



# RENSSELAER CITY NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 7

JULY 2024

## *From the Desk of Mayor Stammel*

Office of the Mayor



Mayor Mike Stammel  
518-426-9511

[mike.stammel@rensselaerny.gov](mailto:mike.stammel@rensselaerny.gov)

### Highlights in this month's issue



Sunoco Grand Opening



Mega Kone Now Open



Food Pantry Assistance

The City of Rensselaer and its neighboring town of East Greenbush recently encountered a significant disruption when a main water line broke in North Greenbush near the Rensselaer Tech Park. This essential pipeline, installed in 1968, is crucial as it supplies water to both Rensselaer and East Greenbush. The incident has highlighted the urgent need for an extensive replacement project to ensure a reliable water supply for the future.

Given the age of the infrastructure, it was only a matter of time before such issues arose. The broken water line has not only caused immediate inconvenience, but also raised concerns about the reliability of the water supply system. The City of Rensselaer acknowledges that a comprehensive replacement of the main water line is necessary to prevent future disruptions.

However, undertaking such a project comes with substantial financial implications. To address this, the City of Rensselaer is looking to collaborate with East Greenbush to apply for grants that could cover some, if not all, of the replacement costs. Securing grant funding would significantly alleviate the financial burden on both municipalities and expedite the necessary upgrades.

We're optimistic about working together with East Greenbush to find the financial resources needed for this critical infrastructure project. Applying for grants is a crucial step in ensuring that we can move forward without placing undue strain on our local budgets.

The recent water line break serves as a stark reminder of the importance of maintaining and updating essential infrastructure. By proactively seeking grant funding, Rensselaer and East Greenbush aim to ensure a stable and reliable water supply for their residents, safeguarding the community's well-being and supporting future growth and development.

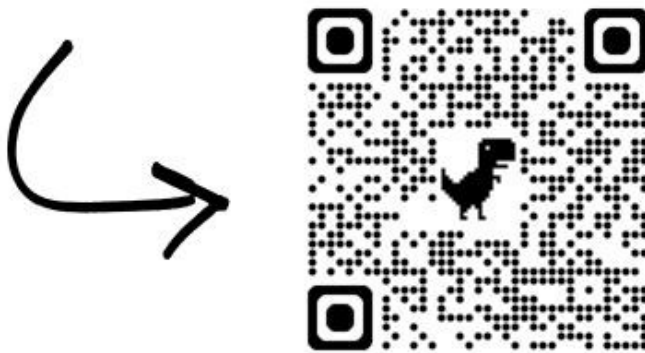
## Sign the Petition to Close the Dunn C&D Landfill

Our city is continuing the fight for a safer and cleaner environment for our children. The Waste Connection's Dunn C&D Landfill next to our school poses a serious health risk, and we need your support to shut it down.

Join us in this crucial effort by signing the petition, use the link below. Together, we can ensure a healthier future for our community.

<https://actionnetwork.org/petitions/close-dunn-cd-landfill-next-to-our-school/>

**Scan this QR with your phone's camera and  
click the link:**



## Sunoco Grand Opening

This past month the City celebrated the grand opening of our new Sunoco Gas Station and Convenience Store at 1208 Washington Avenue!

Rensselaer City Mayor Mike Stammel, Rensselaer Common Council President John DeFrancesco, Rensselaer County Executive Steve McLaughlin, Rensselaer County Regional Chamber of Commerce Members, City of Rensselaer Department Heads and staff, as well as many local residents were present to mark this special occasion.

We're thrilled to welcome Sunoco to our community and look forward to the positive impact it will have! Congratulations to Uday Patel and Family, we wish you much success.



## Mega Kone Ice Cream Shop Now Open

Mega Kone, a new ice cream shop serving premium soft serve and Perry's hard ice cream, is now scooping happiness at 141 Broadway. The shop is one of several new businesses in the city owned by entrepreneurs Dave and Britney Prime, and opened its doors on June 28th.

Whether you're a fan of classic cones or adventurous sundaes, Mega Kone has something for everyone. They offer delicious Perry's hard ice cream alongside premium soft serve, ensuring there's a perfect treat for every taste bud.

The Prime family is excited to be a part of the Rensselaer community and looks forward to serving you. Mega Kone is open 7 days a week from 12 PM to 9 PM, so stop by and cool off with a delicious treat this summer!



## Faith & Love Fellowship Food Pantry Dates

The Faith & Love Fellowship Outreach Center will be hosting several food pantry, giveaway and meal events this month:

**July 6th** there will be food giveaways from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm

**July 7th** a message will be shared at 1:00 pm, followed by a meal at 2:00 pm.

Additionally, the Food Pantry will be open on **July 11** and **July 25** from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm.





## Amtrak Fireworks Displays

There will be several Fireworks displays from the Amtrak Maintenance Yard at the edge of the River over the next few months.

**August 2nd** @ 9:30 pm—Capt. JP Cruises

**September 6th** @ 8:30 pm—Albany Labor Day Parade

**September 7th** @ 8:00 pm—Albany Jazz Fest (Jennings Landing Show)

## The Circus Comes to Rensselaer

The Zerbini Family Circus made a spectacular stop in Rensselaer, setting up their big tent at Coyne Field. The event, which took place on June 31st at 3 PM and July 1st and 2nd at 6 PM was a resounding success, and a great time was had by all who attended. Each year, the circus is sponsored by the Cyprus Shriners. The dazzling performances and joyful atmosphere left everyone eagerly anticipating the next visit from this fantastic circus!



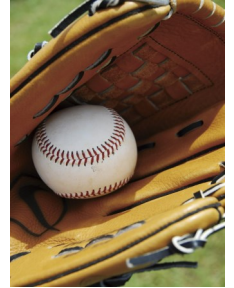


# City of Rensselaer

## 2024 Summer Recreational Program

Coordinator-Jim Konstantakis

Assistant Coordinators - Kristine Kretzschmar & Gabrielle Price



## Summer Fun Program begins July 2nd

The City's program held at the Boys & Girls Club will run each day from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. through Fri., Aug. 16 and the water park on East Street will run through Sat. Aug. 17. The water park will be open from 10-6 Mon.-Fri. and 10-4 weekends.

The programs offer wholesome recreational activities for all interested children. Most activities will be within the Boys and Girls Club building at 544 Broadway, at Riverfront Park and at the East Street water park.

Fun and games at Riverfront Park: Staff will bring the children to Riverfront Park to play games and enjoy the park.

Community Building: We are also scheduling a few tours within the City. The schedule as follows:

- **Wed. July 17 @ 9:30 am**— City Court, Washington Street. This tour will require club workers and campers to leave the club at 9 a.m. This day is dedicated to criminal court cases. Everyone must be silent throughout the proceedings. After court is over (approximately 11 a.m.), the Hon. Judge Johnson will conduct a mock trial that will include the club members.
- **Thursday, July 25 @ 10:30 am** — The City Police Department on Broadway beginning at 10:30 a.m. An in-depth look at how the force operates and many of the tools they use to protect our residents.
- **Wednesday July 31 @ 10:30 am** — Broadway Firehouse. Tour starts at 10:30 a.m. Last year's tour was much talked about as Captain Bill Brooking and his staff entertained the group with hands-on experience.
- **Thursday Aug. 8 @ 10:45 am** — Crailo State Historical Site, Broadway. Tour begins at 10:30 a.m. Also known as Fort Crailo or the Yankee Doodle House, this fortified brick manor house was built in 1707. It is listed on the National Register of Historical Places. It is steeped in American history with respect to the wartime era that included the French, Indians and British along the Hudson River. Born at the site was the ditty "Yankee Doodle Dandy."

Please **NOTE:** This program is not designed to provide day-care services for unsupervised children. Lunch will **NOT** be provided. You must register your child. Registration can be done at City Hall on Washington Street. Forms can also be picked up at Boys & Girls Club (10 am to 4 pm). Contact the Youth Bureau directly for more information.

**Remember we are a NUT FREE program.**

## Cool off this summer at East Street Sprayground!

Beginning July 2, the Walter S. Pratt Memorial Sprayground located on East Street will be open

Monday-Friday, 10 am to 6 p.m., as well as Saturdays & Sundays, 10 a.m. to 4 pm

## **NOTICE: Regarding Solid Waste/Water Bill Payments**

Please note that Solid Waste and Water Bills must be received no later than July 12, 2024. Failure to pay by this date will result in all unpaid balances being added as a re-levy to your property tax bill.

Additionally, a non-refundable fee of \$150.00 to \$250.00 will be applied.

For any inquiries about your bill, please contact the Water/Sewer Department at 518-462-6466.

## **City Newsletter - Subscription & Article Submission**

The Rensselaer Newsletter began its first launch this past January. Since then it has become the place City Residents look to for news and facts about what's going on in the City. The Newsletter is produced and designed by volunteers Dave Ellis and Madeline Rizzo with content provided by City Hall employees and residents.

Inquires regarding articles, submission of articles or to be added to the Newsletter distribution list please send an email to [Info@rensselaerny.gov](mailto:Info@rensselaerny.gov)

We look forward to hearing from you!

## **Common Council Workshops & Meetings**

Are you interested in what's happening in Rensselaer? Then please consider attending the Common Council Workshops & Meetings to get the real scoop on what's happening in your City. The Workshops are held every 1st and 3rd Monday of each month and the Council Meeting are held on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays both at 6:30 PM at City Hall (see attached Calendar for dates for this month at the end of this Newsletter).

Agendas are posted on the City's website at <https://rensselaerny.gov/meeting-agendas-and-minutes> each Monday prior to the Workshops. Your attendance and input are important and your community needs your support. We hope to see you there!



Sign up for our email newsletter!

JULY 2024



# RENSSELAER PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Library will be **CLOSED**  
Thursday July 4th



**Teen Advisory Group**  
Thursday July 25, 6 PM.  
Help us plan an August event, have snacks and play video games.

Ages 13-18. Participants can receive community service hours.

## Drop-in Computer help:

Wednesday, July 3  
from 2-3 PM.

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Rensselaer County's Digital Literacy Educator is ready to answer your technology questions or give tips and tricks. No sign up needed, bring your device if possible.

**Friends of the Library** will not be meeting in the summer- next meeting September 19, 6 PM.



**Summer Reading** runs from June 29 to August 17. Children ages 5-12 can come in any time we are open to talk about their reading and get prizes.

**Art Adventures:** Tuesdays at 2 PM, for ages 5-12. Each week we will explore an art form and create a project to take home. Please sign up for the series and let us know what dates you are attending so we can plan ahead.

7/2- Map art  
7/6 painting  
7/15 tin impressions  
7/22 catapult construction  
7/29 fake stained glass



**LEGO ADVENTURES** Saturday July 6, 1 PM. Ages 5+  
Create a Lego brick vehicle and test it out!

**PRE-K MUSIC TIME** Saturday July 13, 11 AM. Ages 2-6.  
Sing, dance and play with Miss Lisa.

**PBS STORY-TIME** Saturday July 20, 1 PM. Ages 2-6.  
Daniel Tiger Adventure. Make a craft, take home a book!

**IS IT MAGIC?** Saturday July 27, 1 PM. Ages 7 and up. Learn the secrets of illusion with the Science chef.

**Please sign up** for these events, space is limited.

Call **518-462-1193** or go online at **rensselaerlibrary.org**

Library Board meets the first Monday of the month at 4 PM.



Like us on FaceBook for updates and city info.

### Rensselaer Public Library

676 East Street  
Rensselaer NY 12144  
(518) 462-1193

**RensselaerLibrary.org**

### HOURS:

MON 12-5  
TUE 10-5  
WED/THU 10-8  
FRI 10-5  
SAT 10-3  
SUN- CLOSED

## 2024 Summer Music in the Parks

|                              |                        |         |                                    |                                             |
|------------------------------|------------------------|---------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| Monday                       | June 17 <sup>th</sup>  | 6-8p.m. | Pete and Friends                   | Riverfront Park (rain Amtrak Train Station) |
| Monday                       | June 24 <sup>th</sup>  | 6-8p.m. | Paul Slingerland and Friend        | Riverfront Park (rain Amtrak Train Station) |
| Wednesday (rain date Thurs.) | June 26 <sup>th</sup>  | 6-8p.m. | The Lost Art Band                  | North End Firehouse                         |
| Monday                       | July 1 <sup>st</sup>   | 6-8p.m. | Donny Elvis                        | Riverfront Park (rain Amtrak Train Station) |
| Monday                       | July 8 <sup>th</sup>   | 6-8p.m. | Gone Grey                          | Riverfront Park (rain Amtrak Train Station) |
| Wednesday (rain date Thurs.) | July 10 <sup>th</sup>  | 6-8p.m. | Hands of Time                      | North End Firehouse                         |
| Monday                       | July 15 <sup>th</sup>  | 6-8p.m. | Standard Addition & Courtney Shane | Riverfront Park (rain Amtrak Train Station) |
| Wednesday (rain date Thurs.) | July 17 <sup>th</sup>  | 6-8p.m. | Diva and the Dirty Boys            | North End Firehouse                         |
| Monday                       | July 22 <sup>nd</sup>  | 6-8p.m. | Joe Adi & the Lug Nuts             | Riverfront Park (rain Amtrak Train Station) |
| Wednesday (rain date Thurs.) | July 24 <sup>th</sup>  | 6-8p.m. | Kilishandra                        | North End Firehouse                         |
| Monday                       | July 29 <sup>th</sup>  | 6-8p.m. | Donny Elvis                        | Riverfront Park (rain Amtrak Train Station) |
| Wednesday (rain date Thurs.) | July 31 <sup>st</sup>  | 6-8p.m. | Donny Elvis                        | North End Firehouse                         |
| Wednesday (rain date Thurs.) | August 7 <sup>th</sup> | 6-8p.m. | Bobbie Vandetta & the Split        | North End Firehouse                         |

## Job Posting: Senior Clerk

**The City of Rensselaer is seeking applications and resumes for the position of Senior Clerk (full-time). The salary or rate of pay for this position is \$40,052.48**

This is moderately difficult and varied clerical work requiring a general understanding of specific law, office rules, procedures and policies. It calls for the exercise of independent judgment in the application of prescribed procedures and methods of routine cases. For the most part, work is performed under general supervision. Supervision may be exercised over the work of one or more clerical assistants.

**The selected qualified candidate will be required to take an exam administered by the NYS Department of Civil Service and become reachable on the resulting eligible list to secure permanent status in the title.**

**The Senior Clerk position is covered under the Teamsters Local 294**, affiliated with International Brotherhood of Teamsters collective bargaining agreement. Vacation and other accruals are subject to the collective bargaining agreement.

The City of Rensselaer is an Affirmative Action / Equal Employment Opportunity employer. Hiring and promotion decisions in the City service are based solely upon qualifications and ability, and the City does not discriminate on any other basis. Minorities are encouraged to apply.

**Please forward applications and resumes to:**

**Irene Sorriento – Human Resources Office**

**City of Rensselaer - 62 Washington Street, Rensselaer, NY 12144**

**You may also submit your application and resume by email to**

**[irene.sorriento@rensselaerny.gov](mailto:irene.sorriento@rensselaerny.gov)**

**For additional information regarding the position, you may visit the City of Rensselaer website at: [www.rensselaerny.gov](http://www.rensselaerny.gov)**



# UPSTATE NY 7TH ANNUAL WOUNDED VET RUN



*SFC Jacob Pratt*

**Saturday, July 27th (Rain or Shine)**

## MOTORCYCLE RIDE

**\$20 PER RIDER / PASSENGER / WALK-IN'S**

**Registration Starts at 9am-Kickstands Up Noon**

**Purpose: To help support SFC Jacob Pratt**

**Start: Brunswick Harley, 1130 Hoosick Rd, Troy NY**

**End: Veterans of Lansingburgh, 777 1st Ave, Troy NY**

**CEREMONY - FOOD - MUSIC - BEER - VENDORS - RAFFLE ITEMS**

**BIKE NOT REQUIRED TO PARTICIPATE-EVERYONE WELCOME**

**All proceeds directly benefit this wounded veteran**



Those who do not ride please join us at  
**Veterans of Lansingburgh to welcome bikers and veterans**  
**For Questions: [upstatenywvr@gmail.com](mailto:upstatenywvr@gmail.com)**





**H.O.P.E. Food Pantry**  
85 Aiken Ave., Rensselaer, NY  
OPEN to the General Public  
email [greaterhope20@gmail.com](mailto:greaterhope20@gmail.com)



**Regional  
Food Bank**  
OF NORTHEASTERN NEW YORK

**Our  
Sponsors**

Rens. County Youth & Office of Family & Childrens Services

**July 7, 2024**  
**12:00-12:30**

**FOOD Distribution**

FREE Meat, Fruit, and Vegetables  
FREE Groceries by Hannaford  
FREE Bread by Panera

**FOOD Distribution**

FREE Meat, Fruit, and Vegetables  
FREE Groceries by Hannaford  
FREE Bread by Panera

**July 14, 2024**  
**12:00-12:30**

**July 21, 2024**  
**12:00-12:30**

**FOOD Distribution**

FREE Meat, Fruit, and Vegetables  
FREE Groceries by Hannaford  
FREE Bread by Panera

**WE OPEN 10-10:30 TODAY**

FREE Meat, Fruit, and Vegetables  
FREE Groceries by Hannaford  
FREE Bread by Panera

**July 28, 2024**  
**10:00 am**

An IMPACTministry of The:  
**Greater Hope Family Life Center**

# City of Rensselaer Events and Meetings

P A G E

## JULY 2024

| 5<br>Sun | Mon                                                                                                                                                             | Tue                            | Wed                                                                                                                              | Thu                                                                                                                                   | Fri | Sat                                                                                                       |
|----------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|          | 1<br>Common Council Workshop<br>@ 6:30 City Hall<br><br>ZBA Apps Due<br><br><i>Donnie Elvis—Music</i><br><i>Riverfront Park @ 6pm</i>                           | 2                              | 3<br><br>Common Council Meeting<br>AND PUBLIC HEARING 6:30<br>@ City Hall                                                        | 4<br><br>July 4th Fireworks<br><br>City Hall Closed | 5   | 6                                                                                                         |
| 7        | 8<br><br>Planning Commission<br>Meeting 6:30 pm @ City<br>Hall<br><br><i>Gone Grey—Music @</i><br><i>Riverfront Park @ 6pm</i>                                  | 9                              | 10<br><br><i>Hands of Time—Music @</i><br><i>North End Firehouse @</i><br><i>6pm</i>                                             | 11<br><br>Farmer's Market<br>Riverfront Park<br>4pm—7 pm                                                                              | 12  | 13                                                                                                        |
| 14       | 15<br><br>Common Council Workshop<br>@ 6:30 City Hall<br><br><i>Standard Addition/Courtney</i><br><i>Shane—Music Riverfront</i><br><i>Park @ 6PM</i>            | 16<br><br>Planning Apps<br>Due | 17<br><br>Common Council Meeting 6:30<br>@ City Hall<br><br><i>Diva/The Dirty Boys—Music</i><br><i>North End Firehouse @ 6PM</i> | 18<br><br>Farmer's Market<br>Riverfront Park<br>4pm—7 pm                                                                              | 19  | 20                                                                                                        |
| 21       | 22<br><br>IDA Meeting 4:15 pm @ City<br>Hall<br><br>ZBZ Meeting 6:00 pm @ City<br>Hall<br><br><i>Joe Adi/The Lug Nuts—Music</i><br><i>Riverfront Park @ 6PM</i> | 23                             | 24<br><br><i>Kilishandra—Music</i><br><i>North End Firehouse @</i><br><i>6PM</i>                                                 | 25<br><br>Farmer's Market<br>Riverfront Park<br>4pm—7 pm<br>5                                                                         | 26  | 27<br><br>Upstate NY 7th Annual<br>Wounded Vet Run 9:00 am<br>@ Brunswick Harley 1130<br>Hoosick Rd, Troy |
| 28       | 29<br><br><i>Donny Elvis—Music</i><br><i>Riverfront Park @ 6PM</i>                                                                                              | 30                             | 31<br><br><i>Donny Elvis—Music</i><br><i>Riverfront Park @ 6PM</i>                                                               |                                                                                                                                       |     |                                                                                                           |



# **RENSSELAER FARMERS MARKET RETURNS**

**THURSDAYS, STARTING JULY 11TH  
THROUGH OCTOBER**

**OPEN 4PM TILL 7PM**

**RIVERFRONT PARK**



# DIRECTORY

|                                            |              |                                         |                                 |
|--------------------------------------------|--------------|-----------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>ASSESSOR</b>                            | 518-462-5421 | sharon.martin@rensselaerny.gov          | SHARON MARTIN                   |
| <b>BUILDING &amp; ZONING ADMINISTRATOR</b> | 518-465-1693 | tim.lippert@rensselaerny.gov            | TIM LIPPERT                     |
| <b>CITY COURT CLERK</b>                    | 518-453-4680 |                                         |                                 |
| <b>CITY CLERK</b>                          | 518-462-4266 | nancy.hardt@rensselaerny.gov            | NANCY HARDT                     |
| <b>DIR. OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT</b>        | 518-462-4839 |                                         |                                 |
| <b>ENGINEER</b>                            | 518-694-3968 | bill.smart@rensselaerny.gov             | BILL SMART                      |
| <b>FIRE HOUSE, NORTH</b>                   | 518-463-2883 |                                         |                                 |
| <b>FIRE HOUSE, BROADWAY</b>                | 518-465-3243 | bill.brooking@rensselaerny.gov          | BILL BROOKING JR.<br>FIRE CHIEF |
| <b>HISTORIAN</b>                           | 518-694-3126 | victor.batorsky@rensselaerny.gov        | VICTOR BATORSKY                 |
| <b>HUMAN RESOURCES</b>                     | 518-462-0419 | irene.sorriento@rensselaerny.gov        | IRENE SORRIENTO                 |
| <b>LIBRARIAN</b>                           | 518-462-1193 | jane.chirgwin@rensselaerny.gov          | JANE CHIRGWIN                   |
| <b>MAYOR</b>                               | 518-462-9511 | mike.stammel@rensselaerny.gov           | MIKE STAMMEL                    |
| <b>PLANNING DIRECTOR</b>                   | 518-462-4839 | thomas.hulihan@rensselaerny.gov         | THOMAS HULIHAN                  |
| <b>POLICE DISPATCHER</b>                   | 518-462-7453 |                                         |                                 |
| <b>POLICE CHIEF</b>                        | 518-462-7453 | warren.famiglietti@rensselaerpolice.org | WARREN FAMIGLIETTI              |
| <b>PROCESS SERVER</b>                      | 518-720-7106 | steve.smith@rensselaerny.gov            | STEVE SMITH                     |
| <b>PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSIONER</b>           | 518-462-9617 | jim.brady@rensselaerny.gov              | JIM BRADY                       |
| <b>CITY GARAGE / DPW</b>                   | 518-462-5512 | gene.hilstro@rensselaerny.gov           | GENE HILSTRO                    |
| <b>PURCHASING AGENT</b>                    | 518-462-2251 | rich.berhaupt@rensselaerny.gov          | RICH BERHAUPT                   |
| <b>TREASURER</b>                           | 518-462-6424 | michael.mizener@rensselaerny.gov        | MIKE MIZENER                    |
| <b>WATER / SEWER DEPUTY COMMISS.</b>       | 518-462-6466 | fran.welsh@rensselaerny.gov             | FRAN WELSH                      |
| <b>YOUTH DIRECTOR</b>                      | 518-462-5488 | youth@rensselaerny.gov                  | JIM KONSTANTAKIS                |