



# 2026 SENIOR FAIR

BY: Keith S. Shikowitz, Editor in Chief/Investigative Reporter



“We have our annual Senior Fair, which has been taking place in Rockland County at Rockland Community College every year since 2012, with the exception of 2020 when it was canceled due to COVID. We are proud to say that this is going to be the, the biggest and best one yet. We have 179 confirmed vendors this year. Last year we had 150. It usually averaged anywhere from 80 to 100.” John Mulgrew, Chief of Staff for Senator Bill Weber said.



**Senior Fair Vendor Area**

“There will be free food for all the seniors that attend. There is a kosher and vegetarian option.” As far as certain agencies are concerned, a senior citizen is someone who is 65 or older. What age is considered to be senior at the fair? “So, for our purposes, we do make a point that, you know, technically anyone is welcome to attend the fair. For the meal, however, we are saying it is intended for people 60 over. You know, we're not really checking ID's, if you're roughly 60 or appear to be about 60 or over, we'll just assume you are and we'll give you the, the meal voucher. But, if you're clearly not 60 we will ask some questions. So, you know there are limitations to it.” Mulgrew explained.

The Senior fair was the project of then Senator David Carlucci in 2012. “He just wanted a way to show the services that were available to the residents in Rockland County. He reached out to partners in government and, within the nonprofits and other agencies and, and just really showing what services were available to seniors. It grew each year; it became something where the seniors were expecting it and they knew they could plan on it each year in their annual calendar.”

The services that seniors will be able to avail themselves of include government agencies, state agencies, such as the New York State Office of the Aging and the Rockland County Office of the Aging. Rockland County government agencies. One agency that was there this year for the third year, one that Mulgrew says they are proud of having present is the New York State Department of Motor Vehicles. “They ran a mobile office that was able to provide many of the same services that you get if you went to the actual DMV. If someone planned to get something done, they had to make sure they brought the proper documentation, their ID just as if they were going to the DMV.

But pretty much with the exception of, printing out license plates where they're able to do almost everything.”

There were approximately 1500 people in attendance this year. One of which was Richard Jarcho who gives out the turkeys to the veterans three times a year with the Angels of Hope, you said Veterans Angels of Hope is the company which is a 501C3 (nonprofit organization) which they have been doing for 32 years. “We serve close to 1500 veterans.”

There were a number of military veterans in attendance as well. Army Sergeant Larry Montroy was one of them.

<https://youtu.be/qqsEw7kSWJc>

Senator Weber opened the speeches and officially kicked off the fair. “Good morning, everyone. I want to get started. Honored seniors and distinguished guests, welcome to our annual senior fair. It is truly a privilege to serve as your state senator and continue the tradition of this incredible event. This fair began in 2012 and has been a staple of our community ever since. We will continue to host it each year because it is greatly beneficial to the seniors of Rockland County and they deserve what we can do for them.”

He thanked Rockland Community College for providing them with this wonderful venue. President Doctor William Mulaney joined them here. He thanked Doctor Mulaney for being there and said we will hear from him shortly. He also thanked the 179 vendors who have joined them at the fair offering valuable information and services. They had 25 more vendors than last year, making this the largest senior fair Rockland has ever seen.



“Specific services available today. For the first time they had free liver scans which was at table J1, and the scans will be done in a private room obviously. There is a table for unclaimed funds, searches with the New York State Comptroller's office. I encourage everyone to get over there to see if you have money that you haven't collected yet. At table J3, we have free flu shots, RSV and pneumonia vaccines, diabetes screenings, and blood pressure tests, all provided by the Rockland County Health

Department, and the nursing department. They're over here against the wall (he pointed over his right shoulder).

For the 3rd year, at J6, they had the Department of Motor Vehicles, which was just off to his right. They provided remote office services today including updating your license and a real ID. “I would say go by there if you need to speak to them or to set up appointments as well.” Weber said.

As always, there was free lunch for the seniors ensuring you can enjoy the event to its fullest. We have sponsors from the community who have who stepped up and contribute to helping to make this event possible and even bigger and better.

Weber listed a number of organizations which helped sponsor this event

Bassie Freidman of Polaris Healthcare, and Evergreen Kosher Markets have sponsored the Kosher Lunch options. Polaris has 4 tables in “Row I” so I encourage you to visit them at the Serenity Center, Marquis Home Care, Visiting Docs, and The Sentinel of Rockland all part of their organization.



**Senior Fair food area**

As you arrived, you probably noticed that we have a golf cart shuttle service helping seniors to get through the massive parking area.

He said that it's a great service that they're happy to provide and that's courtesy of Town of Clarkstown with a 6-seat golf cart and the Rockland YMCA has the 8-seat golf cart that they sponsored as well.

“Each year we try to improve this event by getting feedback from both seniors and vendors. This year, you may notice we've listed the additional language spoken by our vendors at the check-in tables and at each table.

Please note that we also have Rockland Deafness Task Force here as well, not only for the first time but also providing a sign language interpreter for the opening remarks. We want to thank them for being here.

According to Weber, these improvements came about after a vendor told us it's a great event, but members of their community difficult to get the most out of it

because of the language barrier. He thanked Centro de Amigos also who is here located at H1 for the feedback and for the additional Spanish translators there as well. He believed that this was the most inclusive and accessible senior fair yet.

Finally, he thanked his staff, John Mulgrew, well done. Weber said that he really takes the lead and that this is not an event that they put together overnight. It starts early in the spring and goes up through yesterday.

They handed out 1300 bags Donna from Rockland Community Service helps prep with, her students over 1300 bags, putting, putting all different types of flyers and information in those. He also thanked the Oxford House, members of the Rockland County and Hudson Valley 1013 who sent groups here to help out last night set up the tables.

“We couldn't have put this event together without everyone's collective effort, so we really appreciate everyone coming through last night. I know John told me years ago when he worked for David Carlucci, he would be putting the tables up himself at 2 a.m. John is extremely happy for everyone's lending a hand last night as well.

He introduced the host of the event “the great President of RCC, Doctor William Mulaney, to say a few words.



“Good morning. On behalf of the Rockland Community College Board of Trustees, our faculty and staff, it's my honor to welcome you to the senior fair today. We are proud to partner with Senator Weber on this event that is getting bigger and better every year. You're all clearly lifelong learners, and you're always welcome here at RCC. So welcome. Have a wonderful day. Thank you for coming.

Deputy County Executive Michael Hoblin was the next to speak. “Good morning, everyone. It's my pleasure to be here today on behalf of the County Executive Ed Day, who sends his best to you all. I want to give a special thanks to Senator Bill Weber for once again bringing us together and so many organizations and resources and services for our senior community to this annual senior fair. Here in Rockland County, we are incredibly proud of our seniors and remain committed to making sure they have access to good programs, services, and support they need to be living healthy, active, and independent lives. Events like this are a great opportunity to learn about those resources and ask questions and connect directly with the people that are here to help you. On behalf of the county executive that day and the entire county of Rockland, thank you to Senator Bill Weber and everyone who helped make this today possible. Most importantly, thank you all, our seniors, for everything that you do and how you contribute to our society.

Donna Cipparrino from Congressman Mike Lawler's office had some comments for the fair. “Thank you, Senator Weber for putting together this amazing event for our seniors. Another round of applause for Senator Weber and his great team. So as the senator said, my name is Donna Cipparrino. Congressman Mike Lawler, he's not here yet, but he will be trying to stop by later and walking around saying hello to everybody. So just a couple of things I wanted to touch on today. Again, thank you to Senator Weber and his team for putting together this amazing event.”

“The Congressman wants me to mention a couple of things. His goals protecting seniors' access to care and Social Security benefits. At no time is he looking to cut Social Security and Medicare for our senior population. Reducing the cost of prescription drugs for the first time in years. Lowering taxes for seniors and we talked about the opportunities on Social Security. I thought that was a great one too, so did my mom and dad, trust me. Protecting older Americans in the workplace, expanding opportunities we all know, especially in Rockland County, a lot of our senior population have houses that may be 2 and 3 stories, providing opportunities for seniors to have single level affordable housing is important and also helps our younger generation that stay in Rockland County. Protecting seniors from financial fraud. I can tell you all right now, I got a call from my father this morning that he has been a victim of identity theft. These are just some of the issues that your Congressman has been working for our seniors for. Please, I welcome all of you to stop by. We can help you with Social Security, IRS, immigration, passports, anything with a federal agency. You are invaluable to the success and what makes Rockland beautiful.

A number of other dignitaries and elected officials spoke, Assemblymen Karl Brabenec, Pat Carroll, Christopher Eachus. Rockland County Clerk Donna Silberman, Ramapo Town Supervisor Michael Specht, and we have Deputy supervisor Brendel - Logan Charles all praising Weber's efforts with the Senior Fair.

I spoke with a number of the participants about their involvement with the fair.

Rockland County Clerk Donna Silberman

<https://youtu.be/MwIqXyRYDVo>

Senator Bill Weber

<https://youtu.be/P3cXBwMOxuk>

Clarkstown Councilman Mike Graziano

<https://youtu.be/x7keBB6SfBQ>