



1786 Kings Highway • Chester, NY 10918

Members of the Chester Conservation Advisory Council (CCAC) welcomed 82 residents to our 4th Repair Café (RC) on Saturday, April 25, 2026 at the Senior Center during the 4-hour period from 10am – 2pm.

A total of 19 people including 12 repair coaches, 4 CCAC members and 3 community residents volunteered their talents to provide this free repair service. The skills that made this latest RC event a resounding success included sewing and sewing machine repair, sharpening, lamp repair, mechanical and electrical repairs, fixing jewelry, glueing and digital repairs. Support for the repair coaches included greeters, registration, photography, creating posters and displays, engaging the public with conservation information, answering questions as well as conducting exit interviews.

Here are the statistics for the eighty-two (82) residents requesting 170 repairs.

Newcomers to the Repair Café concept

A whopping thirty-six (36) people attending were “first-timers” to ANY repair café. That’s forty-four percent (44%) of attendees who had either never even heard of the repair café concept before this event and / or never attended one.

One local gentleman saw the sign, came in, we showed him around, he liked what he saw and volunteered to help with the next RC event.





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Types / Numbers of Repairs

One hundred and seventy (170) items were brought in for repairs and here is the summary by “category” based on repair tickets statistics:

- 76 Sharpening jobs (Knives / Scissors / Garden Tools)
- 17 Lamp repairs
- 24 Sewing repairs
- 3 Sewing machine repairs
- 20 Electrical / Mechanical repairs
- 22 Jewelry repairs
- 6 Glueing repairs
- 2 Computer / digital repairs

- 170 Total items repaired

Of the 170 items brought in, 158 items were successfully repaired (93%). Twelve (12) items (7%) were not able to be repaired for assorted reasons including motor shorted out, needs new zipper, damaged beyond repair, glass not safe to repair, gears stripped, bent control arms, control board failure, needs silver solder, among others.

Bottom line, the Chester Repair Café succeeded in repairing 158 items that are now reusable and will not be going into a landfill.





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Towns Represented

Chester residents represented over 63% of the attendees at this RC event!

Here is a breakdown in alphabetical order of the towns represented at the 4/25/26 Repair Café:

Blooming Grove – 2; Campbell Hall – 1; Central Valley – 1; Chester – 52; Florida – 1; Galway – 1; Goshen – 3; Greenwood Lake – 2; Monroe – 6; Monsey – 1; Montgomery – 1; Ringwood, NJ – 1; Rockhill – 1; Scotchtown, 1; SugarLoaf – 1; Tuxedo – 1; Warwick – 4; Wallkill - 1; Rockhill – 1.

Advertising Efforts

When asked on the repair ticket how a person found out about the Chester RC, here are the specific written responses from highest to lowest:

Road signs – 15; Facebook – 7; Did not answer the question – 6; Chester Senior Center Meeting – 5; Georgina Robillard – 5; Friends – 4; Chronicle – 4; Family member – 3; Jane Dysinger – 3; Susannah Devine - 3; Warwick Repair Cafe – 3; CCAC member – 2; Office of the Aging (Sherry Zambrzycki e-mail) – 2; Chester Town e-mail – 2; Internet – 2; Joan Maxwell - 2; Town Hall sign – 1; Chester diner flyer – 1; Monroe Village e-mail – 1; E-mail – 1; Lynn Berenberg – 1; “On-line” - 1; Kiwanis meeting – 1; Chester Library flyer – 1; Tracy Schuh – 1; Walden Savings Bank bulletin board – 1; Chester Post Office – 1; Spouse – 1; “Various” – 1; “Word of Mouth” - 1





Unsolicited Monetary Thank-You's
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We accepted \$112.75 in unsolicited donations from grateful residents who were happy the items they brought in were repaired and restored for future use. The \$112.75 was turned in to Town Clerk Linda Zappala per accounting procedure.

CCAC Information Table

In addition to the repairs done at the event, CCAC members had an "Information Table" to engage the public about our current projects and future plans. Display topics included the Purple Martin and Bobolink projects at Knapps View, Migratory birds / Lights Out / Light Pollution efforts, Arbor Day posters, Monarch City / Butterfly facts as well as "What is a Conservation Advisory Council" brochures including recent Coolest Recycling event and other projects.

Exit Interviews

CCAC members conducted 23 interviews as residents exited the Repair Cafe.

Question: How was this Repair Café? Answers: "good"; "very good"; "great"; "very happy"; "fantastic"; "perfect"; "it was excellent"; "great people"; "this is a gift".

Question: What did you like best? Answers: "talking to friends while repairs were being done"; "everybody does a great job"; "everything"; "friendly service"; "very easy", nice folks".





Question: Is there anything we can do to improve the process for future RC events: Answers: All 23 people answered no; "keep it the way it is".

Special Thanks

The CCAC is grateful to Chester Supervisor Brandon Holdridge for supporting this free repair service to Chester and the surrounding communities, to Town Clerk Linda Zappala and her staff for printing and advertising and especially to Michele Deshler for Senior Center venue assistance both before and during the event.

In conclusion

The Chester Conservation Advisory Council continues to partner with many volunteer community organizations who, in addition to their own events, take time out of their busy schedules to assist with Chester's Repair Cafes:

Chester Historical Society

Kiwanis of Chester

The Preservation Collective

Warwick Repair Café





Every year, millions of tons of repairable items are tossed out – from clothing and furniture to lamps and electronics. Most only require a small repair to keep them in use as evidenced by the 158 items repaired during our 4-hour RC last Saturday. Through our Repair Cafes, the CCAC invites residents to rethink waste and embrace more sustainable choices. By providing this free local repair service to our community, we give residents the opportunity to choose “fixing” instead of throwing things away, we protect the environment and we reduce waste.

Our thanks to all our repair coaches and support volunteers who work together to share their time, skills and a commitment to repairing and keeping items out of landfills.

Jane Dysinger & Susannah Devine - Co-chairs - Chester Repair Café

Chester Conservation Advisory Council members

