

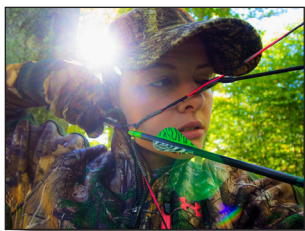
# THE Spotlight

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Vol. 64, #39

September 29 - October 5, 2021



## NEWS Bowhunting season opens

Youth Big Game Hunt opens Columbus Day Weekend.

Story on Page 4



## BC tops another ranking board

District tops Niche.com's 2022 Best School Districts ranking.

Story on Page 7

## TOP STORY



As Bethlehem wrangles with the idea of allowing marijuana dispensaries and lounges, early indications show a struggle to accept consumption shops in town.

# Chew on this

Town Board ready to hear whether to allow marijuana dispensaries, lounges

By **MICHAEL HALLISEY**  
halliseym@spotlightnews.com

**DELMAR** — Today, someone in New York can light up a joint as openly as pulling out a Marlboro; the challenge is finding a licensed dispensary to buy that marijuana legally.

Albany opened the doors to recreational marijuana use, and a new commercial market to support it. But, state legislators also allowed each municipality to decide for themselves if they want to permit dispensaries or on-site consumption lounges in their towns, or disallow them altogether.

Continues on page 3

## ENTERTAINMENT



## Out with the old

Lawsuit alleges school ignored department head when choosing to gut program.

Story on Page B1

## INSIDE



## Still can't meet demand

New home demand continues to outpace inventory in New York state — driving prices higher.

Story on Page 8

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## INDEX

Police, courts and calls .....	2
Business .....	8-9
Entertainment.....	B1-B20
Classifieds .....	B17
Opinion .....	14
Crossword .....	B8
Service Directory .....	B14

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■ POLICE, FIRE and EMERGENCY CALLS

# Human trafficking for Albany man

Christopher Thomas alleged to have trafficked minors, adults

**ALBANY** — A grand jury returned a superseding indictment Friday, Sept. 17, charging Christopher Thomas, 38, of Colonie, with crimes related to the sex trafficking of children and adults.

The announcement was made by Acting United States Attorney Antoinette T. Bacon, Janeen DiGuseppi, Special Agent in Charge of the Albany Field Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and New York State Police Superintendent Kevin Bruen.

The indictment charges Thomas with conspiracy to commit sex trafficking of children, sex trafficking of a child, transportation of minors with intent to engage in criminal sexual activity, conspiracy to transport an individual to engage in prostitution, and coercion and

enticement.

Thomas is alleged to have recruited girls and women to engage in commercial sex at his direction and then provide him with the proceeds. Thomas is alleged to have used a website to advertise the girls and women for commercial sex in the Capital Region, Massachusetts, and elsewhere.

The charges in the superseding indictment are merely accusations, and the defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

Thomas has been in custody since his arrest on May 12, 2020.

If convicted of all offenses, Thomas faces at least 10 years and up to life in prison. A defendant's sentence is imposed by a judge based on the particular statute the defendant is charged with violating, the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines and other factors.

This case is being investigated by the FBI Child Exploitation and Human Trafficking Task Force, and the New York

State Police Troop G Bureau of Criminal Investigation and Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force, with assistance from the Colonie Police Department, Vermont State Police, Burlington, Vermont Police Department, Albany Police Department, Albany County Sheriff's Office, Town of Bethlehem Police Department, Capital Region Crime Analysis Center, and the New York State Intelligence Center. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Shira Hoffman and Katherine Kopita.

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DELMAR — Amid a rash of thefts in which local residents have found belongings stolen from their cars, the Bethlehem Police Department has launched #9PMROUTINE, an online campaign reminding them to take stock, lock up and leave a light on.

Bethlehem Police Department



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### From page 1 ... Chew on this

Bethlehem just started that discussion on Wednesday, Sept. 22, and it has until the end of the year to make a decision — and should it decide to opt in, there is no backing out.

### Rockefeller Laws

When then-Governor Andrew Cuomo signed the Marijuana Regulation & Taxation Act in March, it represented a dynamic shift in Albany, where it previously passed the strongest laws against selling and possessing marijuana through the Rockefeller Laws nearly a half century ago.

Named after then-Governor Nelson Rockefeller, the Rockefeller drug laws defined heavy penalties for selling or possessing drugs, slapping a maximum of 25 years to life in prison after they were passed in 1973.

Someone carrying four ounces of heroin, morphine or cocaine faced a major felony. Marijuana, which was defined as a narcotic up until recently, was included in that litany of drugs. The laws also established a minimum sentence of 15 years to life, taking judicial discretion away from the courts. Opponents criticized the laws as being so heavy-handed they could not be enforced; or worse, targeted Black people more so than White.

The legalization of adult-use cannabis is an enormous public policy shift so the regulatory framework is expected to take time to before it is fully developed. The Office of Cannabis Management will need to

draft and issue regulations to implement the law in order for adult-use sales to begin. However, while there are currently no stores open to purchase adult-use cannabis, the possession and use of cannabis for adults 21 years of age and older in accordance with the MRTA, is now legal.

### Consider this

As municipalities consider their position,



Since the State Legislature made recreational use of marijuana legal in New York, local municipalities have had the option to opt out of allowing dispensaries and lounges in their cities, towns and villages. Local boards can choose to disallow such businesses, but stand to lose the income from sales tax of up to 3 percent.

tobacco-free advocates have weighed in by trying to convince them to revisit tobacco and vaping regulations within their jurisdiction. In light of MRTA, Theresa Zubretsky told the Town Board it needs to remain aware of the dangers caused by vaping products.

MRTA included an expansion of the state's Clean Indoor Air Act to prohibit smoking or vaping cannabis in locations where smoking and vaping tobacco is prohibited. Those locations include all playgrounds between sunrise and sunset when one or more children under age 12 are present. However, the law does not prohibit smoking tobacco or cannabis in other recreational areas, like parks and beaches or municipal properties.

Zubretsky, who is social coordinator for Capital District Tobacco-Free Coalition, said legalized use of marijuana is drawing away from tobacco-free efforts.

"The up-shot of all that is restricting the use of all products that can be vaped,

**Continues on 13**

## TOWN IN BRIEF

### Pedestrian-friendly Cherry Ave

**SLINGERLANDS** — A motion to approve the application to secure funding from the New York State Department of Transportation's Transportation Alternatives Program and Congestion Mitigation Air Quality Improvements for the Cherry Avenue Extension Multi-use Path Project was offered and approved.

This project includes the construction of a 10 feet wide paved multi-use path along the east side of the Cherry Avenue Extension from Kenwood Avenue to New Scotland Road. The trail would begin at Kenwood Avenue, west of its intersection with Cherry Avenue and head north approximately 300 feet before intersecting with the Albany County Rail Trail. The proposed route would use the existing rail trail to cross under Cherry Avenue before heading north along the east side of Cherry Avenue. The trail would continue approximately 0.5 miles before crossing McCormack Road and then another 0.35 miles to its northern limit at the New Scotland Road roundabout.

This project would provide an important connection for the local area as there are currently no pedestrian accommodations along Cherry Avenue. Residents adjacent to Cherry Avenue would have walkable access to commercial areas to the north as well as schools and the Albany County Rail Trail to the south. New guardrail will be added along Cherry Avenue as needed depending on proximity of the path to the roadway and fencing will be constructed along the outside of the trail depending on the height and slope of the adjacent embankments.

**Continues on 13**



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■ ENVIRONMENT

# DEC announces bowhunting seasons

Youth Big Game Hunt opens Columbus Day Weekend

By MICHAEL HALLISEY  
halliseym@spotlightnews.com

**ALBANY —** Bowhunters started hunting for deer and bear on Monday in upstate New York as the state Department of Environmental Conservation declared a staggered open season that will follow with downstate hunting beginning Friday, Oct. 1.

“New York provides terrific opportunities for bowhunters,” said DEC Commissioner Basil Seggos. “Mild weather, longer days, and new hunting hours extending 30 minutes before sunrise until 30 minutes after sunset make the early bow season a great time to be in the woods with friends and

family.”

DEC has initiated several changes to big game seasons this year through regulations. Bowhunters may only use crossbows during latter portions of bow seasons: the last 10 days of the Northern Zone bow season (Oct. 13-22); and the last 14 days of the Southern Zone bow season (Nov. 6-19).

To hunt with a crossbow during these periods, the law requires bowhunters to possess a muzzleloader privilege and a crossbow qualifications certificate.

The application deadline for Deer Management Permits is Oct. 1. Hunters should know which Wildlife Management Unit they intend to hunt before applying.

## Youth Big Game Hunt

New York’s annual Youth Big Game Hunt is



Bowhunters are already on the move in upstate New York as the season opened Monday.

New York state Department of Environmental Conservation

Columbus Day weekend, Oct. 9-11. New this year, 12- and 13-year-old hunters may join 14- and 15-year-olds participating in upstate counties that have passed a local law for these junior hunters to hunt deer with firearms,

which currently includes all counties north of Westchester, with the exception of Erie and Rockland counties. During this special opportunity, licensed 12-15-year-olds may use a firearm to hunt big game while

accompanied by an experienced, licensed adult hunter. All eligible junior hunters may take one deer of either sex and 14- and 15-year-olds may also take one bear. During the youth hunt, antlerless deer taken with a firearm may

be tagged with a regular season tag, DMP, or a Deer Management Assistance Program tag. Antlered deer may only be tagged with the regular season tag. Though junior hunters may have multiple deer tags, they may only take one deer with a firearm during the Youth Big Game Hunt.

This Youth Big Game Hunt takes place throughout the state, except in Suffolk and Westchester counties and bowhunting-only areas.

## Take it, Tag it, Report it!

DEC reminds hunters of the importance of reporting their harvest. Harvest reporting is critical to wildlife management, and hunters are required to report their harvest of deer, bear, and turkey within seven days of taking the animal. The easiest way to report is via DEC’s HuntFishNY mobile app. Through this mobile app, hunters, anglers, and trappers can access an electronic version of their licenses and privileges, and quickly report the harvest of deer, bear, and turkey immediately while afield on their mobile device. Hunters may still use the phone report system, but the online and mobile systems are faster, more convenient, and easier for hunters to accurately enter information.

## Venison donations

Big game hunters are reminded that they can help feed the hungry by making a monetary contribution to the Venison Donation Program at any license-issuing outlet. License buyers should inform the sales agent if they are interested in donating \$1 or more to support the program.

For more information about DEC’s big game hunting seasons, new regulations, and hunter safety information including new requirements to wear hunter orange or pink, go to DEC’s website.

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■ COUNTY

# Climate Smart Community

County one of three from Capital District to earn distinction

By **MICHAEL HALLISEY**  
halliseym@spotlightnews.com

**ALBANY** — County Executive Daniel McCoy celebrated the County's achievement of being officially certified as a "Climate Smart Community," as part of New York State's Climate Smart Communities Program on Sunday, Sept. 26.

These municipalities are those that take meaningful action to prevent and prepare for climate change. For the latest round of designations announced by Gov. Kathy Hochul, Albany County was one of only eleven local governments throughout the state to have met the requirements for the bronze certification for the first time, and one of only three from the Capital District.

"We continue to see the detrimental effects of climate change here and around the globe," McCoy said. "Between record rainfall in the Capital Region this summer,

more intense and frequent hurricanes, extreme droughts and wildfires in the West, and rising sea levels, it's clear that we need to do more to cut emissions and protect our future.

"I'm proud that Albany County continues to do our part in making that happen."

Albany County received its designation as a Climate Smart Community for 30 actions already taken over the years from nine different categories to address climate change. Those actions include transitioning its fleet to electric vehicles, building electric vehicle charge station infrastructure throughout the county, pursuing renewable energy, encouraging recycling, and land conservation.

The Climate Smart Communities certification program was established in 2014 by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. To date, 81 municipalities have officially been designated as Climate Smart Communities.

"And while this is a great day for Albany County, we have even more planned to build on this success and earn the silver certification in the next two years,"

McCoy said. The county executive shared plans of purchasing and converting area streetlights to LEDs to generate long-term cost savings and to reduce emissions by as much as 29.3 metric tons each year. The county is to also enter into community solar contracts for three facilities that use the most electricity. "We will also be conducting energy

efficiency audits at four of our largest buildings to determine how we can further reduce emissions, and we're launching a countywide climate resiliency plan to understand the risks climate change poses to the county and what projects and policies we need to pursue to be better prepared," he continued.

## 65.4 percent of county residents fully vaccinated

**ALBANY** — According to the county Department of Health, 71.3 percent of all county residents have received at least the first dose of the vaccine, and 65.4 percent have been fully vaccinated as of Saturday, Sept. 25.

The first dose vaccination rate for the county's 18+ population is now up to 82.3 percent.

County Executive Daniel McCoy announced that the total number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Albany County is now at 28,499 to date, with 70 new positive cases identified since Saturday.

The county's five-day average of new daily positive cases is now down to 87.8. The county's most recent seven-day average of percent positive rates is now 3.9 percent and the Capital District's average rate is 3.7 percent.

## New clinical trial seeks to help patients with debilitating leg condition

**ALBANY** — Albany Medical Center Hospital is participating in a new clinical trial to study whether an investigational device called the VenoValve is effective to resolve symptoms of severe chronic venous insufficiency.

More than two million people in the U.S. suffer from CVI, a debilitating condition that involves leg pain, leg swelling, enlarged veins, skin discoloration, and open sores on the lower leg.

A prior clinical study of the VenoValve found that 10 of the 11 patients who received the VenoValve went from having severe CVI symptoms to mild or no symptoms at all after treatment.

"Too many patients suffer from this chronic condition, and it has a hugely negative impact on their quality of life," said Adriana Laser, M.D., associate professor of surgery at Albany Medical College and a vascular surgeon with Albany Med Vascular Surgery. "Up until now, there are limited effective treatments for CVI that occurs in the deep veins of the leg. It is exciting to participate in a study for a new device with the potential to truly address the problem, reduce patients' pain and suffering, and get them back to an active life."

CVI is a chronic condition that occurs when the valves in the veins of the leg fail and cause blood to flow in the wrong direction instead of returning to the heart. This leads to increased pressure within the veins in the lower legs, which causes leg swelling and pain. In severe cases, the skin breaks down, resulting in open sores or ulcers on the leg.

CVI makes it difficult for patients to perform daily activities, such as walking and standing for long periods of time. CVI is most often caused by a blood clot in the deep veins of the leg, known as deep vein thrombosis (DVT). DVTs are both a cause and effect of CVI, and between 60,000 and 100,000 people die each year in the U.S. from DVT-related conditions.

There are currently no effective treatments to fix the valves in the deep veins of the leg. Doctors may recommend compression stockings or leg elevation to address leg swelling and pain, but they are temporary measures and do not address the underlying condition.

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## EDUCATION

### Your BC school tax check hasn't cleared?

**DELMAR** — Bethlehem Central's Judi Kehoe said her phones have been ringing regularly from district taxpayers asking why their tax payments haven't cleared.

The district's chief business and financial officer shared during the district's school board meeting on Wednesday, Sept 22 that some taxpayers noticed it's taken longer than usual for checks to clear. Worried callers expressed concern that they'd be slapped with a late penalty as the Sept. 30 deadline approaches.

Checks are processed through the Boards of Cooperative Educational Services and after district officials looked into the issue they learned that staffing shortages have contributed to processing delays.

"For taxpayers who have mailed their payment, please keep in mind that it is the postmark date that is used by the district as the payment date," the district shared in a statement on its website. "The date on which your check is cleared by your financial institution or our third-party bill collector does not affect this payment date or any associated late fees."

For taxpayers who have not yet submitted their tax payments and want to ensure prompt receipt of payment, the district asks that they consider other payment options. Taxpayers can submit payments in person at Pioneer Bank in Delmar and Glenmont, or deposit payments online. Visit [bethlehemschools.org](http://bethlehemschools.org) for more information.

### False alarm at RCS high school

**RAVENA** — Ravena Coeyman Selkirk High School evacuated students, faculty and teachers due to a fire alarm on Friday, Sept. 24.

"We have been practicing our drill and evacuation procedures since the beginning of school, but today's was an unplanned evacuation," said RCS High School Principal Lisa Patierne.

An investigation by local fire and school officials revealed the alarm was set by a faulty pull box.

Patierne said that once the building was cleared by fire department officials, all students were instructed to return to their regular school day.

### BC Capital Project forum

**DELMAR** — Bethlehem Central residents will have their time to question the district's proposed \$40.7 million infrastructure project in an online video conference forum on Monday, Sept. 27, at 7 p.m.

The Bethlehem Central School District Board of Education presents the 2021 Facilities Improvement Capital Project to voters on Tuesday, Oct. 19.

The board finalized a list of projects

under the plan early last month, including renovations to the Bethlehem Central Middle School auditorium and a proposed artificial playing field for the high school.

Despite the \$40.7 million price tag, administrators will secure funding through a combination of state aid and capital reserves. A complete list of projects can be found online at [bethlehemschools.org/2021-capital-project-planning/](http://bethlehemschools.org/2021-capital-project-planning/).

### RCS Recognition Awards Nights

**RAVENA** — The Ravena Coeymans Selkirk Board of Education will be holding virtual student recognition awards nights for all four school buildings over the next few months. These awards will recognize the outstanding achievements of our students.

The High School Recognition Awards Night has been moved to Wednesday, Oct. 6, at 7 p.m..

The dates for all four recognitions are as follows:

High School, Wednesday, Oct. 6, at 7 p.m.

Middle School: Wednesday, Oct. 20, at 7 p.m.

A.W. Becker Elementary: Wednesday, Nov. 17, at 7 p.m.

Pieter B. Coeymans Elementary: Wednesday, Dec. 15, at 7 p.m.

Students will receive their awards during the school day, and families will be able to tune into the Board of Education Meeting through our Livestream where a picture of their child with their award will be shown. They will receive those communications directly from their school building.

### Guilderland capital project vote Oct. 7

**GUILDERLAND** — District voters will decide on a \$21.8M proposed capital improvement project on Thursday, Oct. 7.

The proposal addresses the priorities of improving learning opportunities, enhancing safety and security for students and staff, and replacing or updating aging infrastructure in the district's seven school buildings. The project focuses on three overarching areas; infrastructure work that was eliminated from the 2018 proposal; outdoor space improvements that include upgrading or replacing playground equipment; and technology replacement and data security that includes improving instructional learning technology.

Other proposed improvements include upgrades or replacement of heating and ventilation systems, bathrooms, classroom cabinetry and storage, roofs, lighting, windows, flooring, lockers, and security systems.

Plans also include the replacement of the high school track along with the addition of a turf field and the addition of outdoor classroom pavilions at each building.

■ EDUCATION

# Bethlehem tops another ranking board

Bethlehem Central tops Niche.com's 2022 Best School Districts ranking

By **MICHAEL HALLISEY**  
halliseym@spotlightnews.com

**DELMAR** — A national ranking and review website has named Bethlehem Central No. 1 among area school districts in its annual best districts rating.

Niche.com ranks nearly 100,000 schools and districts based on statistics and millions of opinions from students and parents. In its 2022 Best School Districts ranking, Bethlehem Central topped the list of 32 Capital District school districts.

"Bethlehem Central School District is a top-rated, public school district," stated the site.

*"This is a well-timed honor. Educating students against the backdrop of a global pandemic for more than 18 months should qualify all schools districts, teachers and staff to be celebrated. I am particularly proud to see our teachers being recognized among the best teachers in America."*

— Jody Monroe, Bethlehem Central Superintendent

"According to state test scores, 78 percent of students are at least proficient in math and 67 percent in reading."

Bethlehem Central was also rated the 30th best district out of 672 ranked districts across the state,

and out of 687 districts, its teachers were rated 13th throughout all of New York.

In 10 categories, Bethlehem Central earned an A+ grade for academics, teachers, college prep, clubs and activities, health and safety, resources and facilities, and food. The district's administration received an A grade. In scholastic sports, the district earned an A-.

Nationally, Bethlehem placed 158 out of 10,772 districts, and its teachers ranked No. 52 in the U.S. for districts with the best teachers.

Under the category of diversity, the Delmar schools earned a C grade. Of its 4,368 students, 84 percent are White, 6.7 percent are Asian, 3.5 percent are Hispanic, 3 percent are multiracial and 2.7 percent are African American. In comparison, North Colonie — which

finished second overall among area schools — earned a B+ diversity grade. Other schools included Niskayuna (B-), Burnt Hills-Ballston Lake (C-), East Greenbush Central (B-), Voorheesville Central (C-), Guilderland Central (B-) and Ravena-Coeymans-Selkirk Central (B-).

According to the website, the rankings are based on rigorous analysis of key statistics and millions of reviews from students and parents using data from the U.S. Department of Education. Ranking factors include state test scores, college readiness, graduation rates, SAT/ACT scores, teacher quality, public school district ratings and more.

Statistics obtained from the U.S. Department of Education represent the most recent data available, as self-reported by the

school districts. Niche also collects data directly from schools via their Niche Partner Accounts.

Bethlehem Superintendent Jody Monroe informed the school board of the district's rank during her report to the school board in Wednesday night's meeting.

"This is a well-timed honor. Educating students against the backdrop of a global pandemic for more than 18 months should qualify all schools districts, teachers and staff to be celebrated," said Superintendent Jody Monroe. "I am particularly proud to see our teachers being recognized among the best teachers in America. They are part of a stellar team of people who have persevered against all odds and remain dedicated to the success and the well-being of our students."

## Two Buttons Deep raises over \$5,000 to purchase school supplies

**ALBANY** — In a weeklong fundraising effort, Two Buttons Deep raised \$5,750 for the "Big Tip Energy: Back to School Edition" campaign, which was created to help support local teachers burdened with supplying out-of-pocket school supplies to fill their classrooms this fall.

Contributions poured in via Venmo shortly after launching the effort, and with support from followers and several local businesses.

— Michael Hallisey

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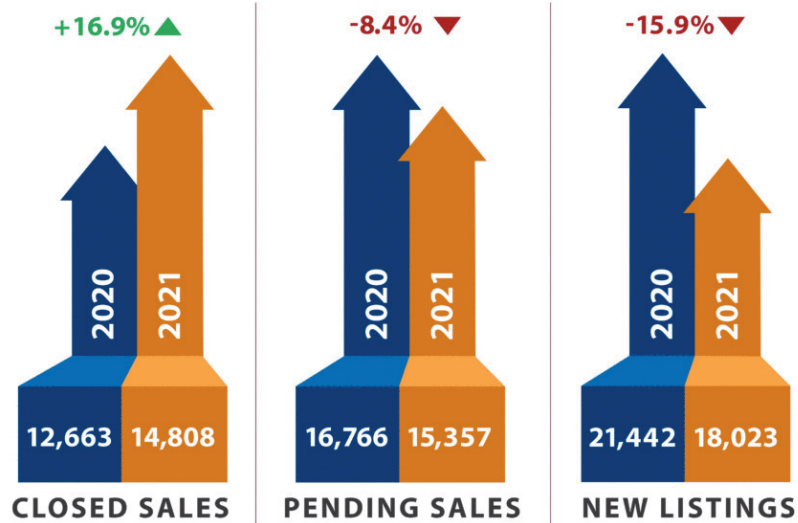
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\*To qualify, consumers must request a quote, purchase, install and activate the generator with a participating dealer. Call for a full list of terms and conditions.

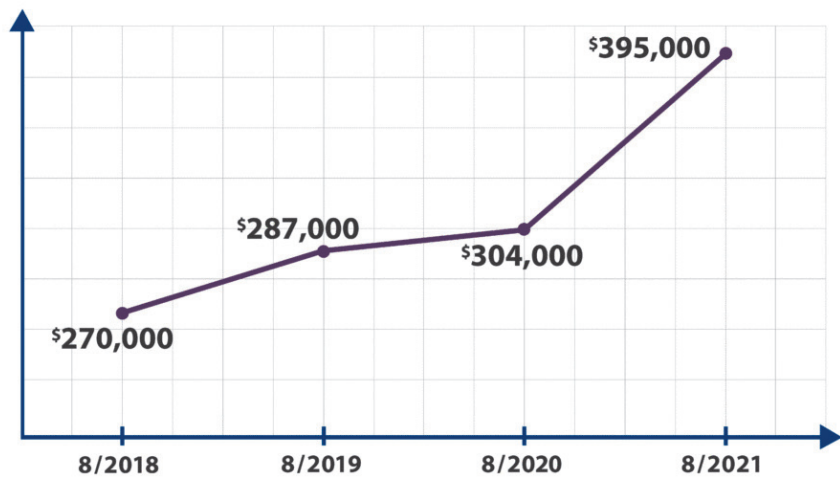


## NEW YORK STATE HOUSING MARKET DATA

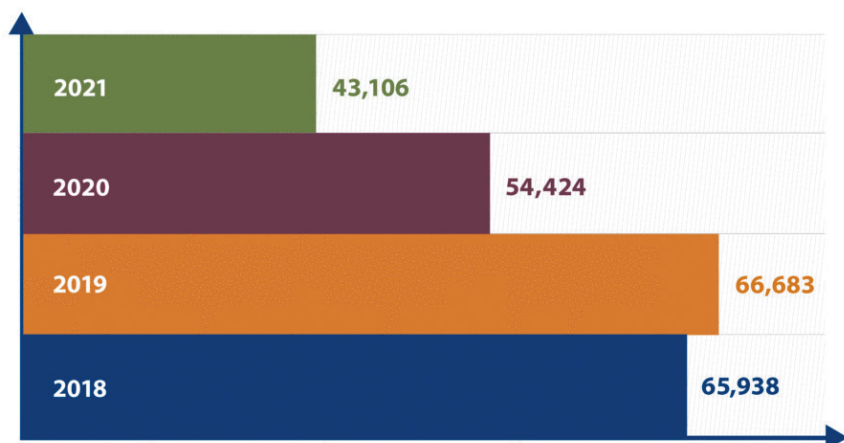
### YEARLY COMPARISON FOR AUGUST



### MEDIAN SALES PRICE – AUGUST



### INVENTORY OF HOMES FOR SALE – AUGUST



All figures compared to year over year adjustments and compiled from multiple listing services in the state of New York. The data include townhomes, condominiums and existing single-family homes.



New York State Association of Realtors



## REAL ESTATE

# Can't meet demand

Demand continues to outpace inventory in New York state

By MICHAEL HALLISEY  
halliseym@spotlightnews.com

**ALBANY** – Realtors continue to see the number of homes sold rise despite a continuation of low inventory across New York state.

The number of homes sold has risen for 12 consecutive months in year-over-year comparisons, said the New York State Association of Realtors last week. According to a housing report it released on Wednesday, Sept. 22, the number of homes available to buy remains low.

Closed sales increased 16.9 percent, from 12,663 units in last August to 14,808 sold this year. For the year, closed sales are up 36.3 percent over this time last year.

Realtors said the buying frenzy has spilled over into the rental market, too.

“The booming U.S. housing market has spilled over to the rental market, which has seen demand

for apartment and single-family rentals skyrocket this year,” Realtors said. “Increased demand for housing, along with an improving economy, has competition for rental units soaring, and landlords are taking note, with the national median rent increasing 11.4 percent in 2021 so far, according to Apartment List.”

Inventory of homes for sale has fallen for 22 consecutive months in year-over-year comparisons. Last August, there were 54,424 homes for sale compared to just 43,106 in last month. This represents a 20.8 percent reduction. Months supply of inventory fell 36 percent statewide from 5.0 months last year to 3.2 months in August 2021.

Median sales prices continue to climb, elevating 29.9 percent to \$395,000 in August 2021 compared to \$204,000 last August.

Pending sales and new listing were both down for August. Pending sales fell 8.4 percent from 16,766 in August 2020 to 15,357 in August 2021. New listings fell 15.9 percent in August as well. There were 18,023 listings last month

compared to 21,442 in August 2020.

Mortgage interest rates, though, continue to aid homebuyers. According to Freddie Mac, the monthly average on a 30-year fixed-rate mortgage in August dipped to 2.84 percent – the lowest rate since February.

Market analysts previously attributed supply chain issues as a contributing factor to slow new construction. The price of lumber was at an all time high earlier in the year, but prices returned to pre-pandemic figures by the summer. Nonetheless, Realtors said home builders still couldn't meet demand last month.

“In new construction, home builders continue to struggle to meet buyer demand, as housing starts nationwide dropped 7 percent last month, according to the Commerce Department,” said Realtors. “Single-family home construction declined 4.5%, and multi-family home construction, which includes condos and apartment buildings, was also down, falling by 13 percent.”



**BUSINESS**

**Support grows for CSX/Pan Am merger**

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — CSX Corp. recently announced that support for its pending merger with Pan Am Railways Inc. continues to grow as several additional letters of support were recently filed with the Surface Transportation Board, bringing the total to more than 100 pro-merger comments.

U.S. Senator Angus King (I-ME) recently offered his support for the merger, recognizing CSX's "agreements to continue the support of passenger rail service" in addition to looking forward to investment benefits this acquisition may bring to Maine.

Senator King's support follows that of his colleague - Maine Senator Susan Collins - who previously weighed in, hailing the benefits to passenger rail service in her state, and saying the merger "has the potential to bring significant benefits to Maine. Many Maine businesses rely on rail traffic to deliver raw materials and transport products."

Also in the latest batch of supportive letters is the Connecticut Department of

Transportation (CTDOT) which cited how CSX's planned investments to the Pan Am infrastructure will benefit the state, freight shippers, and passenger rail.

CSX "has shown a commitment to safety and has indicated to CTDOT that it will invest in and modernize the Pan Am infrastructure, which will make the New England Rail network more efficient and safer for freight and passenger operations. Safety is a top priority for CTDOT, and we look forward to these improvements," wrote Richard Andreski, CTDOT public transportation chief.

Connecticut's letter for support follows that of the Northern New England Passenger Rail Association (NNEPRA) which, after coming to a resolution on a few issues related to station locations and maintenance concerns, also submitted a letter of support.

NNEPRA Executive Director Patricia Quinn wrote, "This transaction, and the physical and operational improvements CSX has indicated it will make, has the potential not only to sustain and enhance the safe operation of passenger and freight rail

service in Maine and New Hampshire, but also to preserve and protect the substantial financial investments which have enabled NNEPRA and its partners to achieve success to date and set the stage for even greater economic opportunities and public benefits in the future."

NNEPRA's support for the transaction is significant given NNEPRA's role as the primary state sponsor of Amtrak's Downeaster passenger rail service between Brunswick, Maine and Boston, Massachusetts. A copy of the letter - and all letters of support for the merger - can be viewed here.

New Hampshire Department of Transportation Commissioner Victoria F. Sheehan also submitted a supportive letter, lauding the merger, and saying in part, "This transaction would be beneficial to New Hampshire because it would provide a continuous, single-line rail service and provide additional resources to improve and market the line with the potential to bring additional freight service to New England markets. The ability to create more opportunity for freight service in New Hampshire would take additional trucks off the

road which would be beneficial for both the economy and the environment."

Touting the environmental benefits of the proposed transaction, New Hampshire State Representative John A. Graham said in his letter of support, "Increased use of freight rail means less trucks are on the roads, which is beneficial for the state's highway budget and good for the environment. Additionally, this merger will give greater credence to our efforts to further inter-modal transportation here in New Hampshire and help reduce carbon emissions throughout the region."

The transaction will provide significant benefits to shippers, passenger rail users, and local communities as CSX integrates Pan Am into its best-in-class network. In particular, as CSX connects more of New England with its existing 23-state network, which serves two thirds of the nation's population, CSX's expected investment in infrastructure upgrades will improve freight and passenger rail service and further enhance the environmental sustainability of rail transportation in New England by shifting truck traffic

off the highway.

The STB formerly accepted CSX's revised application for consideration on July 30, which was later filed as part of an agreement to acquire Pan Am Railways.

**Economy added 28K private state jobs last month**

ALBANY — According to preliminary figures released today by the New York State Department of Labor, the number of private sector jobs in New York State increased over the month by 28,000, or 0.4 percent, to 7,519,400 in August 2021.

By comparison, the number of private sector jobs in the U.S. increased by 0.2 percent in August 2021.

New York State's private sector jobs increased by 384,300, or 5.4 percent over the year in August 2021. By comparison, the number of private sector jobs in the U.S. increased by 5.2 percent over the year.

New York State's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased from 7.6 to 7.4 percent in August 2021.



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\*\*Theft Protection Guarantee: Customer may receive reimbursement of up to five hundred dollars (\$500) of Customer's homeowner's insurance deductible (if any) if, and only if, ALL requirements for Theft Protection Guarantee are met to ADT's reasonable satisfaction. Customer must request reimbursement within 60 days of property loss. Request must be mailed to ADT and include: Theft Protection Guarantee certificate signed by Customer, a letter from Customer requesting reimbursement, a copy of the police report, and a copy of the accepted insurance claim. ADT reserves the right to reject any application for reimbursement that does not comply with all of the requirements.

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## From page 3 ... Chew on this

and all products that can be smoked, is clearly the path that best supports the kinds of advances in public health we've made with tobacco-free policies," Zubretsky said.

### Like a cigar shop

Town Planning Director Robert Leslie said he would anticipate new dispensaries or lounges would want to seek storefronts in the town's established commercial areas — Delaware Avenue, Route 9W or New Scotland Road. Prospective locations are already limited by their relative distance from schools and churches. For example, lounges would be at least 500 feet away from school grounds and 200 feet away from a house of worship. MRTA allows towns to extend those thresholds even farther.

"We can implement location regulation, hours of operation, even aesthetics," Leslie said. "It should be noted, though, the regulation should not render the operation of the dispensary unreasonably

*I have trouble with on-site consumption. Are people impaired when they leave there?"*

— Joyce Becker, Town Board member

practical."

Town Board members sought clarity on the state's definition of an on-site consumption facility, to which Leslie compared it to a cigar shop to which a person could buy and smoke a cigar.

"However, there is a behavioral change," said board member Joyce Becker. "Tobacco is a drug. There's a drug involved. But I have trouble with on-site consumption. Are people impaired when they leave there? I guess that's a concern for police."

Leslie later used the neighborhood bar analogy to describe its use. Where a customer could buy alcohol, sit down and consume the product. He then likened a dispensary to a beverage

center where consumers can purchase the product to use at home.

Municipalities weighing the benefits to allow dispensaries and lounges will consider the taxable income it promises. A statewide 9 percent tax would be charged on all sales. Another 4 percent would be levied locally, with 3 percent going to the town in which the business resides while the other 1 percent goes to the respective county.

Unlike the tobacco license process Bethlehem introduced last year, the state will not allow for locally issued licenses. A new Office of Cannabis Management will issue licenses and develop regulations.

Colonie and Ballston Spa have each opted to allow for dispensaries, but chose to go without on-site consumption lounges. Whether Bethlehem decides to follow in similar fashion will happen after the Town Board listens to the public before passing a local law anticipated for December.

## From page 3 ... Town Board

### Solar plan needs SEQR review

A proposed solar facility at 678 Route 9W will proceed to the Planning Board after a presentation before the Town Board.

The proposed site is zoned Mixed Economic Development District, which requires Town Board approval of a Development Master Plan. As per the requirements of the Zoning Law 128-37, in order to progress the project, Community Power Group must first obtain approval of a Development Master Plan from the Town Board.

Leslie Lombardo, Deputy Town Planner, gave a short presentation. A representative for the project commented on a few items: the solar field supports energy goals, residents can sign up for solar power, and there are no residential neighbors where the site is and the method of construction can be built in wetlands.

Community Power Group, LLC has proposed

construction of a 5 MW solar facility on +/-27.9 acres of a +/-56.46 acre site located on the east side of Route 9W, north of Wemple Road. The proposed development would include construction of a large scale solar facility including all fenced areas, access roadway and transformer areas.

The existing agricultural use will continue on the remaining lands. The site is zoned Mixed Economic Development District (MED), which requires Town Board approval of a Development Master Plan. As per the requirements of the Zoning Law 128-37, in order to progress the project, Community Power Group must first obtain approval of a Development Master Plan from the Town Board.

### Public hearing Oct. 27

The Town Board accepted the Commissioner of Public Works' request to schedule a public hearing to extend the Water District

No.1 and the Bethlehem Sewer District for the Van Dyke Spinney PDD Senior Housing Project on Wednesday, Oct. 27, at 6 p.m.

### Donation accepted

The Town Board approved a request from the Administrator of Parks and Recreation to accept a donation in the amount of \$800 from Friends of Bethlehem Parks and Recreation.

### Handicap accessible

The Town Board authorized the Bethlehem Town Court to apply for a Justice Court Assistance Program grant in the 2021-22 grant cycle up to \$30,000. Specifically, authorizing Bethlehem Town Court to apply for funding totaling \$30,000, to go toward replacement of the handicapped ramp access to the courtroom.

**Spotlight News**  
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#### LEGALS

09/08/21. Office: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 50-01 61st Street, Woodside, NY 11377. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. D-275368

#### NOTICE OF LLC FORMATION

ROYALTY FOODS LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 08/12/21. Office: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 422 Cromwell Avenue, 2nd Floor, Staten Island, NY 10305. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. D-275526

#### NOTICE OF LLC FORMATION

RUGS AMERICA HOLDINGS LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 09/09/21. Office: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 10 Daniel Street, Farmingdale, NY 11735. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. D-275487

#### LEGALS

**NOTICE OF PLLC FORMATION**  
RUST WELLNESS LCSW, PLLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 08/25/21. Office: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of the PLLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the PLLC, c/o Fishlin & Fishlin, PLLC, 118 North Bedford Road, Suite 100, Mount Kisco, NY 10549. Purpose: For the practice of the profession of Licensed Clinical Social Work. D-274690

**NOTICE OF LLC FORMATION**  
SANGS CONSTRUCTION LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 08/26/21. Office: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 154 Scott Avenue, Suite 101, Brooklyn, NY 11237. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. D-274699

**NOTICE OF LLC FORMATION**  
SAUCE ON THE SIDE LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 08/05/21. Office: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of

#### LEGALS

process to the LLC, 70 Bluebird Lane, Plainview, NY 11803. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. D-275477

**NOTICE OF LLC FORMATION**  
SEVENTH STREET CALI LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 08/26/21. Office: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, c/o Harounian Law PLLC, 106 West 29th Street, Ground Floor, New York, NY 10001. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. D-274700

**NOTICE OF LLC FORMATION**  
SMALL WORLD DENTISTRY PLLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 08/04/21. Office: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of the PLLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the PLLC, 180 E. Post Road, White Plains, NY 10601. Purpose: For the practice of the profession of Dentistry. D-273940

**NOTICE OF LLC FORMATION**  
SOMETHING BLUE CS, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 09/02/21. Office: Albany County. SSNY designat-

#### LEGALS

ed as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 92 St. Marks Place, Apartment 1H, Staten Island, NY 10301. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. D-275071

**NOTICE OF LLC FORMATION**  
SPCP, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 09/08/21. Office: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 60 Riverside Boulevard, Apartment 2803, New York, NY 10069. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. D-275369

**NOTICE OF LLC FORMATION**  
STRATEGIC CONSTRUCTION SOLUTIONS LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 08/17/21. Office: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 26 MacKenzie Ct, Freehold, NJ 07728. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. D-274078

**NOTICE OF LLC FORMATION**  
STYLECAKED, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 08/30/21. Of-

#### LEGALS

Office: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 26 Broadway, 8th Floor, New York, NY 10004. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. D-275527

**NOTICE OF LLC FORMATION**  
SUNNY & CAPTAIN, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 07/30/21. Office: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 429 West 45th Street, Apartment 5FW, New York, NY 10036. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. D-273905

**NOTICE OF LLC FORMATION**  
SUNSHINE REALTY NYC LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 09/15/21. Office: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 556 3rd Avenue, PHB2, New York, NY 10016. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. D-275999

#### LEGALS

**NOTICE OF PLLC FORMATION**  
SUZANNE B. REIN PSYCHOLOGIST, PLLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 09/09/21. Office: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of the PLLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the PLLC, 475 Sterling Place, Unit 2J, Brooklyn, NY 11238. Purpose: For the practice of the profession of Psychology. D-275544

**NOTICE OF LLC FORMATION**  
TASTEE TREAT NEW SCOTLAND, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 09/08/21. Office: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 43 4th Avenue, 2nd Floor, Albany, NY 12208. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. D-275370

**NOTICE OF LLC FORMATION**  
TOGETHER TOGETHER LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 09/10/21. Office: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC,

#### LEGALS

1820 Cortelyou Road, #4E, Brooklyn, NY 11226. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. D-275583

**NOTICE OF PLLC FORMATION**  
TWERSKY LAW GROUP PLLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 08/13/21. Office: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of the PLLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the PLLC, 2373 Broadway, Suite 1121, New York, NY 10024. Purpose: For the practice of the profession of Law. D-273929

**NOTICE OF LLC FORMATION**  
VANAM REALTY LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 08/25/21. Office: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 917 Wyckoff Avenue, Ridge-wood, NY 11385. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. D-275961

**NOTICE OF LLC FORMATION**  
WILLIS BRONX LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 09/08/21. Office: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it

#### LEGALS

may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 629 Melrose Avenue, Bronx, NY 10455. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. D-275390

**NOTICE OF LLC FORMATION**  
WORKSITE FITNESS LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 09/08/21. Office: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 21 Brookside Avenue, Menands, NY 12204. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. D-275391

**NOTICE OF LLC FORMATION**  
YORKVILLE BAKERY GROUP LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 09/08/21. Office: Albany County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, c/o Marina Halpern, 1133 Warburton Avenue, Apartment 515S, Yonkers, NY 10701. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. D-275394

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# Spotlight on Opinion

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September 29 - October 5, 2021

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



*The Spotlight* welcomes letters of local and regional interest. Letters are subject to editing and are limited to 500 words.

All letters must include the writer's name, address and phone number. *The Spotlight* reserves the right to limit the number of letters published from a single author.

Submissions can be emailed to [news@spotlightnews.com](mailto:news@spotlightnews.com). The deadline for all letters is noon Friday prior to publication.

*The Spotlight* also welcomes longer opinion pieces for the Point of View section.

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## The Case for Civic Education

In order to achieve a more functional society we need to see a renaissance of civic education in our public schools. Perhaps the most egregious example of a lack of civic understanding was the insurrection at the United States Capital earlier this year. We need to create an equal playing field where everyone is taught the basics of how society is governed. It is because of a lack of civic understanding that we, as a country, find ourselves in the current state.

We know that civics are no longer taught in our high schools and continue to see the consequences throughout society. Perhaps the most stunning example of this is when people are randomly asked to name the three branches of government and a majority

consistently respond: Democratic, Republican and Independent. Furthermore, people are unable to correctly identify or answer relatively simple questions about such documents as the Declaration of Independence, U.S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights. Concepts such as the separation of powers and the rule of law should be common knowledge, not a challenge.

I believe it is due to a lack of civic education that people feel government is out of reach and has no direct bearing on their lives. This lack of understanding combined with misinformation, social media and the use of "alternative facts," has made it harder for the public to distinguish fact from fiction. Part of civic

education is promoting civic engagement; as individuals become active the entire process becomes much less mystifying. Such participation in politics, civic groups and charities also makes individuals stakeholders.

In recent years education has primarily focused on science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). I acknowledge that this emphasis has been pushed to prepare students with the skillset for the jobs of the future. However, I do not see an inherent conflict between teaching STEM while also emphasizing civics. The fact is that high school students in New York complete a half year course called Participate in Government (PIG) during their senior year. This is not enough; I believe we can

and should do better.

The preamble of the United States Constitution begins with the phrase, "We the People." Since our country's founding, we have at times debated who "the people" should be. However, had we not had a fundamental understanding of our founding principles, how would women have been given the right to vote, how would African Americans have been granted access to the ballot, perhaps more importantly, years late with the removal of racist roadblocks such as litmus tests and property taxes. These changes and more were accomplished by participation in the process by those with an understanding how our society is governed.

Andrew J. Williamson  
Loudonville

*We know that civics are no longer taught in our high schools and continue to see the consequences throughout society. Perhaps the most stunning example of this is when people are randomly asked to name the three branches of government and a majority consistently respond: Democratic, Republican and Independent.*

## A shopper's challenge to avoid plastics



Dear Editor,

More and more we see how plastics are destroying our world's environment and the health and welfare of its peoples. Plastics litter our landscapes, choke our landfills, despoil our beaches and poison the world's oceans.

What to do?

We need to reduce our usage. So, here's the challenge: the next time you go shopping, try not to bring any plastic home.

How to do? Buy in bulk. Choose glass, rather than plastic containers. Wrap in paper.

You will find it extremely enlightening about how entangled in plastic our lives have become.

David Esmond

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Spotlight



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## LIBRARIES

# The Great Give Back

The Great Give Back is an opportunity for library patrons statewide to partake in meaningful, service-oriented experiences. At Bethlehem Public Library, our visitors can participate in the following ways:

1. First, we are collecting new, unopened household cleaning and hygiene

supplies for the Bethlehem Food Pantry from Oct. 1-17. A collection receptacle will be set up in the lobby.

2. Stop by the library's Community Room Saturday, Oct. 16, from 3-4 p.m. to create handcrafted cards with kind and inspiring messages to be given to people at local assisted living facilities.

### Get crafty

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your library card to start an account. Visit [www.creativebug.com/lib/bethlehemlibrary](http://www.creativebug.com/lib/bethlehemlibrary) to check it out and get inspired for your next project!

### Bookmark contest winners

The winners of our 2021 summer bookmark design contest have been selected, but it wasn't an easy choice. The library received so many colorful, whimsical entries that it was hard to narrow down the winners. Thank you to all of the artists who participated!

And now, without further ado, we congratulate the following winners: Cavah C., Christina V., Emily C., Helen K., Melanie C., Melissa Y., Sylvia G. and William G. The winning bookmark designs have been printed and are being distributed in the library in the Children's Place.

### STEAM-powered fun for families

Our October Family STEAM event that was originally scheduled for later in the month has been moved up so that it can take place outside on the Green during the

day. Like building gadgets and gizmos? Then join us Saturday, Oct. 9, at 10:30 a.m. and work together as a family to design your own Rube Goldberg Machine out of pipes, Legos, and other craft and building supplies. A Rube Goldberg Machine is a chain reaction-type machine or contraption designed to perform a simple task in an indirect and overly complicated way. This event is for kids grades K-8 and families (younger and older siblings welcome to attend). Register one person per family. This program will be cancelled in the event of inclement weather. Call or check the online calendar at [bethlehem.librarycalendar.com](http://bethlehem.librarycalendar.com) to sign up or check the status of this program.

### Bundle up or binge

Not sure what to read, watch or listen to next? Our Book Bundles for all ages include selections hand-picked for you by one of our librarians based on the reading preferences you share through this form: [www.bethlehempubliclibrary.org/book-bundle-request](http://www.bethlehempubliclibrary.org/book-bundle-request). We use that information to narrow down 10 curated picks in your favorite genres and formats – maybe with a surprise or two thrown in!

— Kristen Roberts

## V'ville family bicycle day

This community wide event will start at 12pm, Sunday, October 3, and will last throughout the day. There will be a block party complete with music, food, fire trucks, a bounce house, farm animals, bicycle skills class, as well as much, much more.

All activities will be on a closed bicycle riding loop. Come join the fun! Rain Date is Sunday, Oct. 10.

### October Book Talk

Kids' Book Discussion - "I Am Sammy: Trusted Guide," by Catherine Stier, 6:30p.m., Friday, Oct. 1.

Graphic Novel Book Discussion - "March: Book 3," by John Lewis, 6:30p.m., Wednesday, Oct. 6.

Middle School Book Club - "Ghost," by Jason Reynolds, 4p.m., Friday, Oct. 8.



Fiction Book Discussion - "The Guest List," by Lucy Foley, 7p.m.,

Wednesday, Oct. 13.

Books and Beyond - "The Guest List," by Lucy Foley, 11a.m., Wednesday, Oct. 20.

Please register online each month to receive the private meeting link.

— Lynn Kohler

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## LIBRARIES

# A ribbon-cutting day



Guilderland Public Library celebrated their reopening following construction with a ribbon cutting on Friday, September 24. Pictured from left to right: GPL Trustee Michael Hawrylchak; Board Secretary Cathy Barber; Trustee Marcia Alazraki; Trustee Peter Hubbard; Library Director Tim Wiles; Trustee Barbara Fraterrigo; Board President Kaitlin Downey.

Submitted photo

**W**e're excited to welcome patrons back into the newly-renovated and expanded library the week of September 27! Browsing and photocopying are available. Hours are: Mon.-Thurs. 9:30 a.m.-9:00 p.m.; Fri. 9:30 a.m.-6:00 p.m.; Sat. 9:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.; and Sun. 1:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Masks are required to enter GPL. Capacity is currently limited to 100 at a time, due to COVID restrictions and based on our Pandemic Operation Plan (posted at <https://guilderlandlibrary.org/get-to-know-us/people/board-of-trustees/>). Please limit your visit to 30 minutes, so that all can visit while maintaining social distancing.

Meeting and study rooms are not yet available. Public computers, stalled by global microchip shortages, are expected in mid-October.

Curbside operations continue for those who prefer this option, allowing for 24-hour notice to process your request. Our holds shelf near the circulation desk and self-checkout stations are also accessible for contactless transactions.



### Preschool Activity Kit

Did you know...GPL has a big fish tank? We do! This activity kit, specially created for preschoolers, will include a fish craft, along with a slightly-spooky Halloween-themed craft. Supplies are limited. Please register on the Events tab of our website, then pick up your child's kit starting Tuesday, Oct. 5.

### Outdoor Flu Vaccine Clinic

Rite Aid pharmacists will administer flu vaccines on Wednesday, Oct. 6, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at our annual outdoor drop-in clinic in GPL's main parking lot. Masks plus on-site temperature checks and health questionnaires are required. Both the regular vaccine and the high-dose option for ages 65+ (subject to availability) will be available. Please provide your insurance card, or be prepared to pay \$39.99. No appointment needed.

### Night Owls Online

We're reading "Braiding Sweetgrass" by Robin Wall Kimmerer in advance of our October meetup. Please reserve a copy (call or email us at [ask.librarian@guilderlandlibrary.org](mailto:ask.librarian@guilderlandlibrary.org) for assistance placing a hold), then register on the Events tab of our website for our book discussion on Monday, Oct. 11, at 7:30 p.m.

### Craft Graveyard

Help us put some of our craft supplies to rest by picking up a goodie bag that's all treats, no tricks. You'll get an assortment of projects and supplies, including some that are Halloween-themed and some that aren't. It will be enough to make a few projects (or one big monstrous mash). Please register on the Events tab of our website, then pick up starting Tuesday, Oct. 12.

— Luanne Nicholson





**Banner day**  
The Crossings hosted a 5K run to benefit the kids.

Page B19

**What's happening this week?**  
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■ **LOCAL MUSIC**

■ **INSIDE**



**Eddies Hall of Fame**

Ceremony, live music, will return to UPH in October.

Page B3



**No Fun here**

Pint Sized opening its third location in downtown Troy.

Page B5



# Out with the old

Lawsuit alleges school ignored department head when choosing to gut program

By **MICHAEL HALLISEY**  
halliseym@spotlightnews.com

**ALBANY** — A recent suit filed by four College of Saint Rose music department professors against the school sheds light on a contentious relationship between the traditional core teachings of the music department and the modern ways of the music industry program.

Yvonne Chavez Hansbrough, Robert Hansbrough, Bruce Roter, and Sherwood Wise, tenured faculty members in the College of Saint Rose's lauded music department, are suing the college and its president Marcia White for breach of contract.

Tension between the music department and school's music industry program came to a head when the school weighed the program's suggested cuts over the music department's.

**Continues on page B6**

Michael Hallisey / The Spot 518

*All the Beauty of Autumn*

# Fall Harvest

— PAGES —

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► quote of the week

*"Where's the visibility here? Why is an American's interpretation of someone's culture more important than the source itself? I can't begin to imagine how black students felt about their story being brushed over, too."*

— Juliana Cadena, College of Saint Rose graduate

SUNSHINE  
SUN BRIGHT

This week's photographer captured the last few moments of summer in a flower.




Photo by  
photographinganna /  
instagram



contents

Recently Announced	B3
Sudoku Puzzle	B8
Arts Calendar	B7-B10
Food & Vino	B11
Diet	B12
Health	B13
Service Directory	B14
Obituary	B16
Classifieds	B17
Photo Gallery	B19

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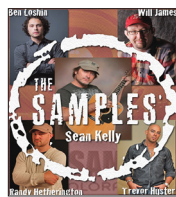
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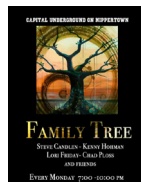
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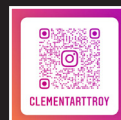
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RECENTLY ANNOUNCED

# The Eddies names new Hall of Famers

Induction ceremony, live music, returns to UPH in October

**SARATOGA SPRINGS** — A pair of Mechanicville brothers who led separate bands in the World War II era that repeatedly appeared on the music charts, and a North Country musician who has toured the U.S. and recorded numerous albums throughout a 56-year career, are among those in the third class to be inducted into the Capital Region Thomas Edison Music Hall of Fame at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 27 at Universal Preservation Hall.

The class includes the Big Band vocalists and brothers Bob Eberly and Ray Eberle; country musician Marty Wendell; the rock band the Figgs, radio disc jockey Jim Barrett, jazz band leader Skip Parsons, Cuban and African percussionist and educator Eddie Ade Knowles; Old Songs founders Kay (Andy) and Bill Spence.

“This is our biggest class so far and it brings the total number of inductees to 15,” said Jim Murphy, co-founder and co-producer. “Judges have nominated nearly 100 individuals and groups since we started the process so there is no end in sight to celebrating our local music scene as more bands and individuals enter eligibility.”

Tickets are \$20 in advance, \$25 day of show.

## About the inductees

Bob Eberly – who changed the spelling of his last name Eberle when he began singing professionally – was hired by the Dorsey Brothers Orchestra after winning an amateur hour contest



This year's crop of hall of famers await to be enshrined this October at Saratoga Springs' Universal Preservation Hall.

Capital Region Thomas Edison Music

on Fred Allen's radio show and shortly before Tommy Dorsey left the band to form his own group. He stayed with Jimmy Dorsey and in the early 1940s the Jimmy Dorsey Orchestra scored a string of Billboard hits featuring Eberly and Helen O'Connell. He also recorded the original version of "I'm Glad There Is You" in 1942 for Dorsey's orchestra that has become a jazz and pop standard. Bob's younger brother, Ray Eberle, joined the Glen Miller orchestra in 1938, and recorded several hits and songs for that group until 1943. After a brief stint with Gene Krupa's band, he began a long solo career. From 1940-43 he was a finalist on Billboard's "College Poll" for male vocalist; he also appeared in several movies in the early 1940s and on several television variety shows in the 1950s and 1960s. The brothers are Mechanicville natives.

Jim Barrett's local music show Kaleidoscope enters its 55th year on the air this fall. The show was founded in 1967 on Rensselaer

Polytechnic Institute's college station, WRPI, and later moved to Albany Broadcasting, and then to WVCR-FM and later WAIX-FM 106.1.

Originally known as The Sonic Undertones, The Figgs have recorded 13 studio albums and multiple EPs, live albums, compilations and singles. The Saratoga-based band served as the backing band for Graham Parker on and off since 1996 and also toured with Tommy Stinson of The Replacements. Founded in Saratoga Springs in 1987, the original lineup of Mike Gent (guitar), Pete Donnelly (bass), and Guy Lyons (drums / guitar) all went to high school together. Pete Hays (drums) later joined the band.

Eddie Ade Knowles was a pillar of African and Caribbean music in the Capital Region from when he joined Rensselaer Polytechnic institute in 1977 until his death in 2020; there he held

Continues on B14

## 'Pieced Together' exhibit to open at Albany library

**ALBANY** — Indoor public art returns to Albany Public Library with the "Pieced Together" exhibit, curated by Opalka Gallery, opening on Friday, Oct. 1, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at the Pine Hills Branch.

The opening reception includes light refreshments and live music from Jazz for a Cause. This reception will be held outdoors with timed entry open to Albany residents who register in advance.

"Pieced Together" can be viewed by the general public during operating hours at the Pine Hills Branch at 517 Western Ave. starting Saturday, Oct. 2, and continuing through April 17, 2022.

The exhibit showcases artists who transform cut paper and other discarded materials into new compositions. Whether through model making or collage, these artists find inspiration in scrap paper, fabric remnants, old maps, photos, or magazines. For some, the allure of a commonplace material like cardboard is the freedom inherent in it—it isn't precious or perceived as valuable so anything goes. For others, it's the history of the material—all the other stories it has told and can yet tell. Often it's simply the economy of re-using scraps. Ultimately, the satisfaction comes from piecing it all together into something new.

"Pieced Together" artists include:

- Fern Apfel (Kinderhook, NY) uses remnants of the past to create a narrative that presents life not as then vs now, but as an inescapable circle of time and memory. Apfel's work is in the permanent collection of many regional institutions, including The Hyde Collection and the Tang Teaching Museum.
- Paula Drysdale Frazell (Albany, NY) is inspired by the work of Romare Bearden. She loses herself in the messy process of collage and thrives in the chaos. Her challenge is to make the separate elements all work together to speak in one strong voice.
- Danny Goodwin (Delmar, NY) plays with photographic veracity, constructing table-top models of meaningful sites,

Continues on B15

### IF YOU GO

- **What:** Pieced Together Opening Reception
- **When:** Friday, Oct. 1, 6 p.m.
- **Where:** Pine Hills Branch of the Albany Public Library, 517 Western Ave.
- **How much:** Free
- **Info:** The opening will also feature live music by Jazz for a Cause (Rich Humowitz, piano, Mike Germano, bass, Tim Coakley, drums). Register here: <https://albanypubliclibrary.org>

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**■ CULTURE**

# You'll find No Fun here

Pint Sized opening its third location in downtown Troy

By **MICHAEL HALLISEY**  
halliseym@spotlightnews.com

**TROY** — Pint Sized announced it will open its third location in downtown Troy — its largest project, to date.

The local chain of small bars and shops plans to open the doors to its newest location at 275/277 River Street in mid-November. The concept will include two endeavors working in harmony under the same roof.

The doors to 275 River Street lead to No Fun, an open floor plan arts space that will host live music and other events. The doors to 277 River Street lead to Pint Sized, which will serve really good beer for the premise as well as act as a bottle shop with to go sales just like its Albany and Saratoga Springs locations.

"People have always asked why we haven't done a project in Troy yet. I've always wanted to

bring Pint Sized to its downtown and have looked at spaces on and around River Street as early as 2017," said owner August Rosa. "There is a lot going on in Troy and I never felt that a Pint Sized on its own would be enough with so many unique and innovative offerings to do in the area."

Drawing on Rosa's experience playing and going to shows, No Fun will take the form of his favorite type of venues — art spaces, house shows & DIY venues. She said the concept will be very simple, featuring a great sound system, a decent sized stage, and "weird art and stuff" on the walls.

"The 'No Fun' event space will be what really sets this project apart," Rosa said. "I absolutely see a need for dedicated performance space downtown. We look forward to being a part of Troy's downtown scene."

The first folks enlisted for the project are Shane Sanchez and John Olander, both part of the Super Dark Collective. Shane will bring his booking knowledge

and John will bring his sound knowledge to the project. The collective will host free weekly shows at No Fun. In addition to these shows, No Fun will host a few ticketed events with larger touring acts each month.

The Pint Sized component of the plan will start off in the same vein as its first two locations. The bar will have twelve constantly rotating taps in addition to a wall of one hundred plus craft cans and specialty bottles. All products, with the exception of wine products, will be available for on-premise and off-premise consumption. A full liquor license will be considered down the road but not be a part of the immediate plans.

The space will be open seven days a week. Planned hours for the Troy location are Monday and Tuesday, from 4 p.m. to midnight; Wednesday through Friday, from noon to midnight, Saturday, from 10 a.m. to midnight; and Sunday, from noon to 8 p.m.

For more, follow @nofuntroy on social media.



Pint Sized, with storefronts in Saratoga Springs and Albany, will have a third in Troy before the end of the year. Pint Sized



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## From page B1 ... College of Saint Rose

The suit stems from the dramatic cuts the school made when it eliminated 25 degree programs and approximately \$8 million in budget cuts last December in an effort to balance the college's budget by 2023. The program closures were to eliminate 33 of the college's 151 full-time tenured and tenure-track faculty positions in December 2021. In addition, eight full-time visiting faculty on annual contracts will not be renewed.

The cuts targeted programs the school observed as declining or showing historically low enrollment. Other degree or certificate programs were eliminated because the school said the cost to maintain them was higher than the revenue generated by enrollment.

"These programs have enriched the lives of all of us at the college in some way, but in order for Saint Rose to continue living its mission, we must arrive at a sustainable budget," Jeff

Stone, chair of the Saint Rose Board of Trustees, said last December. "Carrying a structural deficit makes it nearly impossible for Saint Rose to weather storms like COVID-19, which handed us millions of dollars in revenue loss in one year.

"We need to build a stronger base — one where operating expenses and revenue align — in order to meet current challenges in higher education and the challenges yet to come," he added.

The school pursued financial cuts through data collecting and interviews with department heads, including Wise. However, the lawsuit contends that administrators weighed input from the school's music industry program over Wise, leading to what the petitioners state as ill-informed decisions.

The suit states that the music industry program is not a degree, but a concentration. Petitioners contend that the music industry's suggestions —

which was to eliminate three of the department's four degree programs, excluding its Bachelor of Science — should have crossed Wise's desk before submittal. It was not.

The noted subversion points to a contentious relationship between music department faculty and music industry professors — noted as junior professors to the tenured faculty petitioning against the school.

"Music Industry professors were known to criticize the core curriculum courses, and the professors that taught them, as not diverse enough, despite the fact that the professors teaching core curriculum classes were the only full-time faculty of color in the department," states the suit. Dr. Angela Ledford, a professor and appointed Faculty Review Committee representative, is quoted as stating, "tension between Music and [Music Industry] was high for years, and centering whiteness was one of the core issues."

Juliana Cadena, a recent graduate of the music industry program, said she considers herself lucky to have earned an education at

the College of Saint Rose. She's read over the news surrounding the school's gutted music program, and said she feels the blame is on the wrong people.

"What these articles fail to address is how little some plaintiffs cared about their students," Cadena

school. "Traditional music education is important to the extent of its relevance."

Cadena, a native-Colombian, observed the "whiteness" described by Ledford, too. One example was how one course covered Hispanic music based on an American composer who

brushed over, too."

School alumni voiced similar observations online, but argued that the school's financial woes had less to do with a program perceived to be losing money and more to do with poor overall decisions. One pointed to the school's new dining hall and its Golden Knights Esports Arena as examples of "extraneous spending."

Ultimately, the school cited a 15 percent decrease in the department's overall enrollment over the past five years, and a 43 percent decline over the past decade. The music industry program, with 100 students enrolled in the program, outpaced the other three majors, combined.

"Our College community has proven its resilience, and with these changes, we will continue to do so," White said in a statement last December. "Just as our founders, the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, met the needs of the times when they established the College 100 years ago, we are doing the same today by aligning our academic programs to meet the career needs of our current and future students."

*"Music Industry professors were known to criticize the core curriculum courses, and the professors that taught them, as not diverse enough, despite the fact that the professors teaching core curriculum classes were the only full-time faculty of color in the department," states the suit. Dr. Angela Ledford, a professor and appointed Faculty Review Committee representative, is quoted as stating, "tension between Music and [Music Industry] was high for years, and centering whiteness was one of the core issues."*

said. "I wish we could look into their notorious tension between MI professors deeper cause the stories from alumni are unbelievable." Cadena added that her fellow students had begged for a "refreshed curriculum" that could help them after

wrote pieces inspired by a visit to Puerto Rico.

"Where's the visibility here?" Cadena said. "Why is an American's interpretation of someone's culture more important than the source itself? I can't begin to imagine how black students felt about their story being

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**Across The Street Pub**  
1238 Western Ave., Albany.  
518-438-1718  
Thurs: **Trivia** | 6:30-8:30 p.m.

**The Avalon Lounge**  
29 Church St, Catskill  
518-719-1640  
Wed: **Gong Bath with Samer Ghadry** | 7:30- 9 p.m.  
Fri: **Camp Saint Helene/Ongoing** | 8:30-11 p.m.  
Sat: **Pom Pom's Punk Prom 2021** | 5 p.m.  
Sun: **Pom Pom's Punk Prom 2021** | 5 p.m. -2 a.m.

**Black Bear Inn**  
310 19th St., Watervliet  
518-272-9486  
Wed: **Trivia Night** | 7:30 p.m.

**Caffè Lena**  
47 Phila St., Saratoga Springs  
518-583-0022  
Wed: **Youth Squared Presents Scott Cook: Songs Of Social Action & Social Justice** | 7-9 p.m.  
Fri: **Roomful Of Blues** | 8-10 p.m.  
Sat: **The Way Down Wanderers** | 8 - 10 p.m.  
Sun: **Alasdair Fraser And Natalie Haas** | 7-9 p.m.

**Carson's Woodside Tavern**  
57 NY-9P, Malta  
518-584-9791  
Thurs: **Russ Kennedy** | 6-9 p.m.

**Centre Street Pub**  
308 Union St., Schenectady  
518-393-2337  
Thurs: **Josh Morris** | 6 p.m.  
Fri: **Becca Frame & The Tall Boys** | 7 p.m.

**Cohoes Music Hall**  
58 Remsen St., Cohoes  
518-434-0776  
Sun: **Karla Bonoff** | 7-9 p.m.

**The Comedy Works**  
388 Broadway, Saratoga Springs  
877-565-3849  
Thurs: **Rich Vos** | 8 p.m.  
Fri: **Rich Vos** | 8 p.m.  
Sat: **Rich Vos** | 8 p.m.

**Eden Cafe**  
269 Osborne Road #3, Albany  
518-977-3771  
Thurs: **The Tony Loves Trixie Show auditions and Rehearsal All welcome** | 6:30-8:30 p.m.  
Fri: **Open Mic** | 6-10 p.m.  
Sat: **Open Stage** | 7:30-9:30 p.m.

**The Egg**  
Empire State Plaza., Albany  
518-473-1845  
Thurs: **The Mersey Beatles** | 7:30 p.m.  
Fri: **Stephen Lynch** | 8 p.m.  
Sat: **Flamenco Vivo!** @UAlbany **Performing Arts Center** | 7:30 p.m.

**Emack & Bolio's**  
366 Delaware Ave., Albany  
518-512-5100  
Fri: **Duck n Du** | 7-10 p.m.  
Sat: **Gross & Hart** | 7-10 p.m.

**Empire Live/Underground**  
93 North Pearl St., Albany

# HOT SPOTS EVENTS CALENDAR



## Zac Brown brings 'The Comeback Tour' to SPAC

The ever-popular, Grammy Award-winning band hits Saratoga Springs as one of more than 20 cities listed for its "The Comeback Tour." Joining them in the Spa City is singer-songwriter Caroline Jones on Sunday, Oct. 3.

Alex Chapman

866-468-3399  
Fri: **Hail The Sun - New Age Filth Tour 2021** | 6 p.m.  
Sat: **Quicksand** | 7 p.m.

**Empire State Plaza**  
Eprire State Plaza., Albany  
518-474-2418

**Fort Orange Brewing**  
450 North Pearl St, Albany  
518-992-3103  
Wed: **Fall Corn Hole League** | 6- 8:30 p.m.  
Sun: **Paint And Sip** | 1-3 p.m.

**Funny Bone**  
1 Crossgates Mall Rd #K-206, Albany  
518-313-7484  
Wed: **Chicks Are Funny!** | 7:30 p.m.  
Fri: **Bill Bellamy** | 7:30 and 10 p.m.  
Sat: **Bill Bellamy** | 7 and 9:45 p.m.

**Gaffney's**  
16 Caroline St., Saratoga Springs  
518-587-7359

**Grappa '72**  
818 Central Ave., Albany  
518-482-7200  
Thurs: **Hamilton Street Jazz Trio** | 5:30-8:30 p.m.  
Fri: **Earl Davis with Peg & Bill Delaney** | 5:30-8:30 p.m.

**The Hangar on the Hudson**  
675 River St., Troy  
518-272-9740  
Sat: **Richard Lloyd** | 6-9 p.m.

**The Hollow Bar + Kitchen**  
79 North Pearl St., Albany

518-426-8550  
**Lark Hall**  
351 Hudson Ave, Albany  
518-599-5804  
Fri, Oct 1: **Liz Cooper: The Hot Sass Tour with Special Guests, New Madrid** | 8-11 p.m.

**The Linda**  
339 Central Ave, Albany  
518-465-5233  
Thurs: **Lily and Stella and the Reptillians – Open for Business Concert Series** | 8-10 p.m.  
Fri: **Stephane Wrembel** | 8-10 p.m.

**McGeary's Irish Pub**  
4 Clinton Square, Albany  
518-463-1455  
Tues: **Trivia Night** | 7 p.m.

**Nanola**  
2639 Rt 9, Malta  
518-587-1300

**The Night Owl**  
17 Maple Ave., Saratoga Springs  
518-319-2300

**Olde English Pub**  
683 Broadway, Albany. 518-434-6533  
Thurs: **Caity Gallagher** | 7 p.m.

**The Palace Theatre**  
19 Clinton Ave., Albany  
518-465-4663  
Sat Oct 9th: **Beethoven "Eroica" - Opening Night** | 7:30 p.m.

**Panza's**  
129 So. Broadway, Saratoga Springs

518-584-6882  
Sun: **Sinatra & Friends Sundays** | 5:30 p.m.

**Parish Pub House**  
388 Broadway, Albany  
518-465-0444  
Fri Oct 22nd: **The Wheel** | 8:30 p.m.

**The Parting Glass**  
40-42 Lake Ave., Saratoga Springs  
518-583-1916  
Wed: **Irish Celtic Session** | 7-10 p.m.

**Paulys Hotel**  
337 Central Ave., Albany  
518-426-0828  
Thurs: **Hendrix Tribute show** | 8 p.m.  
Sat: **Checked Past and special guest Dennis Most** | 8 p.m.

**Proctors**  
432 State Street., Schenectady  
518-346-6204  
Thurs: **Raise Your Voice for CASA Kids** | 6 p.m.

**Putnam Place**  
63a Putnam St., Saratoga Springs  
518-584-8066  
Sat: **The Samples** | 9 p.m.  
Sun: **King Yellowman & The Sagittarius Band ft: K'reema** | 7 p.m.

**Ravenswood Grill & Tavern**  
1021 NY 146, Clifton Park. 518-371-8771  
Wed. **Trivia Night** | 6:30 p.m.

**The Ruck**  
104 3rd St., Troy

(518) 273-1872  
**Rustic Barn Pub**  
150 Speigletown Rd., Troy  
518-235-5858  
Thurs: **Open Mic Night** | 6 p.m.

**Saratoga City Tavern**  
19-21 Caroline St., Saratoga Springs  
518-581-3230  
Thurs: **Karaoke** | 9 p.m.  
Mon: **Bingo** | 8 p.m.  
Tues: **Trivia** | 8 p.m.

**SPAC**  
Avenue of the Pines, Saratoga Springs  
518-584-9330  
Sun: **Zac Brown Band: The Comeback Tour** | 7:00 p.m.

**Troy Savings Bank Music Hall**  
30 Second St., Troy  
518-273-0038  
Sun: **Sara Evans** | 7:30 p.m.

**Van Slyck's**  
Rivers Casino & Resort  
1 Rush St., Schenectady  
518-579-8800  
Fri: **David Gleason** | 7-10 p.m.  
Sat: **David Gleason** | 7-10 p.m.

**Waterworks Pub**  
76 Central Ave., Albany  
518-465-9079  
Fri: **Friday Night Dancing & Karaoke** | 10 p.m.-4 a.m.  
Sat: **Saturday Night Dancing & Drag** | 10 p.m.-4 a.m.

**Wishing Well Restaurant**

745 Saratoga Rd., Wilton  
518-584-7640

**EXHIBITS**

**Albany Barn**  
**West African Drum and Dance With Jordan Taylor Hill-** Join local musician Jordan Taylor Hill, as he walks through the basics of West African Drum and Dance. All levels of skill and experience welcome! Every Monday at 6pm until the end of the year. Drumming begins at 6:00 and dance begins at 6:45.  
Gallery Hours: Weekdays, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; please call ahead. Albany Barn, 56 Second Ave. Albany. 518-935-4858 or albanybarn.org

**Albany Institute of History and Art**  
**Romancing the Rails: Train Travel in the 1920s and 1930s**  
The 1920s and 30s were a kind of golden age for rail travel in the U.S., a period when railroads were portrayed as modern amenities that carried passengers to romantic getaways in luxury and comfort. Yet the story of railroads and rail travel during the period is much more complex, involving talented individuals, hardworking people, engineering accomplishments, celebrations, and momentous events. June 12, 2021-February 2022.

**The Hudson River School: Landscape Paintings from the Albany Institute-** The Albany Institute holds a large and important collection of nineteenth-century American landscape paintings, works often associated with the term "Hudson River School. This exhibit is currently ongoing.

**Nineteenth Century American Sculpture:Erastus Dow Palmer and His Protégés Launt Thompson, Charles Calverley, and Richard Park-** Designed to showcase the museum's nationally known collection of mid- to late-nineteenth-century sculpture, This exhibit is currently ongoing.

**Ancient Egypt-** Egyptologist and Guest Curator Dr. Peter Lacovara has incorporated the research and scientific discoveries revealed in the GE Presents: The Mystery of the Albany Mummies exhibition into a new exhibition about Ancient Egypt. This exhibit is currently ongoing.

**Traders & Culture: Colonial Albany and the Formation of American Identity-** This exhibition looks at those diverse peoples who shaped colonial Albany and the objects that reflect their interests, values, commercial, and social interactions. This exhibit is currently ongoing. The Albany Institute of History and Art, 125 Washington Ave. Albany, 518.463.4478.

**Albany International Airport 2021 Mohawk Hudson Regional-** This fall, for the first time in its 85 year history, the Artists of the Mohawk Hudson Region Exhibition will be presented simultaneously at the Albany International Airport Gallery. After receiving 561 entries by artists from across the region, jurors selected 143 works of art from 96 outstanding artists. There is information about every artist that



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Answers on Pg. B17



## It's a good decision to see Clutch

These hard rockers have been doing it for 30 years and won't be quitting anytime soon. They'll test the architectural integrity of Empire Live on Friday, Oct. 1.

Jim Gilbert

will be showcased here. Not sure if it was too much info to include. Open: Sept. 10 through Nov. 8, 2021. Location: 3rd Floor, Main Terminal, 737 Albany Shaker Rd, Albany, NY. 518-242-2241 or www.albanyairport.com/arts

### Arts Center of the Capital Region

**Fence 2021-** The Fence Show is an annual celebration that pays homage to a time when members' artwork was exhibited on the iron fence surrounding Washington Park in Troy, the original location of the Arts Center. Open September-December 2021. 265 River St., Troy. Gallery hours: Daily, Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m. to 7:30 p.m., Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Satur-

day, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday, noon to 4 p.m. Free admission. 518-273-0552 or artscenteronline.org

### The Clark Art Institute

**Ground/Work-** A reverence for nature and a desire to further enliven the surrounding trails, pastures, and woods inspired Ground/work—the Clark Art Institute's first outdoor exhibition. Building on a history of collaboration with contemporary artists, the Clark commissioned Kelly Akashi, Nairy Baghramian, Jennie C. Jones, Eva LeWitt, Analia Saban, and Haegue Yang to create new works of art in active dialogue with this specific environment. Ground/work highlights the balance between fragility and resili-

ence that both nature and the passage of time reveal, while offering fresh experiences with every visit. Open: Now- October 17th, 2021. Advance timed ticket reservations are required.

**Erin Shirreff-** This yearlong exhibition in public spaces around the Clark examines Erin Shirreff's practice—between analog and digital media, two and three dimensions, and still and moving images—and its fascination with the mythmaking behind art history. Through photographic manipulations of sculptures found in books, and ones of her own making, Shirreff asks what is left of the original experience of an artwork once it has entered the historical record, and what traces of an artist's labor might

still be legible after the fact. The exhibition includes photographs on paper and aluminum that have been creased and cut, to take on sculptural dimensions, as well as the artist's video work. Open: Now- January 2nd, 2021. Advance timed ticket reservations are required.

**Claude & Francois- Xavier Lalanne: Nature Transformed-** The imaginative and expertly crafted art of Claude Lalanne (1925-2019) and François-Xavier Lalanne (1927-2008) reflects their belief that the human, animal, and vegetal worlds share a profound kinship. Throughout their long careers they looked to nature for inspiration, creating sculpture, furniture, and other works that morph natural objects into unexpected



## HOT DATE

### TROY FARMERS MARKET

More than 80 food growers, bakers and more, plus live music on Saturday, Oct. 2, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

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### CLUES ACROSS

- Leg shank
- A way to recognize
- "VeggieTales" character
- Getting out of by cunning
- Mythological mountain
- Atomic #18
- Viscous liquid
- 2010 Denzel film
- 12th star in a constellation
- Made better
- Pouches
- Nervous twitch
- This (Spanish)
- Tennis legend Bjorn
- Hand (Spanish)
- Afrikaans
- Int'l interpreters organization (abbr.)
- Treated with kid gloves
- Leaseholder
- Frogs, toads, tree toads
- Popular dance
- Sailing maneuver: tack & \_
- Indicates speed of rotation (abbr.)
- Mark
- Health insurance
- Custom clothing brand
- One who makes suits
- Execute or perform
- Degree of pleasantness when tasting
- Equal to roughly 5.6 bushels
- Blood group
- Imaginary line
- Hopeless
- Darken
- Spoke
- Work units

### CLUES DOWN

- A way to fit out
- Football carries
- Force out

- Maintaining equilibrium
- Sealed with a kiss
- Type of container
- Hollywood
- We
- Small freshwater ducks
- Norse personification of old age
- Says who you are
- Candidate
- Sugar found in honey and sweet fruits
- Defunct language (abbr.)
- Take too much
- Iranian province
- Records electric currents
- \_ and feathers
- Beloved Mr. T character
- More (Spanish)
- Beverage
- Promotional material
- Green vegetable
- National capital
- To any further extent
- Swollen, inflamed lymph node
- Anger
- Pound
- Popular Yugo
- Salt of acetic acid
- Millihenry
- Israeli city \_ Aviv
- Make wider
- Drink containing medicine
- Acknowledging
- Private, romantic rendezvous
- Calvary sword
- Disease of the lungs
- 2001 Spielberg film
- Fleshy, watery fruit
- In one's chambers
- Set of information (abbr.)
- Dorm employee
- Indicates position

Answers on Pg. B17





## This is the text book he's studying

Richard Lloyd takes his electric guitar everywhere he goes, and he's set to visit The Hangar in Troy on Saturday, Oct. 2. The Lawn Sausages and Haunted Cat are to open.

Richard Lloyd

inventions that play with the boundaries between form and function. Open: May 8th - October 31st, 2021. Advance timed ticket reservations are required. Museum hours: Daily, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday. Admission: Adults, \$20; children 18 and younger, free. 225 South St., Williamstown, Mass. 413-458-2303 or www.clarkart.edu

### Clement Art Gallery

**Ongoing: Permanent antique print and map room** exhibits. Gallery hours: Weekdays from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free admission. 201 Broadway, Troy. 518-272-6811 or www.clementart.com

### The Esther Massry Gallery

Massry Center for the Arts, The College of Saint Rose, 1002 Madison Ave., Albany. Gallery hours through Saturday, April 27: Tuesday through Saturday from noon to 5 p.m.; open until 8 p.m. on Thursday, closed on Sundays, academic holidays and between exhibitions. Free admission. 518-485-3902 or www.facebook.com/esthermassrygallery

### The Hyde Collection

**Summer Bomb Pop: Collection in Dialogue**- Brings together seventeen works of contemporary abstract painting from the collection of the Tang Teaching Museum at Skidmore College by artists such as Sarah Braman, Jeffrey Gibson, Rashid Johnson, Mindy Shapero, and Chuck Webster with several twentieth-century works from The Hyde Collection's renowned Feibes & Schmitt Collection by artists such as Grace Hartigan, Alfred Jensen, Ellsworth Kelly, Bridget Riley, and Andy Warhol. Summer Bomb Pop is organized by the Tang Teaching Museum in collaboration with Jonathan Canning, Director of Curatorial Affairs and Program-

ming at The Hyde Collection. This exhibit is currently ongoing - October 31st.

**Masterpieces & Mysteries**- Artistic treasures and art historical queries, drawn from its vaults. Among the great works of art that Louis and Charlotte Hyde brought to Glens Falls are delicate works on paper so sensitive to the damaging effects of light that they can only be exhibited once every few years. Out from storage come watercolors by Winslow Homer, pastels by Edgar Degas, drawings by Henri Matisse, and a pen and ink sketch by Vincent Van Gogh. This exhibit is currently ongoing- October 31st.

Museum hours: Daily, Tuesday-Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sunday, noon to 5 p.m., Closed Monday. Admission: adults, \$12; seniors (60+), \$10; Children, students (w/ID)/ active military members and their families, free. 161 Warren St., Glens Falls. 518-792-1761 or hydecollection.org

### The Jan Rutland

**Memorial Artists' Space** Gallery hours (through Thursday, Feb. 28): Thursday, Friday, and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free. Second Floor, National Bottle Museum, 76 Milton Ave., Ballston Spa. 518-885-7589 or nationalbottlemuseum.org/the-jan-rutland-artists-space/

### Mabee Farm Historic Site

**Redesigning Fashion: Transgression and Identity in Women's Historic Dress**- A partnership between SCHS and the Fashion & Textiles program at SUNY Oneonta. The collaboration has resulted in an exhibition that explores the historical importance of women's clothing and fashion in the expression of cultural values and the creation of identity, and examines how those ideals change over



## HOT DATE

### KING YELLOWMAN

*This giant of the raggaе world brings high energy to each show. Find him at Putnam Place on Sunday, Oct. 3, at 7 p.m.*

time. Open now - November 13th, 2021. **Beyond the Pines: Early Schenectady**- Explore early Schenectady: its founding, its people, and what life was like for early Schenectadians. This exhibit is ongoing.

**Changing Downtown**- At the heart of a successful downtown are interesting stories and unique buildings that illustrate a city's distinct character. Changing Downtown traces Schenectady's stories and buildings through the years, exploring the city's legacy of transformation

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## The scribe behind the hits

Karla Bonoff has lent her words to hit songs for Bonnie Raitt, Wynonna Judd, Linda Ronstadt and more. She's to be on stage at Cohoes Music Hall on Sunday, Oct. 3.

Karla Bonoff



### HOT DATE

#### TRMA

Grab a pint and show off that brain of yours on Trivia Night at McGeary's Irish Pub on Tuesday, Oct. 5, at 7 p.m.

and innovation. By discovering the forces that shaped downtown Schenectady, we can better understand ourselves, and our vision for the future. Open now - Dec. 31st, 2021.

Winter hours: Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. 1100 Main St. (NY Route 55), Rotterdam Junction. Admission: Adults: \$5/person for self-guided access; or \$8/person for tour and exhibit access; children and students (w/ID) free. 518-887-5073 or schenectadyhistorical.org

#### miSci

**New York's World's Fairs-** The New York World's Fairs of 1939 and 1964 were landmark events in the lives of millions. Explore through photographs and films, the major attractions General Electric created for both fairs including the 10-million-volt Steinmetz Hall lightning generator, and the groundbreaking Progressland building that was designed in partnership with Walt Disney and featured the first public demo of nuclear fusion. On View Through Nov. 14, 2021

**Goose Bumps! The Science of Fear-** Goose Bumps! The Science of Fear explores the universal emotion that can save our lives. Through fun, interactive challenges and immersive environments, visitors can experience fear safely and discover the science behind their physical and emotional responses. The presentation was developed by the California Science Center and includes information based on the current research in neurobiology, physiology, and psychology. On View Through October 31, 2021

Museum hours: Tuesday-Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. (observatory open until 8 p.m. on Thursday); Sunday, noon to 5 p.m. 15 Nott Terrace Heights, Schenectady. Admission: Adults (13+), \$12; seniors (65+), \$10; children (3-12) \$8. Additional \$6/person for planetarium show. 518-382-7890 or www.miSci.org

#### National Museum of Dance

**Posters From Hollywood's Golden Age-** An unprecedented one hundred thirty dance movie posters from the collection of veteran producer Mike Kaplan are on view in three of the Museum's galleries. This rare and exceptional collection includes several American and international versions of Hollywood film posters which range in date from 1918

to the 1980s with the majority from the 1930s, 40s, and 50s. This exhibit is currently ongoing.

**On Being Still: Portraits By Joanne Savio-** Renowned photographer Joanne Savio has been documenting the arts community through portraiture since the 1980s. She has captured some of the most influential dancers and choreographers of our time including Mikhail Baryshnikov, Pina Bausch, and Elizabeth Streb in addition to several members of the Hall of Fame such as Merce Cunningham, Mark Morris, Gregory Hines, Bill T. Jones, and Trisha Brown. Her stunning, iconic portraits of dancers and choreographers are on view in the Foyer.

**Dancers After Dark-** Dancers After Dark features photographs from Jordan Matter's 2016 book in which he documents nude dancers in iconic locations around the world. This exhibition also includes exclusive video from the making of Dancers After Dark. This exhibit is currently ongoing.

Museum hours: Daily, Tuesday through Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday, noon to 4 p.m. 99 South Broadway, Saratoga Springs. Admission: Adults, \$6.50; seniors/students (w/valid ID) \$5; children ages 4 to 12, \$3; children ages 3 and younger, free; free admission for all patrons on Tuesday. 518-584-2225 or www.dancemuseum.org

#### New York State Museum

**Thomas Hart Benton**  
In 1956 Thomas Hart Benton was commissioned by Robert Moses, chairman of the New York Power Authority, to create two murals for the powerhouse building of the state's first hydropower facility in Massena. They feature Jacques Cartier's explorations of the St. Lawrence River and the Gulf of St. Lawrence.

# HOROSCOPES

## September 2021 Week 5

### ARIES - MAR 21/APR 20

Aries, a few days of self-reflection is not a selfish endeavor. Sometimes you need to give yourself a little TLC so you can more effectively care for others.

### TAURUS - APR 21/MAY 21

Taurus, if you find that some bad habits are increasingly getting in the way, then push those vices aside for good. Focus on activities that benefit your overall health.

### GEMINI - MAY 22/JUN 21

Gemini, you are wielding a lot of energy and some people just may not be ready for your kind of motivation. Read the room before you come in like a whirlwind.

### CANCER - JUN 22/JUL 22

Mistakes that you made in the past are just that: in the past. You can learn from them and move on to bigger and better things. Enjoy turning over a new leaf.

### LEO - JUL 23/AUG 23

This week your energy and outlook are both very positive, Leo. You'll be in a good frame of mind to take on some new endeavors that have been pushed to the side.

### VIRGO - AUG 24/SEPT 22

Share what you are going through with someone you trust, Virgo. This person can help you through some sticky situations and provide valuable guidance.

### LIBRA - SEPT 23/OCT 23

Libra, a great rapport with a new acquaintance could bode well for this budding relationship. Take things slow but enjoy getting to know this person.

### SCORPIO - OCT 24/NOV 22

Scorpio, you may ask yourself if a relationship with someone who is always drumming up drama is worth it in the long run. Carefully consider whether to cut ties.

### SAGITTARIUS - NOV 23/DEC 21

You don't always have to do everything you are told, Sagittarius. You can go your own way in the name of having a little fun. Color outside of the lines once or twice.

### CAPRICORN - DEC 22/JAN 20

Capricorn, satisfy an urge to travel by getting away for a little while. Why not venture to some place a little exotic or off the beaten path? Expand your horizons.

### AQUARIUS - JAN 21/FEB 18

Aquarius, someone at work is putting personal issues in the way of professional responsibilities. Offer your support and see if this makes the situation better for all involved.

### PISCES - FEB 19/MAR 20

You may need to pinch a few pennies to keep your finances in check, Pisces. Figure out areas where you can save some money.



## FOOD and VINO

As the weather cools, hearty meals often take center stage. Home cooks may have plenty of go-to recipes to feed their families and guests. But expanding your culinary horizons can lead to some new family favorites.

Sausage and pepper dishes exist in many different cultures, and can be found everywhere from fairs to family kitchens. This version of “Sausages and Peppers Country Style” from “Nick Stellino’s Family Kitchen” (G.P. Putnam’s Sons) gives an Italian spin that’s perfect for family style meals.

### Sausages and Peppers Country Style

#### INGREDIENTS: Serves 8 generously

- 4 tablespoons olive oil
- 8 spicy or sweet Italian sausages (1 1/2 to 2 pounds total)
- 1 red bell pepper, thinly sliced
- 1 yellow bell pepper, thinly sliced
- 1 medium onion, sliced
- 6 cloves garlic, thickly sliced
- 1/4 teaspoon red pepper flakes
- 4 tablespoons chopped fresh Italian parsley
- 2 teaspoons chopped fresh rosemary
- 1/2 cup white wine
- 1 14 1/2-ounce can Italian-style stewed tomatoes, drained and chopped; juice reserved
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper

#### INSTRUCTIONS

In a large saute pan, heat 2 tablespoons of the olive oil over medium-high heat. When the oil is hot, brown the sausages on all sides. Remove the sausages to a big plate, slice each into thirds for easier serving, and cover to keep warm. In the same pan, in the oil left from the sausages, fry the bell peppers over high heat until just brown, about 3 to 4 minutes. Transfer to the plate with the sausages. Add the remaining 2 tablespoons olive oil to the pan, reduce heat to medium. When the oil is hot, add the onion, garlic, red pepper flakes, 2 tablespoons of the parsley, and rosemary until the onion is tender, about 6 to 8 minutes. Add the wine, stirring gently to dislodge any browned bits from the bottom of the pan. Continue cooking to reduce liquid by half, for about 3 to 4 minutes.

Add tomatoes, salt and pepper, and cook until nearly dry, about 7 to 8 minutes. Return the sausages and peppers to the pan, and add the reserved tomato juice, stirring to incorporate. Bring to a boil, then simmer, stirring often, until the sausages are cooked through and the sauce has thickened, about 15 minutes.

Serve with homemade or pre-purchased polenta.



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■ **DIET**

# You are what you don't eat, too

How to avoid potential nutrient deficiencies on a vegetarian diet

Individuals choose to adhere to vegetarian diets for a multitude of reasons. Some do so for ethical reasons, while others feel a vegetarian diet is a healthier option than eating meat. Regardless of why people choose to follow vegetarian diets, it's important that they take steps to ensure they avoid nutrient deficiencies.

What qualifies as a vegetarian diet differs for certain people. Some people who consider themselves vegetarians avoid animal flesh but it still eat poultry and seafood, while others avoid animal products altogether. The latter group must be especially careful to avoid nutrient deficiency, as the U.S. National Library of Medicine notes that malnutrition can sometimes cause permanent damage to the body.

Planning is a vegetarian's best friend in regard to avoid nutrient



If you're feeling like a wilted pile of spinach while on a vegetarian diet, there's good reason. You don't want to hear it, but you're missing out on certain nutrients while avoiding meat. But, you don't have to break your diet to make up for the loss.

### Insufficient protein

Avoiding meat also can make vegetarians susceptible to insufficient protein intake. However, there are many ways for vegetarians to consume enough protein without breaking their diets. In fact, a 2019 study published in the journal *Nutrients* found that classic vegetarian diets supply more than adequate protein and amino acids. Protein-rich foods like legumes and nuts

deficiency. The following are some potential nutrient shortfalls vegetarians may encounter and how to overcome them.

### Iron deficiency

The Mayo Clinic notes that iron deficiency anemia is a condition in which the blood lacks enough healthy red blood cells, which are responsible for carrying oxygen to the body's tissues. Meat is a great source of

iron and consuming meat is how many people get their necessary daily doses of iron. Vegetarians must therefore find ways to get iron from sources other than meat. Leafy green vegetables like spinach are a great source of iron. The Mayo Clinic notes that beans, dried fruits like raisins and apricots and iron-fortified cereals, breads and pastas also are rich in iron.

and seeds can help vegetarians meet daily protein requirements. A simple mix of brown rice and beans also contains the nine essential amino acids, which are vital to human health and cannot be made by the body. They must come from food.

### Zinc deficiency

A 2013 study published in the *Journal of the Science of Food and Agriculture* found that vegetarians have lower zinc intake than people who eat both plants and food. Plant foods are not generally high in zinc and zinc absorption from plant foods may be insufficient. Whole grains, tofu, legumes, nuts and seeds are some examples of foods that are rich in zinc. Eating such foods throughout the day can help vegetarians avoid zinc deficiency.

Vegetarians can speak with their physicians about additional deficiencies they may be vulnerable to. Such deficiencies can often be easily overcome, reassuring vegetarians that their dietary choices won't put their overall health in jeopardy.

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HEALTH



Albany Med researchers find when COVID-infected patients are most likely to pass on the virus to other people.

# Albany Med sheds light on COVID-19

Study found congregate care patients had active virus only during early symptom onset

**ALBANY** — Researchers at Albany Medical College and Albany Medical Center Hospital found that patients with SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, are infectious only during the initial onset of symptoms.

“This illuminating study has implications within the hospital, as we work to effectively isolate infectious patients, and for the larger community, in terms of knowing when we can safely discharge patients who no longer need the high level of care offered in the hospital,” said Dr. Dennis P. McKenna, president and CEO of Albany Med.

A nucleic acid amplification test (NAAT) from nasopharyngeal and throat swabs is the gold standard for diagnosing COVID-19. However, this test doesn’t distinguish between active virus and other viral genomic fragments that no longer contain active virus, said Dennis W. Metzger, professor and chair of the Department of Immunology and Microbial Disease at Albany Medical College and one of the lead authors of the study.

Beginning in the early days of the pandemic in 2020, instead of relying solely on the NAATs, also known as the PCR test, Albany Med researchers used complex virus culture methods combined with assays to analyze antibodies in samples from congregate care COVID-19 patients hospitalized at Albany Medical Center Hospital.

As expected, they found that the patients expressed infectious virus very early after being admitted to the hospital. However, subsequent samples from the

*Beginning in the early days of the pandemic in 2020, instead of relying solely on the NAATs, also known as the PCR test, Albany Med researchers used complex virus culture methods combined with assays to analyze antibodies in samples from congregate care COVID-19 patients hospitalized at Albany Medical Center Hospital.*

same patients showed that the patients quickly developed mucosal antibodies that suppress viral replication – that is, the virus was no longer reproducing itself. This was the case even when the patients continued to test positive for COVID-19 by PCR, sometimes weeks after the initial infection.

Metzger explained that active virus was likely present in the early stages of infection because antibody levels were low. “But as the disease progresses and the body produces larger amounts of antibody, the virus is effectively neutralized and the patient becomes noninfectious,” he said.

The study was done using patients with the original COVID-19 virus, not the Delta variant, but researchers say the results would be applicable to the Delta variant and other variants as well.

The study, published in the August 2021 issue of the Journal of Clinical Virology, was a collaborative effort between Albany Med’s Departments of Immunology and Microbial Disease, Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, Emergency Medicine and Epidemiology.

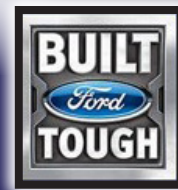
*This feature was first published by Albany Medical Center at amc.edu.*

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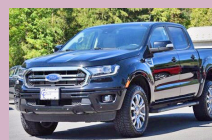


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## From page B3 ... Eddie's Hall of Famers

positions as Dean of Students, Vice President for Student Life and Professor of Practice in the Arts and Humanities. An accomplished musician with 50 years of performance, residency, workshop and recording credits as a percussionist, his artistic

focus was on African, Afro-Cuban, and New World music and dance. He served many years as board officer and chair of the music program of Troy Music Hall. In 2004, he founded Ensemble Congeros, a group dedicated to the study and performance of Afro-Cuban,

African, and New World percussion.

Albany native Skip Parsons and his Skip Parsons Riverboat Jazz Band have been staples on the Capital Region jazz scene since 1956 and played with a long list of notables. Albany Mayor Kathy Sheehan issued an Official Proclamation declaring Sept. 7, 2019 as "Skip Parsons Riverboat Jazz Band Day."

In 1977, Kay (Andy)

Spence and the late Bill Spence and a few like-minded individuals organized and created Old Songs, Inc., a not-for-profit organization in Voorheesville dedicated to keeping traditional music and dance alive through the presentation of festivals, concerts, dances, and educational programs. Bill, who passed away in 2019, was a prolific photographer and musician, recording

engineer and proprietor of the Front Hall music label. He formed a skiffle band while in high school in Iowa City, Iowa, and played for community organizations and dances.

Ticonderoga native Marty Wendell, while in college, met a New York talent agent who introduced him to Johnny Cash. In the mid-1960s he ventured into New York's Greenwich Village with his guitar

and was discovered by a producer; a subsequent recording session resulted in his first record "Hey, Hey Mama," which sold over 10,000 copies. In August 1968, on the strength of that song, he was booked as an opening act for Johnny Cash and his troupe that included The Carter Family, Carl Perkins, and the Statler Brothers. Marty has been touring and recording ever since.

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## From page B3 ... Pieced Together

sometimes related to the growth industry of Homeland Security. His book on the topic, "Job Security," co-authored with Edward Schwarzschild, is forthcoming from MIT Press in early 2023.

- **Chloe Harrison** (Troy, NY) is a recent BFA graduate of Russell Sage College. She thinks of her art as a one-sided conversation in which she explores her struggle with truly connecting with people. She's drawn to birds as a subject matter as she likens herself leaving her comfort zone to a fledgling at the rim of a bird's nest.

- **Niki Haynes** (Troy, NY) makes collage that is a commentary on consumer

culture and social mores. Her early exposure to a community of artists encouraged her to develop her own visual vocabulary. She was recently the subject of a solo show at the Arts Center of the Capital Region in Troy, NY.

- **Beth Humphrey** (Catskills, NY) starts with brown paper bags and builds up the surfaces with paint, drawing, found materials, light, intuition, and shadows. She has exhibited widely including solo shows in Woodstock, NY, and Kingston, NY.

- **Henry Klimowicz** (Millerton, NY) builds sculpture out of cardboard. His interest in nature envelops all of his art

works, from his process to the finished work. He owns and operates "The Re Institute" in Millerton, NY, a 2,000-square-foot exhibition space situated in the hay loft of a 1960s barn.

- **Juan Hinojosa** (New York City) constructs complex collage-drawings from found objects, challenging greed, obsessive consumption, and the social stratification of America culture. He recently had solo exhibitions at Union College's Mandeville Gallery and at Materials for the Arts and Allegra LaViola Gallery, both in New York City.

- **Melinda McDaniel** (Albany, NY) grew up in Florida, inspired by the visual overload of Walt Disney World and the endless light at the center of the state's predictable weather. Her work explores

an alternative approach to the photographic medium that has more recently reflected on the contradictions within the current political climate.

- **Michael Oatman** (Troy, NY) has re-mixed books, paper, found objects—and the collections of museums, archives, corporations and private citizens—for over 30 years. Conceptually, his practice incorporates material culture, archives, biography and the history of science. His long-term installation "all utopias fell" has been on view at MASS MoCA since 2010.

- **Kenneth Ragsdale** reconstructs memories of his childhood in the Pacific Northwest—the further back the memory goes, the more the actual and fantastic begin to collide. Ragsdale is represented

by Front Room Gallery in Brooklyn.

Also on view in the central stairwell of the Pine Hills Branch is "A Melody with Embedded Harmonies," a temporary installation by artist Kenneth Ragsdale made possible by an Upstate Coalition for a Fairgame Arts Grant. The piece was installed in December of 2019 and has been extended due to the pandemic.

Art at APL is a curated fine arts exhibition program at the Pine Hills Branch showcasing the work of contemporary artists connected to the Capital Region. The program began in 2013 to integrate artwork into public spaces within the library. The program is curated by Opalka Gallery and funded by the Friends and Foundation of the Albany Public Library.



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## ■ OBITUARY

# Commander Cody launches from Earth

George Frayne, musician, artist,  
died (1944-2021)

By **ROBERT MILLIS**  
*nippertown.com*

**SARATOGA SPRINGS** — George Frayne has resided in the Saratoga area across four decades. Until Sunday morning, Sept 26, 2021, that is, as he passed away at his home here after a gallant fight versus the Big C.

For the few Nippertowners recognizing that name, it is most likely because of his slashy-flashy, colorful paintings of pop-inspired imagery and personalities that hang in museums, galleries, private homes, and public spaces. It's great, smile-inducing stuff, all part of a lifelong love affair with the brush that included achieving an MFA from the University of Michigan.

But it was at that institution of higher learning where George picked up an intriguing nickname; one that labeled his presence in another form of artistic expression and from which he gained wide national acclaim and recognition:

That name was Commander Cody.

Commander Cody and His Lost Planet Airmen sprang from the Ann Arbor

college bar & frat house scene in the late '60s as a good time, the rollicking funhouse of a throwback rock & roll band that quickly gained coast to coast radio play via a humorous yet forgotten cover song called Hot Rod Lincoln; the tale of that era's young male fascination with big motors and fast speed. It was a big hit!

As is often the case, however, a chart-busting song with the type of quirkiness heard on this single will hang like an albatross on the offending performers' neck and very often stamp them as both a novelty act and a one-hit-wonder. Such was the case here; at least in the hearts and minds of the American Top 40 crowd.

But as the AM pop radio world shifted into the heavier and more serious FM/Rock Era of the early '70s, Commander Cody and His Lost Planet Airmen played a different role in that emerging and glorious soundscape. As the group's leader and pianist, George would lead them onto a different path.

With the British Invasion making room for more Americanized formats, country roots-rock and cosmic cowboy music emerged as the particular styles dominating the playlists of that timeframe for the more in-the-know members of the nation's youth. Whether they be college

kids, military grunts, backyard rednecks or wandering hippies, the consensus among them all made for a new and mostly unified music scene. Acts like the Dead, Allmans, Eagles, CSN, Skynyrd, Hot Tuna, and Marshall Tucker became major-major attractions, both over the air and (more importantly) in the live music halls, sheds, arenas, and stadiums throughout the land. It was big, wide, deep and spectacular; dominating the radar screen of the Youth Culture of that faded day.

Floating just under the cloud of those giants were support players that, while not eventually gaining similar superstar status, were still recognizable enough to make a good living and to ride the tiger's tail of the high life and big time fun. There were acts like the New Riders of the Purple Sage, Poco, Flying Burrito Brothers, Charlie Daniels ... and the Lost Planet Airmen. All were important cogs in that machine; recognizable contributors to the scene.

The Commander and his crew made for a most interesting member of that field, given their somewhat off-center and outside the curve musical styling and vibe. For here was a wacky ensemble of weed smoking degenerate longhairs getting off a Kesey-style bus and playing old

time Texas swing and roadhouse boogie woogie. It shouldn't have jived. But it did, likely because it WAS something different while still being delivered by a bunch of regular guys (and the occasional Airgirl like Nicolette Larson) that one could easily hang out and party with. Plus, they made it all incredibly fun.

That 'fun' part can not be over-emphasized. From the opening notes, this was a band that let the audience know a celebration was starting and there would be no naysayers along the route. The ensemble aspect of a lot of different things happening up on stage by a lot of different people added to the impact. CC&HLPA were once described as "the perfect opening act" for any headliner of any genre.

Along the way, they released a worthy catalog, including the famed Live From Deep in the Heart of Texas (at the Armadillo World HQ), which is consistently ranked as one of the top in-concert albums of all time and which spawned deep-cut original singles. Shows were performed around the globe, often with those previously mentioned superstars. They toured with the Dead

**Continues on B18**



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2	3	5	6	4	7	1	8	9
6	8	7	1	5	9	4	2	3
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E	S	T	E	B	O	R	G	M	A	N	O					
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B	A	B	I	E	D			L	E	S	S	E	E			
A	N	U	R	A	S	A	M	B	A							
G	Y	B	E	T	A	C	H			D	E	N	T			
H	M	O	S	E	N	E	T	A	I	L	O	R				
D	O	P	A	L	A	T	A	B	I	L	I	T	Y			
A	R	D	E	B		A	B			A	X	I	S			
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## From page B16 ... Commander Cody

during the over the top Wall of Sound days. Cody got into some sort of hotel trouble with Hunter Thompson (something about fireworks and a stun gun). Heck, they even warmed up for Led Zeppelin in the UK before 100K people. As always, it somehow worked out just fine. Imagine what this life was like?

But then began a fade to gray. Of course, it did. The Airmen were too numerous, too talented, too adventurous, too costly and too weird to hold together. Plus, arena rock, disco and punk/new wave were moving in and waving warning flags. The Scene was over. Those dope-smoking college kids with all the time in the world had now turned off the radio, junked the old VW had taken jobs downtown or in the Valley.

But the Commander himself soldiered on under his own name, playing smaller and smaller venues as the years rolled on while the visual artist within him became

the more passionate pursuit. It was during this transition that he made the move to the 518, while still climbing stages in a scaled-down format with a revolving cast of comrades and a more portable electric piano. But it didn't feel quite right to anyone that knew of him from "back in the day."

For the inherent unfairness of the Music Game is that it doesn't usually reward those that actually deserve it. That very case can be made with George and Commander Cody and His Lost Planet Airmen. History has forgotten them, to a great degree.

That may be because History has also somehow forgotten those days of many dozens of original bands playing five shows a week, jumping from college to college and roadhouse to roadhouse and of young people having as their primary recreational outlet getting to those venues after hearing the recordings communally with their friends. Maybe it's because it sounds just too unbelievably good to be true vs the troubling landscape of the current music world's distressing reality? But leave all that analyses to the sociologists' grad

*For the inherent unfairness of the Music Game is that it doesn't usually reward those that actually deserve it. That very case can be made with George and Commander Cody and His Lost Planet Airmen. History has forgotten them, to a great degree. ... That may be because History has also somehow forgotten those days of many dozens of original bands playing five shows a week, jumping from college to college and roadhouse to roadhouse and of young people having as their primary recreational outlet getting to those venues after hearing the recordings communally with their friends.*

school theses – if THEY even care.

Sure, that handful of big timers became permanently enshrined in the annals of fame and went to the bank forever and

ever and ever and a day. Their nostalgia tours still roll into Vegas and the big rooms, whether any of their members are still a part of the charade or not. Likewise, the royalty checks overflow their mailboxes and the plaques on the wall sometimes require additions to hillside mansions.

But the second-tier players like George and the gang deserve a better legacy than they have (or haven't) received. Heck, the only shrine dedicated to them seems to be a small, booth-side shout-out in Clancys Tavern here in the Spa City, courtesy of its owner and longtime Cody pal, Tommy C.

But at least Mr. Frayne had that other equally loved artistic passion of painting to keep him rolling and to keep making people happy. Let's, therefore, chalk that part up as a blessing and a good thing. We just hope he looked at it that way and it kept him happy, as well.

*Tell Saint Peter at the golden gate  
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*This feature was originally published by  
Nippertown at Nippertown.com*

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The race was to benefit the Colonie Youth Center programs and scholarships kicked off Sept. 26.

Photos by John and Juliette McIntyre /The Spot 518



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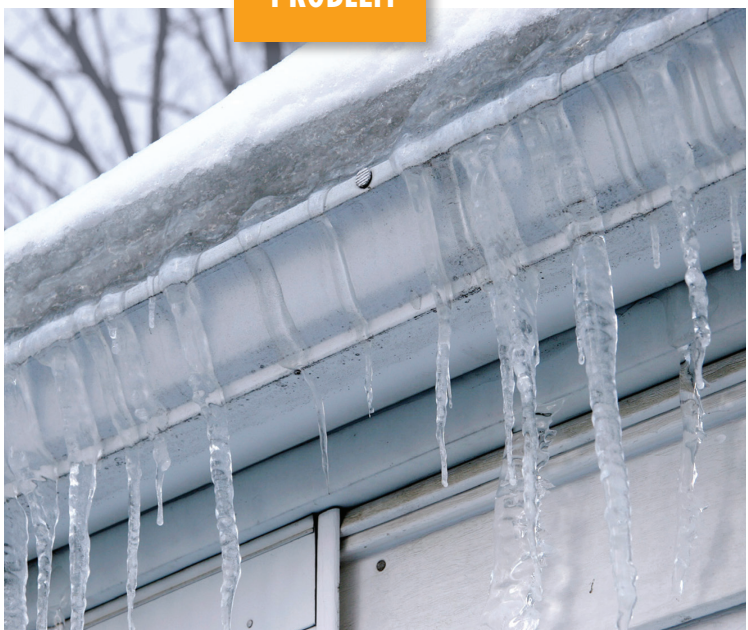
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