



News From

# Cheryl Dinolfo

## Monroe County Executive

For Immediate Release

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## DINOLFO ANNOUNCES ARRIVAL OF ROCK HYRAX AT SENECA PARK ZOO

*First New Species to Arrive for Upcoming Animals of the Savanna Expansion*

Monroe County Executive **Cheryl Dinolfo** and officials from Seneca Park Zoo are excited to announce the arrival of the first new species to arrive for the upcoming "Animals of the Savanna" expansion slated to open this summer. The animal, a rock hyrax, will temporarily live in the Main Zoo Building until the expansion is completed.

*"2018 brings with it many great additions to our region's famous Seneca Park Zoo. We all are excited about the giraffes coming this summer, but many residents don't know that the Animals of the Savanna expansion will include over a dozen new species to our zoo family," said **Dinolfo**. "The addition of the rock hyrax is an exciting sign of what is to come throughout the year."*

The female rock hyrax was born in 2017 at the Bronx Zoo. Later this spring she will be joined by a male partner. Rock hyrax are a small mammal native to sub-saharan Africa. One of their closest living relatives is the elephant, which is surprising given their small plump shape and stubby legs.

Zoo Director **Larry Sorel** stated, *"The arrival of the rock hyrax is the culmination of a great deal of behind-the-scenes planning for the expansion. The staff at the zoo has been working tirelessly on animal moves for the past year and coordination with the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) to create clear plans for incoming and outgoing animals in alignment with the Species Survival Plan is no small undertaking."*

*"The arrival of the rock hyrax is a visible sign that change is on the horizon," said **Pamela Reed Sanchez**, Executive Director of the Seneca Park Zoo Society. "The Zoo Society is actively raising funds through the 'A Wilder Vision' campaign to support the Zoo's transformation and ensure the best experiences for our guests."*

Plan a visit to visit the new rock hyrax during the month of February when five youth can come free of charge with every adult admission. The Zoo is open every day from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and you can stay on grounds until 4 p.m.

Zoo Director Larry Sorel will be available to discuss the new addition of the rock hyrax at 11:00 AM.

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### **Media Inquiries, contact:**

Director of Communications Jesse Sleezer at (585) 402-8019  
Monroe County Communications at 753-1080  
Seneca Park Zoo Communications at 336-7202