Spirit NYS—a nonprofit organization dedicated to dropout prevention among Rochester's homeless high school students.

Spirit NYS is a nonprofit organization dedicated to dropout prevention—helping homeless high school teens who are on their own.

Five donors contributed to the total

\* Constellation Energy—\$3,500. The company also recognized Spirit NYS as its 3,000th Constellation Community Champion.

\* NextGen Rochester—\$3,000. Next-Gen is a Giving Circle of the Rochester Area Community Foundation whose members are young professionals (ages 21-45) who pool their donations to create a larger impact.

\* The Paychex Charitable Foundation—\$5,000. The foundation supports economic development in communities where the company has operations, while also enhancing the quality of life for those who work and live in these communities.

\* The Scott and Susan Miller Family

Trust—\$1,000. This fund is a component of the Rochester Area Community Foundation.

\* An anonymous donor—\$2,100. This gift is for 24 graduating seniors to purchase prom tickets, caps, gowns and yearbooks.

As an all-volunteer organization, all donated funds go directly to support the students. Spirit NYS supports students in five city schools, including Edison Career and Technology High School, Franklin High School, Monroe High School, Northeast College Preparatory High School and Vertus High School.

"We value each dollar donated to benefit Rochester's unhoused students," said John Thompson, board chair and CEO of Spirit NYS. "Every penny goes directly to help these young people, and every one of them appreciates the help more

than we can express," he stated.

Spirit NYS currently serves 48 students in Rochester, and plans to expand to 55 in the next academic year. In other news:

\* The organization has named a former student in its program to join the Spirit NYS Rochester Advisory Board of Directors. Shainia Terrell is a graduate of Franklin High School who now studies criminal justice at Monroe Community College.

\* Guidestar, a website that catalogs information on nonprofit organizations, has awarded Spirit NYS a Candid Platinum Seal of Transparency, which recognizes the level of detail revealed in Spirit NYS's Guidestar profile.

For more information, please visit [spiritnys.org](http://spiritnys.org).

## RRH GIVES 100 FREE BICYCLE, SKATE HELMETS TO R-CENTER YOUTH



Rochester Regional Health

Partnering with Rochester Regional Health to collect helmets were the following: Bert's Bikes & Fitness, The Bike Zone, City of Rochester, Cellino Law Firm, Assemblyman Josh Jensen, Endless Highways, Erie Canal Boat Company, Irondequoit Library, Rochester Accessible Adventures, Three Heads Brewing Company, Town of Perinton Recreation Department, and Towpath Bike.

"They say the best treatment is to prevent an injury from ever even happening," said Dr. Sean Silverman, Medical Director of Golisano Restorative Neurology & Rehabilitation. "That's why Golisano Rehab's mission is twofold: to treat and prevent. Each helmet donated is a tangible step towards brain injury prevention."

Since 1989, the Golisano Restorative Neurology & Rehabilitation Center at Unity Hospital has provided the Rochester community with education on how to prevent brain injuries while providing comprehensive rehabilitation after a brain injury occurs.

RRH's rehabilitation program is the largest of its kind in the Finger Lakes region and is home to the only CARF-accredited rehabilitation center in Central and Western New York for both pediatric and adult patients.

If you missed out on the opportunity to donate to the helmet drive, donations are still being accepted online at [www.rochehealth.com/helmet](http://www.rochehealth.com/helmet).



**ROC THE BLOCK**  
ROC the Block is a community-based hiring initiative that will bring businesses and recruiters to the city's four quadrants throughout the summer and early fall. With this fun, local, block-party styled event, Rochester employers and residents can meet to discover employment and wrap-around resource opportunities.

Questions? [Shawn.Futch@cityofrochester.gov](mailto:Shawn.Futch@cityofrochester.gov)

**SAVE THE DATES:**

**WEDNESDAYS,  
11 A.M. - 2 P.M.**

**June 12**

Maplewood Rose Garden  
250 Maplewood Ave.

**July 10**

Franklin High School  
950 Norton St.

**Aug. 14**

Aberdeen Square Park  
373 Aberdeen St.

**Sept. 25**

Parcel 5  
285 E Main St.

Hosted by Council President Miguel Meléndez, the RASE Commission and the Department of Recreation and Human Services.

To join us as a vendor email [Roctheblock@cityofrochester.gov](mailto:Roctheblock@cityofrochester.gov)



Malik D. Evans, Mayor  
City of Rochester, NY • Rochester City Council

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## FROM THE COMMUNITY

# LWV OF THE ROCHESTER PROVIDES VOTER EDUCATION TOOL VOTE411



From LWV-RMA

Ahead of the 2024 Primary elections, the League of Women Voters of Rochester Metro Area offers the nonpartisan election resource VOTE411.org.

This "one-stop shop" for election information provides Rochester Metro Area voters with simple, accessible tools to help them navigate the voting

process. VOTE411 provides personalized candidate information, voter registration details, polling place locations, and other helpful election information for all voters Nationwide.

"From local ballot initiatives to important state races, it is crucial voters in Rochester Area make their voices heard this election year," said Barbara Grosh, President, LWV of the Rochester Metro Area.

"VOTE411 is the nation's premier online election resource that provides voters with the resources they need to make an informed vote this fall. The League of Women Voters of LWV-RMA has published our voter guide on VOTE411 as a resource for all Rochester area voters."

The Rochester League offers monthly sessions called "Meet Your Ballot" at several branches of the Rochester Public Library. Participants get to see a sample ballot, watch a video of procedures at a polling place, and get all their questions answered. Dates and locations are available on the calendar

at the LWV-RMA.org website.

With resources available in both English and Spanish, VOTE411 helps millions each year — many of them young people and first-time voters — learn more about what's on their ballot, where candidates stand on the issues, how to find their polling place, and more.

"The League of Women Voters of the is pleased to provide this important, nonpartisan resource to Rochester area voters," said Barbara Grosh, President of the local League. "We encourage voters to visit VOTE411.org to make a voting plan so they are prepared to cast their vote confidently on Election Day!"

- June Primary Election - June 25, 2024. - Early Voting June 15 - 23
- November General Election - November 5, 2024. - Early Voting October 26 - November 3

Visit LWV-RMA.org for additional information.

## FREE WEGMANS CONCERTS BY THE SHORE SERIES BEGINS JUNE 5



Monroe County Executive Adam Bello, along with the Ontario Beach Program Committee announced the 2024 return of the popular Wegmans Concerts by the Shore series to Ontario Beach Park, 50 Beach Avenue, 14612. The series kicks off at 7 p.m. June 5 with a performance by Nik and the Nice Guys. The concert is free to the public.

"There is nothing like a summertime Wednesday evening with family and friends enjoying a free concert at Ontario Beach Park. I encourage everyone to come on out and enjoy great music, food and fellowship this year," said County Executive Bello. "Thank you Wegmans and the Ontario Beach Program Committee for keeping this tradition going and thriving every year."

In its 38th season, the Concert by the Shore series takes place at 7 p.m. every Wednesday at Ontario Beach Park from June 5 through August 28, with the exception of the July 17 show, which begins at 7:30 p.m. Parking is available in the beach parking lots and the park is accessible by RTS.

Concert-goers are encouraged to arrive early and either bring a picnic dinner or visit one of the lakeshore area restaurants. Additionally, food concessions will be available at this year's series, including hot dogs, hamburgers, sausage and Red Osier Roast Beef sandwiches. Wegmans sponsors the family-friendly performances and the series is presented by the all- volunteer Ontario Beach Park Program Committee in partnership with the City of Rochester and Monroe County.

This year's lineup is as follows:

- June 5, Nik and the Nice Guys
- June 12, The Cool Club and the Lipker Sisters (swing, blues, R&B)
- June 19, Branded (Country)

- June 26, The Skycoasters (high energy party band)
- July 3, The Invictas (60s and 70s rock)
- July 10, Atlas (funky dance music)
- July 17, Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra (classical, pop) \*begins at 7:30 p.m.\*
- July 24, Bachata Rebelde
- July 31, iGNITE! Reggae Band
- August 7, Junkyardfieldtrip
- August 14, The Dukes
- August 21, Allegro
- August 28, Ruby Shooze

For the complete schedule of concerts, call the Beach Information line at (585) 865-3320 or visit [www.ontariobeachentertainment.org](http://www.ontariobeachentertainment.org).

## BANDS ON THE BRICKS RETURNS TO THE PUBLIC MARKET ON JULY 5



Bands on the Bricks Concert Series Returns to the City of Rochester Public Market on July 5

Bands on the Bricks, Rochester's favorite outdoor summertime concert series, opens this year's season once again with Latin Night at 5:30 p.m. Friday, July 5 at the City of Rochester Public Market, 280 N. Union St.

Now in its 26th year, this popular music series features renowned local and national acts with a wide selection of local food and beverages, and general merchandise vendors. This year the tradition con-

tinues to open the series with Latin Night, featuring local salsa, bachata and reggaeton performances curated by the organizers of the Rochester Puerto Rican Festival.

Bands on the Bricks is sponsored by the IDE family of dealers and continues for six consecutive Fridays through Aug. 9. The remaining 2024 Bands on the Bricks lineup is:

\* July 12 - Second Annual Band on the Bricks Arts, Craft and Music Festival featuring the music of Into the Now, Rochester's long-running tribute to the Grateful Dead, following an opening performance by Personal Blend. The night will include 80 artisan vendors plus and VIP section hosted by Advantage Federal Credit Union.

\* July 19 - Headliner: Dirty Work, featuring members of Aqueous with guest Peter Griffith Group;

Opener: Brian Griffith Band (blues, rock).

\* July 26 - Headliner: Giant Panda Guerilla Dub Squad, (psychedelic, jam band); Opener: Judah (rock).

\* Aug. 2 - Headliner: ZBTB (Zac Brown tribute band); Opener: The Monica Hall Band (country rock).

\* Aug. 9 - Headliner: Donna the Buffalo (reggae, folk rock); Opener: Chris Beard (blues)

Attendees are encouraged to bring folding chairs since seating is limited at the Public Market. To purchase VIP tickets, visit <https://www.bandsonthebricksroc.com/vip.html>.

For more details and event rules visit: <https://www.cityofrochester.gov/bandsonbricks/> and for updates, follow the Public Market on Instagram and Facebook @CityofRochesterPublicMarket

# NATIONAL

## HONOR FLIGHT NETWORK BRINGING AFRICAN AMERICAN VETERANS TO NATIONAL WAR MEMORIALS FOR INAUGURAL JUNETEENTH EVENT



Black veterans from the Atlanta area to receive trip of a lifetime visiting memorials built in their honor and in remembrance of those who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country.

Honor Flight Network is proud to announce its first-ever Juneteenth Honor Flight trip, which will celebrate African American veterans from the Atlanta area. On June 19, 2024, these American heroes will take a special flight to Washington, D.C. to visit the national memorials built to honor and commemorate their service and sacrifice.

The veterans, revered for their dedication and service, will embark on a journey of remembrance and gratitude with an all-expenses-paid trip from Atlanta to the nation's capital.

There, they will be immersed in a day of visits to the World War II Memorial, Korean War Memorial, Vietnam Veterans Memorial, Arlington National Cemetery and more. Part of the group will include a 101-year-old veteran, three Purple Heart recipients, one of whom is also a Bronze Star recipient, and four women veterans.

"For our inaugural Juneteenth event, we're paying tribute to the unsung heroes of our nation, the Black veterans who selflessly served during America's most pivotal war periods," said Meredith Rosenbeck, Honor Flight Network chief executive officer. "These veterans will return home with a renewed sense of pride, reminded by a grateful nation that they truly made a difference for each of us."

Honor Flight Network is a national nonprofit organization formed in

2005 with a mission of celebrating our nation's veterans by inviting them to share in a day of honor at our nation's memorials in Washington, D.C. All honored veterans travel at no cost to them. Since 2005, Honor Flight Network has given nearly 300,000 veterans across the country the profound experience of visiting our nation's war memorials.

"Many African American veterans were not only charged with defending our nation, but also had to battle various limits placed upon them by society," said John McCaskill, Honor Flight Network board member and Civil War and American historian and military educator. "The Juneteenth Honor Flight trip will highlight the extraordinary courage and resilience of Black veterans and demonstrate gratitude for their tremendous service."

Participation in an Honor Flight trip gives veterans the opportunity to experience the monuments alongside their comrades, recounting stories and experiences and remembering those who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country. As a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, Honor Flight Network coordinates the travel of approximately 22,000 veterans from around the country each year with the help of volunteers and generous partners. All honored veterans travel at no cost to them.

Honor Flight Network was formed in



Honor Flight Network

2005 with a mission of celebrating our nation's veterans by inviting them to share in a day of honor at our nation's memorials. Honor Flight Network is currently comprised of 128 hubs throughout the country dedicated to carrying out the Honor Flight mission.

In addition to World War II veterans, the organization honors those who served in the Korean War, Vietnam War, intermediary operations, and in special cases of terminal illness or injury, veterans from more recent service eras. All honored veterans travel at no cost to them. Since 2005, Honor Flight Network has taken nearly 300,000 veterans to Washington D.C. For more information, visit [honorflight.org](http://honorflight.org).

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The views expressed on our opinion pages are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the position or viewpoint of Minority Reporter.

# OPINION/EDITORIAL

## PROJECT 2025 IS AN ATTACK ON BLACK PEOPLE



Op-ed by  
Julianne Malveaux

Project 2025 is a conservative manifesto if a Republican is elected President in 2024. Crafted by the Heritage Foundation,

the 900-page book comprehensively addresses every agency that the President can influence, with suggestions for the agencies that should be eliminated or altered. It is an attack on our merit-based civil service system, suggesting that presidential appointees should replace long-term civil servants. African Americans should note that we are overrepresented in the federal workforce – 18.2 percent compared to 12.6 percent of the total population.

Whites are also overrepresented, being 61 percent of the federal workforce, compared to 59 percent of the overall population. Hispanics (using the federal designation) are the most underrepresented of any population. Interestingly, if Project 2025 and Project 47 had their way, we would not even know these numbers. They've both proposed stopping counts by race, as they want our society to be "color blind".

While Project 2025 was put together by the Heritage Foundation, it reeks of the 45th President. Many of his loyalists and former employees have contributed to the volume. For example, Dr. Ben Carson wrote the chapter on HUD, Peter Navarro, another Trump crony who was, among other things, Assistant to the President, authored a chapter on trade. Incidentally, Navarro is currently serving jail time for contempt of Congress. But the 45th President says that, if elected, he would "absolutely" bring Navarro back. You can dive into the volume, replete with an authoritarianism recidivism, by checking it out at [project2025.org](http://project2025.org).

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While the African American community is not mentioned explicitly (except for the mandate to eliminate affirmative action and diversity, equity and inclusion efforts), the policies that Project 2025 are aligned with conservative policy. Project 2025 would cut spending in education, housing assistance, and other areas where African Americans and others frequently benefit. The project would also reduce government regulation, especially in labor markets. Project 2025 is a comprehensive attack on contemporary government organization, and it also has a component that is actively seeking the most conservative people to populate a new Republican administration.

The former President goes even further than Project 2025, since the Heritage Foundation is a tax-exempt organization that cannot support any particular candidate. Project 47 comes from the Trump Administration and embraces much of Project 2025, but also more aggressively addresses the Department of Justice, which would be weaponized to get revenge on President Biden (even though he didn't do anything to the former president) by going after him for offenses, real or imagined. Project 47 would actually establish the next Republican president as a dictator who can hire and fire at will, eliminate agencies at will, and do whatever he wants.

The plan would weaken or eliminate the Department of Education, sending some federal funds, especially Title I funds that are targeted toward low-income students, back to the states. While President Biden has attempted student debt relief, the next President would eliminate those efforts. Other discretionary funds that the Secretary of Education can grant will also be cut under Project 2025.

Project 2025 reeks of Christian conservatism, describing our nation as

one with "Judeo-Christian values". From that perspective, the agenda emphasizes the "traditional family", perhaps excluding the majority of the population. It would also impose work requirements on Medicaid, but where would those affected work, and how much would they be paid? The Project 2025 document would shred the safety net, leaving the poor to fend for themselves, ignoring employment discrimination and the structural inequities that result in the poverty that so many people experience.

Reproductive rights? Forget about it. Project 2025 would reduce abortion access and even criminalize abortion in some cases. It's "leave it to the states" perspective could mean that more than half of all women would have no access to reproductive medical services.

In the past month or so we have seen a number of weather challenges that are related to climate change – tornadoes, hurricanes, extreme heat. But Project 2025 would gut climate policy and roll back the Inflation Reduction Act. Since Black people

live closer to pollution sources and have disproportionate health effects from climate issues, ignoring climate issues is an attack on Black people. And let's not talk about voting rights. Project 2025 would tighten voting regulations, perhaps eliminating early voting and mail voting, imperiling the African Americans voter franchise.

Project 2025 began in 2022 and was released in book form last year as *A Mandate for Leadership: The Conservative Promise*. It lays out a frightening Republican agenda, a reversal of many of the hard-won victories of the past several decades. I'd like for some of the Black Americans who think our 45th president "wasn't so bad", to read the book and govern themselves accordingly. President Biden likes to say that democracy is on the ballot. He should also say that economic justice, health access, and educational equity are also on the line.

~ Dr. Julianne Malveaux is an economist and author based in Washington, DC. [JulianneMalveaux.com](http://JulianneMalveaux.com)

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# OPINION/EDITORIAL

## THE NEXT JURORS ARE THE AMERICAN VOTERS

Op-ed by  
David W. Marshall



DAVID E. MARSHALL

During a television interview, a Republican lawmaker was once asked if there was anything about the then-President Barack Obama you liked. He quickly responded, by stating he liked the fact that Obama was a family man.

The same sentiment was reinforced years earlier by former Senator John McCain during the 2008 presidential campaign. During an October 10, 2008, town hall event in Lakeville, Minnesota, a person in attendance told McCain that she could not trust Obama. The woman called Obama "an Arab" at the height of the conspiracy theory movement claiming Obama was not a natural-born citizen and therefore ineligible to be president. "No ma'am, he's a decent family man, citizen, that I just happen to have disagreements with on fundamental issues, and that's what this campaign is all about," McCain said

to the town hall crowd.

The exchange came to be viewed as a defining moment in McCain's long political career. The Washington Post named it one of McCain's most courageous political moments. The exchange illustrates how political opponents on the campaign trail can maintain degrees of respect and civility toward each other. Unfortunately, our political environment has evolved. The idea of maintaining basic respect and civility among lawmakers is no longer commonplace. Secondly, Sen. McCain highlighted how love of family is one thing we all have in common. Whether it is a white social conservative family in rural America or a Black progressive family from the inner city, people of all political persuasions can relate to each other in regards to the fondness and support they have for their families.

Having a president who is a strong family man meant something at one point in time, particularly to those who prided themselves in promoting "God, family and country". This was

true even when the president was a so-called hated democrat named Barack Obama. Never before has a former president been convicted of a crime before now. When it comes to his supporters, the content of a president's character no longer matters when that president is named Donald Trump. When Trump was found guilty of trying to influence the 2016 election by falsifying payment to a porn star to buy her story of an affair, some viewed the verdict through a political lens while others viewed it strictly through a judicial lens.

In 1998, conservatives were not hesitant in viewing the scandal involving former president Bill Clinton and White House intern Monica Lewinsky from a moral lens. So far, Trump has managed to dodge the judicial and moral scrutiny from his fellow Republicans and a large amount of the electorate. Everything to them is political to their advantage.

MAGA Republicans can't have it both ways by embracing the phrase "God, family and country" while promoting conspiracy theories that undermine religion, family values and patriotism. They also can not embrace conspiracy theories that seek to destroy the confidence and trust in the American judicial system. A Trump campaign memo contained talking points for Republican lawmakers suggesting they call the case against Trump a sham, hoax, witch hunt and election interference.

Republicans have abandoned their most deeply held principles that they can no longer, with any amount of credibility, call themselves the party of family values, defenders of the Constitution and the party of "law and order". What would have been the reaction from the MAGA crowd if it were Barack Obama or Hillary Clinton who was convicted of 34 felony charges?

The U.S. Senate and House are run-

ning out of John McCain type Republicans who have the political courage to place the country first rather than succumb to conspiracy theories regarding a "rigged" system.

It took 12 Manhattan jurors only a few days to go behind doors, deliberate and come up with a unanimous decision concerning Donald Trump's guilt. It is safe to say that those jurors were objective and serious when looking at the facts and evidence through a judicial lens. The bet from the Trump camp figured at least one juror would be political in reviewing the evidence that the former president committed adultery and tried to hide it from the public to avoid losing a presidential election. The one juror never materialized.

In November, the American voters are not deciding the outcome of a criminal trial, but they are choosing if a convicted felon will become president of the United States. As a convicted felon, Trump would be banned from 37 countries should he be elected president. Some of those countries include several of America's strongest allies such as the United Kingdom, Australia, Canada, Israel and Mexico.

Whether you agree or disagree with the verdict, the process was performed according to the law. The election process will be the same. No rigged verdict and no rigged election results. As voters, we too are jurors. We need to be objective in considering the facts involving the case, and what it would mean to the credibility of our nation to have a convicted criminal felon elected head of state and commander-in-chief.

~ David W. Marshall is the founder of the faith-based organization, TRB: The Reconciled Body, and author of the book God Bless Our Divided America. He can be reached at [www.davidwmarshallauthor.com](http://www.davidwmarshallauthor.com).

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