

Beth Acocella

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Beth Acocella for New Rochelle Library Board

WHO AM I? I am a New Rochelle Native. Born and Raised. I am a graduate of Lehman College, where I received a Degree in Community Health Education and Promotion. I worked locally in New Rochelle, Lawrence and White Plains hospitals...I volunteered for many years in my son's school library, was President of the Parent Guild and helped to raise hundreds of thousands of dollars for both the parish and school. I am currently the Fundraising Coordinator for Holy Name of Jesus Church here in NR. I love being the Co-President of the East End Civic Association which encompasses the Stephenson Park Neighborhood. It allows me to interact with my neighbors and be a bridge between them and local government. I am passionate about New Rochelle and representing the community in which I live! For 17 years I have been a licensed Real Estate Broker with Coldwell Banker here in New Rochelle. I consistently rank in the top 5% nationally and feel that I have a strong pulse on what's going on in and around New Rochelle.

WHY DO I WANT TO RUN FOR LIBRARY BOARD? The reasons I want to be on the NR Library Board are to be part of the decision making process by representing the citizens of NR and to take part in the success of the library. I want to be able to ensure that the money that the library receives is well spent on the services that they provide to all. I would like to improve focusing on the financials and long term strategy of the library, as to not stress the tax payers. I promise to listen to the residents of New Rochelle and to pay attention to the wants and needs of the citizens of New Rochelle. We must preserve the history of our library, enrich the lives of all who are using our programs and technology, and make sure we are ahead of the curve. The library is a jewel and essential part of NR. It gives to the people; it offers knowledge and enrichment for those who want to be involved and acts as another home for many. It draws people to its doors, whether it's a computer class, a book club or a kid's program. It socially connects people! It also brings us together culturally in the form of art exhibits. The success of the library can be measured by how much is offered. I would like to be a part of this success.

MY VIEW OF THE BUDGET: I believe the budget increase for the library will NOT stress the taxpayers. A YES VOTE will increase the budget for the Library by 3.91% or \$213,000. This will cost the average taxpayer app. \$14 per year or \$1.16 per month. We have an exemplary staff and Director who wear many hats and I believe the increase is beneficial to all. The money is going to be used for:

1. Increase in salaries - The staff has gone 2 years without a salary increase.
2. Increase in benefits - NYS RETIREMENT, MEDICAL PLANS, SOCIAL SECURITY PAYMENTS, DENTAL PLANS, COUNTY DUES
3. Upgrading our Archivist from Part Time to Full Time. We need to be able to organize & digitize all of the historic materials given to the library. We function as the "Historical Society of New Rochelle" with all of the data and material that we have.
4. Outreach for Meet the Parent/Teacher Nights at our schools to encourage parents and children to use our library and the programs it offers.
5. Increasing our Broadband for faster Wi-Fi which is very important considering the amount of usage needed in a full functioning library.
6. Small raise for our security guards who do a fantastic job in keeping the library a safe place for all.

DEVELOPMENT IN AND AROUND THE LIBRARY: I am 100% against the redevelopment or sale of the library. I am concerned that the county owned land and/or the city owned parking lot used by many that surrounds the library will be sold or handed over to a developer. The city has basically given some developers the key to our city and we need to keep a close watch on our infrastructure and how the new developments will affect our library. I hope that the development downtown will positively affect our library by bringing awareness to the wonderful programs it offers. The library will be in the center of it all. Let's encourage the new residents of New Rochelle to embrace our library which will be at the core of the downtown. More patrons are always welcome!

Please consider voting for me on May 21st! Thank you!