



RENSSELAER CITY NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 7

JULY 2025

Office of the Mayor



Mayor Mike Stammel
518-462-9511

mike.stammel@rensselaerny.gov

Highlights in this month's issue



Rensselaer Makes National Headlines



\$1M Awarded



Ever Evolving Rensselaer

From the Desk of Mayor Stammel

I am proud to announce that **Rensselaer Rising**, the City of Rensselaer's **Brownfield Opportunity Area (BOA)** plan, has officially received its **Certificate of Designation** from the New York State Department of State! This designation is a **major win** for our community. It opens the door to state grants, tax credits, and funding that will help revitalize underused and environmentally challenged properties. With BOA status, Rensselaer is now a **priority community** for New York State when it comes to redevelopment support.

Thanks to an \$85,000 planning grant from the NYS BOA Program and months of public engagement, this milestone sets the stage for exciting changes throughout the city. The plan focuses on key areas including the **Amtrak station district**, **Fort Crailo neighborhood**, **downtown corridor**, and **Riverfront Park**.

What the BOA designation means for Rensselaer:

- Access to state funding and development incentives
- Support for environmental cleanup and site redevelopment
- Attraction of new businesses, affordable housing, and community spaces
- Tools to bring life back to vacant or underused areas

Planned projects include:

- Redeveloping vacant and blighted properties
- Beautifying city entryways and corridors
- Expanding the city's mural and public art program
- Enhancing the Riverfront Trail

Improving the Herrick Street Bridge connection

This progress would not have been possible without the leadership of **Tom Hulihan**, **Amy Lolik**, and our planning partners at **LaBella Associates**, along with the many residents and stakeholders who participated in the process. Your input helped shape the vision for a stronger, cleaner, and more connected Rensselaer.

As we move forward, we remain committed to building a city that honors its history while creating opportunity for the future.

Rensselaer is rising—let's keep moving forward together!

Mayor Michael E. Stammel

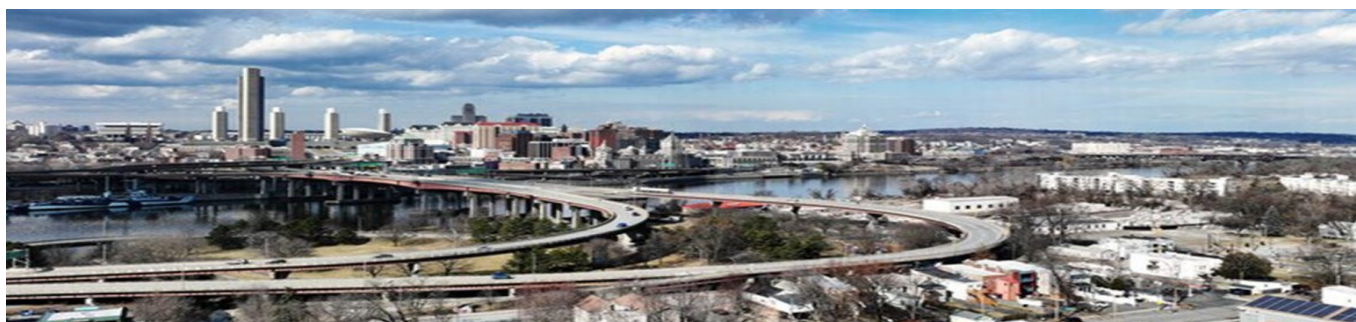
City of Rensselaer Makes National Headlines in *Business View Magazine*

The City of Rensselaer is making waves on the national stage! We're proud to share that Rensselaer is featured in the latest edition of *Business View Magazine*, a widely respected digital publication with more than **877,000 monthly readers**.

The magazine highlights innovation, leadership, and success stories from municipalities and industries across North America. In this edition, Rensselaer is recognized for its forward-thinking projects, infrastructure improvements, green initiatives, and continued economic development efforts.

This feature brings **national attention to the people, progress, and partnerships** that are helping shape Rensselaer's bright future.

Check out the full article—starting on page 63!



<https://businessviewmagazine.com/rensselaer-ny/>

This recognition belongs to every department, staff member, and resident who continues to contribute to the momentum we're building in our city. **Rensselaer is rising—and the nation is taking notice!**

City Roadways Updated with CHIPS Funding

The City of Rensselaer is celebrating the successful completion of significant milling and paving projects on several vital roadways, greatly enhancing the quality and safety of local infrastructure. Recently, Highland Avenue, Mann Avenue, Third Street, and Eighth Street have all undergone comprehensive improvements, a testament to the city's commitment to its residents and the strategic use of state funding.

These crucial upgrades were made possible through the Consolidated Local Street and Highway Improvement Program (CHIPS) funding from New York State. CHIPS provides essential financial aid to municipalities for the construction, reconstruction, and improvement of local highways and other related facilities. This program is instrumental in allowing communities like Rensselaer to address critical road maintenance needs without placing an undue burden on local taxpayers.

The completed work on Highland Ave, Mann Ave, Third Street, and Eighth Street involved both milling — the removal of the existing deteriorated road surface — and subsequent paving with new asphalt. This process ensures a smoother, more durable surface that will withstand the demands of daily traffic and seasonal weather for years to come.

The improved roadways offer not only a more comfortable driving experience for motorists but also contribute to overall traffic safety. The City of Rensselaer continues to leverage state resources to invest in its infrastructure, demonstrating a proactive approach to maintaining and enhancing the urban environment for all.

Transformational Investment in Rensselaer: \$1 Million Awarded for Critical Infrastructure Project

More exciting news for the City of Rensselaer! We are proud to announce that the City has been awarded **\$1 million** through **Governor Kathy Hochul's County-Wide Shared Services Initiative — Infrastructure Grant Program**, aimed at supporting critical infrastructure and housing development projects across New York State.

This funding will support a pivotal infrastructure improvement along **Forbes Avenue**, where a major sewer line has long stood in the way of progress. Thanks to this investment, the line will now be relocated, unlocking the full potential of the site for a **\$96 million mixed-use waterfront development**. The project will include **300 new housing units**, marking a major step forward in urban resilience, waterfront revitalization, and economic growth for Rensselaer.

This is a transformational moment for our city - and it could not have happened without strong leadership and partnership at every level of government. We extend our sincere thanks to:

- **Governor Kathy Hochul** for her ongoing commitment to infrastructure and community development across New York;
- **Rensselaer County Executive Steve McLaughlin** for his steadfast support of local projects that improve quality of life;
- **Mayor Mike Stammel** for his vision and leadership in moving this development forward;
- **City Planning Director Tom Hulihan** and **Deputy Planning Director Amy Lolik** for their dedicated efforts in advancing this project and securing the grant.

This project will shape a stronger, more vibrant future for Rensselaer, and we are grateful to all who helped make it a reality.

Read Governor Hochul's full announcement at:

<https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-hochul-announces-more-36-million-awarded-48-projects-through-first-round-county>

City of Rensselaer Launches High School Internship Program

The City of Rensselaer is proud to announce the launch of a summer internship program for Rensselaer High School students, offering them an opportunity to gain hands-on work experience while giving back to their community.

This year's interns will be working alongside the Department of Public Works (DPW), assisting with various beautification and maintenance projects across the city — including helping in our parks, maintaining public spaces, and supporting clean-up efforts in neighborhoods. Their hard work will help ensure Rensselaer continues to be a welcoming and vibrant place for all who live, work, and visit here.

Mayor Michael Stammel expressed his enthusiasm for the program:

"We're excited to welcome these students to City Hall and to our Public Works team. This internship gives young people a chance to take pride in their city and play a direct role in improving it. At the same time, they're developing valuable skills that will serve them in future jobs and beyond."

The program not only helps build a sense of civic responsibility among our youth, but also strengthens the city's ability to keep our parks and public spaces clean, safe, and enjoyable during the busy summer months.

As we continue to invest in our city's future, initiatives like this are key to creating stronger connections between young residents and their local government. We thank our DPW staff for their guidance and support and look forward to seeing the great work these interns accomplish this summer.

Stay tuned for updates as the students begin their work - and be sure to say hello if you see them out in the parks or around town!

Ever Evolving Rensselaer is on the Rise

Situated on the eastern banks of the Hudson River, directly across Albany, New York State's Capital, the City of Rensselaer is a community on the rise. In addition to phenomenal views of the Albany skyline, the city has significant access to the Hudson River shoreline and hosts the Albany-Rensselaer Amtrak Train Station, the 8th busiest passenger rail station in America. Highways adjacent to the city, like I-90, I-787 and I-87, also provide easy commutes to the Capital District and to destinations like New York City (2.5 hours), Boston (2.5 hours), Montreal (3.3 hours) and Buffalo (4.5 hours). Recent housing growth has enabled Rensselaer to become a designated Pro-Housing Community in New York State. Since the 2020 Census, 254 new apartments have been added to the community, 121 more are presently under construction, 196 have approved site plans and 300 more are well into the planning stages of being developed. In other words, the City of Rensselaer, which had 9,531 residents and 4,438 households in the 2020 census is in the midst of adding 871 more households, and over 1,300 new residents to the community. This level of housing growth is naturally being followed by increased commercial development in the City of Rensselaer which has been evolving for over 400 years.

Significant Historic Roots

To understand the resilience of the City of Rensselaer, one has to go back to a time before the forming of America when the continent of North America was still being explored. In the year 1609, Henry Hudson, while working for the Dutch East India Company of the Netherlands, established a Dutch claim to the river valley that now bears his name in Upstate New York. This enabled Kiliaen Van Rensselaer, a prosperous diamond merchant from Hasselt, Holland, to purchase 700,000 acres along both sides of the river in 1630 and to establish the Manor of Rensselaerswyck. By 1632, the first east bank settlement, being among the earliest in America and known as DeLaet's Burg, gathered at the foot of DeLaet's Mill Creek and Waterfalls.

In the early part of the 18th century (1700's), Kiliaen Van Rensselaer's grandson, Hendrick, constructed a home that the family called Crailo. The home was built like a fortress with thick walls, gunports and even a palisade at one point, which served the family, tenant farmers, soldiers and slaves well in times of threat. Later, in the early 18th century, the brick structure was remodeled, first in the Georgian style and then the Federal style. The Crailo Historic Site still stands today and is run by New York State. Exhibits focus on the daily life of the Dutch colonists, and include examples of household objects, games, furniture, weapons, and building materials. On display at Crailo are artifacts uncovered during archaeological digs at the site of Fort Orange, erected in 1624 near Albany to serve as a trading post for the first Dutch settlers.

In 1758, during the French and Indian War, a British surgeon named Dr. Richard Shuckburgh crossed the river from Albany to

have dinner with the Van Rensselaers at Crailo. At the time, General James Abercrombie was preparing troops for an assault on Fort Ticonderoga. While waiting for the Van Rensselaers to arrive, the surgeon sat on an old stone well, smoking his pipe, and watched a large contingent of New England soldiers arriving at the camp. Shuckburgh saw the site of the Colonial Soldiers and he scratched out a poem, an ode to them which became 'Yankee Doodle.' It was later put to a melody and the song is still popular today.

Rensselaer Gets Revolutionary

During the 1700s the area now known as Rensselaer was a homestead, farming and hunting community that had significant access to water transportation via the Hudson River and played an important role in the American Revolution. For example, during the years 1775-1776, as requested by General George Washington, General Henry Knox organized the transport of 59 artillery pieces (cannons and supplies) from those on Lake George and Lake Champlain to Boston. The trip went south down the Hudson River Valley from Lake George to Albany and then crossed the Hudson River into Rensselaer before heading east to Boston.



During the American Revolution, the Van Rensselaer family played a significant role in the Albany County militia, with figures like Kiliaen Van Rensselaer and Robert Van Rensselaer leading troops and participating in key battles like Fort Anne and Saratoga. Also, Catherine Van Rensselaer was the wife of Revolutionary War General Philip Schuyler, and a prominent figure in colonial society. Philip Schuyler was also a Revolutionary War General and the father-in-law of Alexander Hamilton.

continued from page 4—Ever Evolving Rensselaer is on the Rise

Historic Structures Being Reimagined

In the 1800s railroads began playing a large role in the development of the United States from the Industrial Revolution in the Northeast (1820s–1850s) to the settlement of the West (1850s–1890s). The railroads found it necessary to link new western lands to the established east, and thus in 1866, the Livingston Avenue Railroad Bridge was completed, directly joining the shores of what is now Albany to what is now Rensselaer thereby encouraging development of the lands on both



sides of the river. The original Livingston Avenue Bridge, built in 1866, is now being replaced with a new bridge that will pay homage to the original historic structure and also include a Shared Use Path so that pedestrians and cyclists can easily travel between Rensselaer and Albany. The Shared Use Path will connect to a Multi-Use Trail that will run along the eastern banks of the Hudson River from Rensselaer into Troy.

Remnants of the Industrial Revolution have remained in the City of Rensselaer, although for the most part they have been or are being repurposed. In 1894, F.C. Huyck and Sons moved their manufacturing operation from across the river to Rensselaer where they successfully manufactured papermaking felts as well as woolen suits and blankets. Several of the Huyck Mill buildings remain today and now are the administrative offices for the New York State Office of Children and Family Services with over 500 employees on the campus. In 1906, the Harder Woolen Mill was opened in Rensselaer. This textile manufacturer made shirts, sweaters, jackets, underwear and blankets. The business is no longer in operation and Brayton Construction, Inc. just received a \$1.2 million Restore NY Grant toward a \$6,480,000.00 renovation project to convert the Green Street building into 32 apartments. Similarly, the much larger Barnett Mill on the banks of the Hudson River, which processed reclaimed and recycled wool and transformed it into

fabric or felt is being converted into 72 Apartments and 19,996 SF of Commercial Space. The \$26,447,632.00 project is also supported by a \$1.8 million Restore Grant.

Additionally, DeLaet's Landing, on the other side of the Train Station and along the Hudson River, already has 183 apartments. U.W. Marx recently had plans approved to add 138 apartments to this complex. Just to the north, and also on the banks of the Hudson River, Polsinello Realty Corporation is working on plans for a Mixed-Use Community that will include 300 apartments, 5,000 SF of Commercial/Restaurant Space, 5,000 SF of Office Space and a boat dock. These complexes, along with Barnett Mills are linked by the Waterfront Multi-Use Trail.

In the downtown area, Bonacquisti Brother Construction has plans to construct a new Mixed-Use Building with 28 apartments and 5,000 SF of Commercial Space. This significant structure will serve as an anchor for the development of Rensselaer's downtown that already boasts several restaurants and other retail establishments and will soon be home to a 100-seat event and artist exhibit space. The artist exhibit space will be adjacent to a historic building that is being renovated into 10 rentable artist studios and one rentable fully equipped podcast studio. These venues will bring additional culture and entertainment to the City of Rensselaer.

The Rensselaer City School District is the public school system that serves the 900+ students in the city and has a four-year graduation rate of 86% which is on par with the New York State average and better than other urban Capital District schools with Troy at 82%, Cohoes at 79%, Watervliet at 78%, Albany at 73% and Schenectady at 70%. Since 2009, Rensselaer has also been the home of Doane Stuart School, one of the region's oldest coeducational private schools. While Doane Stuart was officially established in 1975, this was done as the merger of two other Albany private schools - Kenwood Academy, founded in 1852, and St. Agnes School, founded in 1870. These schools operated on the other side of the river until Doane Stuart moved to its current location in Rensselaer in a building that dates back to the 1930s and was constructed during the Works Progress Administration (WPA) era.

continued from page 5 - Ever Evolving Rensselaer is on the Rise



Recreational Amenities

In addition to numerous trails, the City of Rensselaer has nine city parks throughout the community. Four of these parks just received over \$2 million in upgrades. This included new playgrounds, picnic tables, benches, bottle filling and hand washing

stations, and upgraded tennis and basketball courts. The largest of the parks, Riverfront Park off Broadway in the downtown, also lays claim to the first grand slam in Major League Baseball history.

A monument to the USS Albany, honoring all those who served aboard ships named Albany from 1846 to the present, was also



recently added to Riverfront Park. The USS Albany Monument is directly across the river from the USS Slater Monument in Albany creating a spectacular view on a path that circles the park. Also on the path are

murals, playgrounds, basketball, tennis and pickleball courts, and the location of the Rensselaer Farmers' Market.

Commercial Activity

Numerous small businesses have been serving the Rensselaer Community for years. These include several restaurants and convenience stores. Most notably, the Skyline Diner and Cugino's Pizza have been staples of the community for years. These have been augmented by the recent addition of Illusive Restaurant as well as various other restaurants offering an array of international flavors including Shwe Burmese, Thai Orchid, Son of Egg (Korean) and Al Punto Picante (Mexican). Mega Cone, a new ice cream stand, also opened last year.

In addition to restaurants, the City of Rensselaer was among the first communities in Upstate New York to have a Cannabis Store, Stage One Dispensary, in the community. There are also numerous beauty salons (hair and nail), construction trades enterprises and automotive oriented businesses. On the Columbia Street Commercial Corridor, a Caliber Collision will soon be added near a Walgreens, Dollar Tree, Barbershop, St. Peter's Health Center, Skyline Diner, Hot Dog Charlies, a liquor store, a smoke shop and several convenience stores, gas stations and

car dealerships. A former car wash is also being converted into 2,200 SF of retail space.

Large Scale Development

Since 2023, the city of Rensselaer has been working toward revitalizing its downtown business district, Hudson River waterfront and surrounding areas. It's all part of the "Rensselaer Rising" Revitalization Plan. The plan identified numerous strategic sites that are ripe for development, including:

615 East Street: This is owned by CDTA and is currently used by the Rensselaer Rail Station as a parking lot. Redevelopment plans include transportation oriented mixed-use development (commercial, residential and offices).

500 Broadway: This property is currently leased to New York State and used as surface parking for staff at the Office of Children and Family Services campus. Redevelopment plans also include mixed-use development (housing and community services).

505 Broadway: This is a vacant property that was the former City Hall site before it moved in 2007. The building was demolished in 2022. Redevelopment plans include a mixed-use building opportunity (housing and retail).

As well as several other properties and streetscape improvements.



continued from page 6 - Ever Evolving Rensselaer is on the Rise

Rensselaer's Recipe for Success

As a small city in a larger metropolitan area, the Capital District has approximately 1 million residents, Rensselaer recognizes the need to proactively attract new housing and commercial activity into the community. The City of Rensselaer Industrial Development Agency (CRIDA) offers a variety of incentives for new development and businesses and an Economic Development Loan Program is available to help new business in Rensselaer. The Planning Department is diligent about seeking out grants that can support development and, as part of being a Pro-Housing Community, the City Administration, Planning Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals are eager to assist housing developers coming to our community. Mayor Stammel and the Common Council eagerly support the planful and responsible growth of the community with pro-active policies and legislation that supports new development while protecting the broader interest of the community.

More specifically, the support of the CRIDA was instrumental in getting many of the developers to locate new apartment complexes in Rensselaer. Current efforts by CRIDA are focused on attracting commercial and retail activity in the city, especially a grocery store and a bank. CRIDA works collaboratively on these efforts with city administration and various city departments, especially Planning and Development.

Each year, the City of Rensselaer Planning Department receives approximately \$500,000 from NYS Homes and Community Renewal to assist low-income homeowners with needed property repairs. Neighborhood stabilization is paramount in maintaining the close-knit fabric of the city's community. Additionally, over the past year, the city received nearly \$250,000 from Empire State Development for water infrastructure improvements to support new housing and other development; \$150,000 from the NYS Archives to modernize city records to be more responsive to the community; over \$100,000 from the Capital Region Transportation Council to develop a plan to improve pedestrian infrastructure and study traffic patterns; and \$100,000 from the NYS Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) to study clean mobility options to assist seniors wanting to get to the Rensselaer County Senior Citizen Center and residents without their own vehicles needing to go grocery shopping.

The city is also waiting to hear on a \$10 million "Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development" (BUILD) grant from the US Department of Transportation to improve waterfront connectivity and support development; another \$10 million grant from New York State for Downtown Revitalization; a \$3 million grant from the NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets and \$100,000 grant from the US Department of Agriculture for Grocery Store Development in the city; another \$750,000 grant from the NYS Department of State for additional water infra-

structure improvements; a nearly \$500,000 grant from the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation for Electric Vehicle Charging Stations; and a \$300,000 grant from the US Environmental Protection Agency for vacant and underutilized site development.

Conclusion

The City of Rensselaer has always been, and will always be, "the little engine that could." The area now known as Rensselaer served as an important settlement and trading post when North America was being explored. The residents of what is now Rensselaer played important roles in Colonial America and the American Revolution. The area prospered during the Industrial Revolution with numerous manufacturing operations in the city and, as a major railroad hub on the banks of the Hudson River, supported the westward expansion of America. Today, many of the remnants of Rensselaer's rich history can still be found in the city. Former factories and historic structures are being placed back into productive use as apartments, commercial operations and schools; the rail system continues to support the transportation of freight but also serves travelers to the point that the Albany Rensselaer Amtrak Train Station is the 8th busiest train station in America (out of over 500 Amtrak stations). Recent housing growth, partly prompted by major employment expansion in the area, is fostering new commercial activity in the city. Rensselaer is rising and continues to be a great place to live, work and play.



Keeping Rensselaer Beautiful: A Reminder to Maintain Your Property

A clean, well-maintained property doesn't just benefit the homeowner - it reflects pride in our neighborhoods and contributes to a healthier, safer, and more welcoming community for everyone.

As we move through the summer season, the **City of Rensselaer** would like to remind all residents and property owners of the importance of **keeping yards free of trash, debris, and overgrown vegetation**. Maintaining your landscaping - such as mowing lawns, trimming hedges, and clearing clutter - not only improves curb appeal but also helps prevent rodent activity, reduces fire hazards, and supports neighborhood morale.

Neglected properties can have a negative impact on nearby homes, lower property values, and create an eyesore that affects the whole block. To avoid this, the City has ordinances in place to ensure property standards are upheld throughout all neighborhoods.

Failure to comply with property maintenance regulations may result in fines and enforcement action.

We encourage all residents to take a few moments each week to:

- **Remove trash and debris** from yards, sidewalks, and curb lines
- **Keep lawns mowed** and hedges trimmed
- **Properly dispose of yard waste** and bulk materials
- **Maintain porches and walkways** free of clutter

Let's all do our part to help keep Rensselaer looking its best. Whether you're a homeowner, landlord, or tenant, taking care of your property shows respect for your neighbors and pride in our city.

If you have any questions about property maintenance guidelines or need assistance, please contact **City Code Enforcement** at [518-465-1693].

Together, we can build a cleaner, safer, and more beautiful Rensselaer - for today and for future generations.

The City of Rensselaer Presents: 2025 Farmers Market Season!

The City of Rensselaer is proud to present the 2025 **Rensselaer Farmers Market**, returning to Riverfront Park at Broadway and 4th Avenue! Join us every **Thursday from 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM**, beginning **July 17 through October 16**, for an evening of fresh local produce, handmade goods, delicious treats, and community spirit.

Nestled along the scenic Hudson River, Riverfront Park offers the perfect setting to enjoy locally grown and crafted items while supporting small businesses and farmers from throughout the region.

Come explore everything the Rensselaer Farmers Market has to offer - shop local, eat fresh, and connect with your neighbors all summer and fall! **Don't forget: Thursdays, 4-7 PM, July 17 through October 16. We'll see you at the Market!**

15-LOVE Summer Tennis Program Returns to Riverfront Park

Young tennis enthusiasts in Rensselaer is once again offering the opportunity to take to the courts this summer, as the 15-LOVE Summer Tennis Program has returned to Riverfront Park on Broadway.

The free program, open to youth ages 4 to 18, is underway and will run through Aug. 13. Sessions are held from 2-8:30 p.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays, offering instruction and play for a wide range of skill levels.

Participants can still register online through the 15-LOVE website at www.15love.org.

A long-standing favorite in the community, the 15-LOVE program promotes tennis, teamwork, and healthy living - all while having fun on the court.

Honoring Our Veterans: Share Their Stories With Us

Do you have a loved one who served in the United States Armed Forces? Whether it was a grandfather in World War II, a sister in Iraq, a friend who served stateside, or a neighbor who made the ultimate sacrifice - **we want to hear their story.**

The City of Rensselaer is collecting personal stories from residents about the veterans in their lives. These stories are a meaningful way to honor the service, sacrifice, and courage of the men and women who have worn our nation's uniform.

We believe every veteran's story deserves to be remembered - and shared. Whether it's a paragraph, a full biography, or a cherished memory, your submission can help keep their legacy alive for future generations.

📧 **Submit your story to:** info@rensselaerny.gov

You're welcome to include photos, service details, or simply what made your veteran so special to you and your family.

Let's come together as a community to celebrate and remember those who served. Your stories will be highlighted in future city newsletters, on our website, and possibly during upcoming Veterans Day events.

City of Rensselaer's Veteran's Banner Program



Veterans Banners Renewal Notice

The City of Rensselaer extends our heartfelt gratitude to all who have generously sponsored a Veterans Banner in honor of our hometown heroes. Your dedication plays a vital role in preserving the legacy of those who have bravely served our country, while also fostering a deep sense of pride and appreciation within our community.

As time passes, some banners have unfortunately become illegible due to wear and tear. As a result, these banners will need to be retired this year. While we have successfully reached most sponsors, a few could not be contacted due to outdated information.

If your banner is older than three years, we encourage you to reach out to Madeline Rizzo, Banner Coordinator, at (518) 462-9511 to inquire about its status. If your banner has been retired, it will be available for pickup at City Hall, and we would be honored to return it to you as a cherished keepsake.

For those who wish to continue honoring their veteran, we invite you to purchase a new banner. Please refer to the attached Banner Brochure for details on how to place an order.

Common Council Workshops & Meetings

Your interest in Rensselaer is critical to the operation of the city. It's your city. 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 Mondays of each month and the Council Meetings are held on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month. Both at 6:30 PM at City Hall.

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!

(see attached Calendar for dates for this month at the end of this Newsletter).

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

We look forward to hearing from you!

July 11th Deadline Re-levy for Unpaid Solid Waste and Water

Residents are reminded that **July is re-levy time** for any unpaid **solid waste and water bills**. Any outstanding balances will be added to property taxes if not paid by the deadline.

- ♦ To avoid penalties, residents are urged to check their account balances and make payments before the final due date. If you are unsure of your balance, you can contact:

Solid Waste Department at 518-462-9616 (option 1)

Water Department at 518-462-6466 (option 2)

- ♦ Additionally, residents should ensure that their **address on file is correct** to receive proper billing information.

Final Payment Deadline: July 11

Payments must be made to the **Treasurer's Office on or before July 11**. No payments will be accepted after this date. **Postmarked payments will not be accepted, and no exceptions will be made.**

Residents are encouraged to act promptly to avoid additional fees or penalties associated with the re-levy process.

Now Recruiting: Be Part of the First Class of Cadets!

Shared Services Cadet Post 2010 is officially launching—and we're looking for our very first group of Cadets! This exciting new program is designed to introduce young people to the field of law enforcement and foster strong relationships between local police departments and the communities they serve.

Operated by members of the East Greenbush, North Greenbush, Schodack, and Rensselaer City Police Departments, the Cadet Post offers hands-on experiences, education, and mentorship for youth ages 14 to 21 who are interested in learning more about public safety and service.

Recruitment is underway now, with our first official meeting planned for September. If you or someone you know is interested, please refer to the flyer below for eligibility details. To apply or ask questions, simply send us an email - one of our recruiters will get back to you with more information.

We're excited to welcome a new generation of leaders who embody **Courage. Character. Commitment.**

Don't miss your chance to be part of something meaningful!

JOIN THE SHARED SERVICES POLICE CADET PROGRAM

Courage. Character. Commitment








ARE YOU READY TO STEP INTO A FUTURE OF SERVICE AND LEADERSHIP?

Become a Police Cadet and gain real-life experience in law enforcement while giving back to your community

PROGRAM BENEFITS

- Ride-alongs with experienced officers
- Reality-based training
- Hands-on law enforcement events
- Classroom instruction
- Leadership and teamwork skills

REQUIREMENTS TO JOIN

- Ages 14 to 21
- Maintain at least a "C" average in school
- No criminal history
- Parental consent if under 18
- Strong interest in law enforcement and public service

APPLY NOW AND START YOUR JOURNEY

For more information or to request an application, contact or visit us at:

sharedservicescadets@schodackpolice.com






New CTE Firefighter Program for Students

The Rensselaer City Fire Department and the City School district announce an exciting new opportunity for students with the official launch of its CTE Firefighter Program - a career and technical education initiative designed to prepare students for real-world service in emergency response.

Through the program, students will have the chance to train alongside professional firefighters, earn industry-recognized certifications, and explore career pathways in public safety. Participants will also receive a \$750 stipend to support their training.

“This is more than just a class,” said district officials. “It’s hands-on experience, valuable credentials, and a direct link to meaningful careers in public service.”

The program reflects the district’s ongoing commitment to providing students with practical, career-focused education. Whether students are considering a future in firefighting or simply want to gain real-world skills, the CTE Firefighter Program offers an impactful starting point.





NOW ENROLLING

Career & Technical Education

FIREFIGHTING PROGRAM

Hosted By: City of Rensselaer Fire Department





Scan to Apply

**WHY JOIN?**

- Hands-on training with certified NYS Fire Instructors
- Real-world experience in active fire service environment
- **BEFO Certification** upon completion, with a \$750 stipend

**EARN ACADEMIC & CAREER CREDIT**

- Job Shadowing
- Internships
- Networking with active duty members

**CAREER PATHWAYS**

- Firefighter
- EMT
- Fire Science
- Homeland Security
- Health and Safety

**ELIGIBILITY**

- Open to 11th & 12th Grade
- Half-Day Program
- Begins: Fall of 2025
- Speak with Guidance Counselor or contact us directly

**CONTACT INFO**

JoinRFD@RensselaerNY.Gov

Bella Mae's Brings Comfort Foods to Columbia Street

Rensselaer is abuzz with culinary excitement as Bella Mae's, a beloved establishment in West Sand Lake, has decided to make a strategic move and bring its business to the heart of the city, taking over the former Ming's Garden location at 150 Columbia St. This relocation promises to bring Bella Mae's signature blend of delicious comfort food and a welcoming atmosphere to a new community, offering a fresh dining option to residents and visitors alike.

For years, Bella Mae's has been a go-to spot in West Sand Lake, known for its hearty portions, diverse menu, and dedication to satisfying its customers. The move to a more central and accessible location like 150 Columbia Street in Rensselaer signifies an exciting new chapter for the restaurant, allowing them to expand their reach and introduce their culinary delights to an even broader audience. The transition from a Chinese restaurant to a purveyor of American and Italian-inspired comfort food will undoubtedly be a refreshing change for the historic Columbia Street corridor.

Fans of Bella Mae's will be pleased to find many of their long-time favorites making the journey to Rensselaer. The menu boasts a wide array of options, catering to various tastes and cravings. Pizza, a cornerstone of their offerings, ranges from classic cheese to gourmet creations like the "Barn Yard Pizza" (garlic sauce, sausage, bacon, tater tots, green pepper, and scallion) and the "White Magic Pizza" (creamy alfredo, chicken, broccoli, mushrooms, and ricotta).

Beyond their impressive pizza selection, Bella Mae's is celebrated for its satisfying grinders, including the popular Cheese Steak Grinder. Appetizers like crispy Fried Mushrooms, gooey Mac N Cheese Bites, and classic Garlic Knots are perfect for sharing or starting off a meal. Pasta dishes such as Pasta Alfredo promise creamy indulgence, while their generously portioned Chicken Wings, available in a variety of sauces, are a



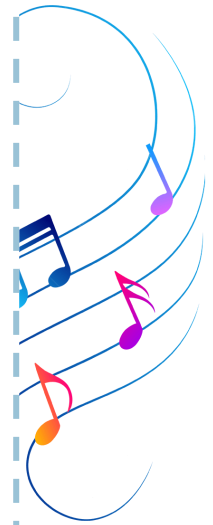
Rensselaer Seniors Spotlight



Spotlight into events
at Rensselaer
Senior Center

Our new Senior Center is open and waiting for you to join us. As of Dec. 20, the Schodack Senior Center will be getting a facelift and we are pleased to host the seniors from there. We serve lunch Monday - Friday at 12 p.m. We do ask for a reservation by calling 518-487-4427 so we are prepared for you. The suggested contribution is \$3.00. Activities will be available starting in January and yes we will be having Bingo every fourth Tuesday of the month. We will

try to incorporate the Schodack classes with ours so you won't miss out on anything. We are also in need of gently used quality clothing for our Boutique. At this time, we are accepting all clothing, shoes, pocketbooks and jewelry emphasizing spring and summer. You can donate from 9:00 AM to 2:30 PM Monday - Friday. We hope to see you soon at our new center located at 6 Ridge Road in Rensselaer.



Featured Artist of the Month: Paul Slingerland – A Portrait of Talent

This month, we are proud to showcase the remarkable work of **Paul Slingerland**, a multi-talented local artist whose portraits have captured the attention and admiration of many.

Born and raised right here in **Rensselaer**, Paul is not only an accomplished **portrait artist**, but also a **musician, singer**, and **luthier** - crafting and repairing stringed instruments with skill and passion. His creative journey began early in life, picking up the guitar and singing at just **7 years old**. However, it wasn't until his **50s** that Paul discovered a new form of self-expression through visual art.

Starting with **pastels** as his medium of choice, Paul quickly demonstrated a natural talent and keen eye for detail. His portraits are rich in character and emotion, and it's clear he has found a powerful new outlet for his creativity.

We invite you to stop by the **Center** and experience Paul's artwork in person. His pieces are currently on display, and we're open **Monday through Friday from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM**.

Come celebrate local talent and be inspired by Paul's story - a reminder that it's never too late to discover a new passion and share it with the world.

New Meditation Classes Are Now Open

The **East Greenbush-Rensselaer Senior Center** has begun offering **two daily Meditation Classes with Surya on Thursdays!**

Practitioners: 10:30 AM – 11:15 AM
Beginners: 11:15 AM – 12 PM

Whether you're experienced or new to meditation, there's a session for you. Come relax, breathe, and find your calm with us!

Location: **East Greenbush-Rensselaer Senior Center, 166 Columbia Turnpike, Rensselaer, NY 12144**

Bring a friend and join the journey toward wellness and mindfulness!

Senior Center Lunch Menu

MENU

JULY 2025

Rensselaer County Department of Unified Family Services- AGING Nutrition Services- 518-270-2740

To Reserve or Cancel Call: Troy: 518-270-2740 GRAB & GO Rensselaer 518-487-4427

Hoosick Falls: 518-686-7561 Grafton: 518-279-3413

****MENU SUBJECT TO CHANGE****

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Nutrition Abbreviations: NCS-No Concentrated Sweets L/S-Low Sodium (salt) Soft-Low Fiber UNS-Unsweetened	1) Veal Patty Marsala Garlic Mashed Potatoes Wax Beans Dinner Roll Fresh Fruit	2) Eggplant Parmesan Ziti w/Sauce Italian Blend Garlic Breadstick Diced Pears	3) Crabmeat Salad on Lettuce Macaroni Salad Pickled Beet Salad White Bread Fresh Fruit	4) 
7) Mediterranean Salmon Parmesan Mashed Potatoes Steamed Broccoli Mandarin Orange Cup	8) Ham Steak w/Pineapple Glaze Red Potato Cut Green Beans Rye Bread Strawberry Applesauce	9) Walking Street Taco Lettuce, Tomato, Cheese, & Sour Cream Rice w/Black Beans Tostitos Fresh Fruit	10) Chicken Tenders w/Ranch Tater Tots Normandy Blend Graham Crackers	11) Sliced Turkey Cold Plate on Lettuce Potato Salad Cottage Cheese w/Peaches Wheat Bread Yogurt
14) Sloppy Joe Cut Corn Peas & Onions Round Roll Fresh Fruit	15) Chicken Parmesan Pasta w/Sauce Italian Blend Garlic Bread Stick Italian Ice	16) CHEF'S CHOICE	17) Salisbury Steak w/Smothered Gravy Garlic Mashed Potatoes Harvard Beets Dinner Roll Fresh Fruit	18) Tuna Salad Cold Plate on Lettuce Italian Pasta Salad Pickled Beet Salad White Bread Mandarin Orange Cup
21) L/S Hot Dogs w/Mustard Vegetarian Baked Beans Seasoned Sauerkraut Hot Dog Roll Diced Pears	22) Baked Chicken Breast w/Rosemary Gravy Baked Potato Broccoli Florets Dinner Roll Cookie	23) Butter Crumb Cod w/Tartar Mashed Potatoes Spinach Strawberry Applesauce	24) Italian Style Sausage & Peppers Pasta w/Sauce Italian Blend Italian Bread Fresh Fruit	25) Roast Beef Cold Plate On Lettuce w/Horsey Mayo 3 Bean Salad Summer Slaw Yogurt
28) Cheeseburger Tater Tots Brussel Sprouts Round Roll Granola Bar	29) Prime Rib Burger w/Mushroom Gravy Butter Garlic Noodles Dinner Roll Fresh Fruit	30) BBQ Pork Rib Mashed Sweet Potatoes Cut Green Beans Sweet Glaze Biscuit Mandarin Orange Cup	31) Tex Mex Chicken Salad Cilantro Lime Potato Salad Carrot Apple Salad Ice Cream	This Program is funded by the U.S. Administration on Aging Older Americans Act, NYS Office for the Aging and Rensselaer County. Suggested Contribution \$3.00 per meal

Suggested contribution \$3.00 per meal. Guests under 60 must pay \$5.00 per meal. No one is denied due to the inability to contribute.

Senior Center Events Schedule

TUE Jul 1		WED 2		THU 3		FRI 4	
10am Board/Card Games 12pm Lunch		10:15am Line Dancing 12pm Lunch 12:45pm Exercise Class		10:30am Tech Drop In W/ Mich 10:30am Meditation Practition 11:15am Meditation Beginner V 12:30pm Craft Class w/ Harry		CENTER CLOSED	
7		8		9		10	
10am Chair Yoga 12pm Lunch 12:45pm Chorus 6pm Band Of Gold "Evening"		10am Board/Card Games 11am Agriculture Presentation 12pm Lunch 12:45pm Make Your Own Sund		10:15am Line Dancing 12pm Lunch 12:45pm Exercise Class		10am Mahjong 10:30am Meditation Practition 11:15am Meditation Beginner V 12pm Lunch 2 more	
14		15		16		17	
10am Chair Yoga 12pm Lunch 12:45pm Chorus 6pm Hot Vox Trio "Evening"		10am Board/Card Games 12pm Lunch 12:45pm BINGO w/Kate		10:15am Line Dancing 12pm Lunch 12:45pm Exercise Class 5pm Sidewalk Sale At Center 6pm Joe Adeee "Evening" At Ce		10:30am Meditation Practition 11:15am Meditation Beginner V 12pm Lunch 12:45pm Darts	
21		22		23		24	
10am Chair Yoga 12pm Lunch 12:45pm Chorus 6pm Lucia And Levi "Evening"		10am Board/Card Games 12pm Lunch		10:15am Line Dancing 12pm Lunch 12:45pm Exercise Class		10am Mahjong 10:30am Food Demo W/ Nick 10:30am Meditation Practition 11:15am Meditation Beginner V 2 more	
28		29		30		31	
10am Chair Yoga 12pm Lunch 12:45pm Chorus 6pm Elvis "Evening"		10am Board/Card Games 12pm Lunch 12:30pm Karaoke w/ Bobby T (		10:15am Line Dancing 12pm Lunch 12:45pm Exercise Class		- Darts Cancelled 10am Health Fair 10:30am Meditation Practition 11:15am Meditation Beginner V 12pm Lunch	
						Aug 1	
						10am Art Class W/Tom 12pm Lunch 12:45pm Cornhole	

**Free Concert Series Lineup and Sponsors
at the Rensselaer Riverfront Park
Hosted by The Rensselaer County
East Greenbush-Rensselaer Senior Center**

- June 23 **Opening Night, Donnie Elvis**
Sponsored by Wm J. Rockefeller Funeral Home Inc.
- June 30 **Lustre Kings**
Co-Sponsored by Walter S. Pratt and Sons, Inc. &
Musicians Performance Trust Fund
- July 7 **Band of Gold**
Co-Sponsored Walter S. Pratt and Sons, Inc. &
Musicians Performance Trust Fund
- July 14 **Hot Vox Trio**
Musicians Performance Trust Fund
Co-sponsored by Walter S. Pratt and Sons, Inc. &
Musicians Performance Trust Fund
- July 21 **Lucia & Levi**
Sponsored by East Greenbush Rensselaer Senior Center &
Musicians Performance Trust Fund
- July 28 **Donnie Elvis**
W.J. Lyons Jr. Funeral Hone Inc.

I would like to thank all our sponsors for making this series possible. Within 24 hours all sponsors were filled. Many people were called, the sponsors that were listed responded with no hesitation and with full support of our seniors. Thank you so much! To all our followers reading this schedule be sure to show your support when possible to our sponsors. Without their support this would not be happening. Our sponsor's rock! Rain location is at the Rensselaer Train Station. Bring your lawn chairs and enjoy the evening!

With Best Regards
Gloria



RENSSELAER PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Library will be CLOSED on July 4



Drop-in Job Help

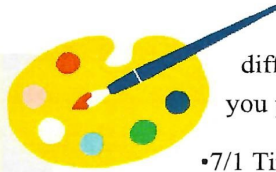
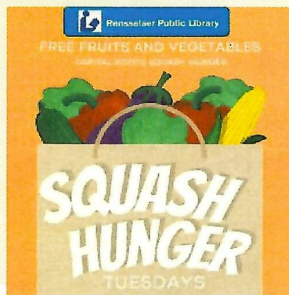
Thursday July 10, 1-3 PM
Stop in to get help on your job hunt with Rensselaer County Career Center.

Drop-in Computer help:

Wednesday, July 2, 2-3 PM.
CCE of Rensselaer County's Digital Literacy Educator is ready to answer your technology questions. No sign up needed, bring your device if possible.

Drop-in tech help every Thursday at 11 AM.

Stop in with a question or problem and our staff member Amber will help!



Art Lab Tuesdays at 2 PM. Each week we will try out a different type of art! Ages 5-10. Please sign up for each session you plan to attend.

- 7/1 Tin Art
- 7/8 Painting
- 7/15 Mosaic art
- 7/22 Spin paint
- 7/29 Tiny world terrariums

COLOR OUR WORLD™



Lego Creations— Saturday July 5 at 1 PM. Create works of art with Lego bricks! Ages 5 and up. Please sign up.



Magic Show— Saturday July 12 at 1 PM. Magician Jim Snack will amaze with illusions and magic tricks. Ages 5 and up. Sign up required.



Make a Spectroscope— Saturday July 19 at 1 PM. Learn about color's importance in studying the stars with the Dudley Observatory in this hands-on presentation. Ages 5 and up.



Preschool Music Time— Saturday July 26 at 11 AM. Dance and play to music with Miss Lisa! Ages 0-6. Please sign up.

Summer reading: **Color Our World**, will run from June 28-August 9. Children ages 5-12 can stop in to the Library this summer to talk about their reading and get a small prize, as well as chances to win bigger prizes.

For information or to sign up for events, call 518-462-1193 or go online at rensselaerlibrary.org

Library Board will not meet in July.



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



RENSSELAER KIWANIS PRESENTS:

SUMMER JAM CONCERT SERIES

6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

NORTH END FIREHOUSE - 1 ST. FRANCIS PLACE
BRING A LAWN CHAIR

JULY 23 - JOE ADEE & THE LUG NUTS

JULY 30 - DONNIE ELVIS

AUGUST 6 - BAND OF GOLD

AUGUST 13 - BOBBY VANDETTA & THE SPLITS



RAIN DATES WILL BE THE FOLLOWING DAY



Crailo State Historic Site

2025 Calendar of Events

WEDNESDAY, MAY 14, 2025, 11:00 AM TO 5:00 PM | **2025 SEASON OPENING**

Guided tours of the mansion are available to the public Wednesday - Sunday, 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Tours begin at 11:00 a.m., and are offered on the hour, with the last at 4:00 p.m. **Please note:** Pre-registered groups and special events may alter tour schedules, so calling prior to your visit is recommended!

FRIDAY, JULY 4, 2025, 11:00 AM TO 4:00 PM | **PLEASE NOTE: CRAILO WILL BE CLOSED**

Please join us across the river at Schuyler Mansion (located in Albany's historic South End) where we'll be celebrating Independence Day! For more information, please visit Schuyler Mansion's social media.

THURSDAY, JULY 17, 2025, 7:00 PM TO 8:30 PM | **SUMMER CONCERT: YANKEE DOODLE BAND**

Bring the family out for a summer evening of music in Crailo's riverside park, performed by the oldest continuous American Legion Band in the country. The band will perform a variety of patriotic and military compositions in celebration of the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution. Kids craft. Free to the public. Rain-date: 7/24.

JULY 28 - AUGUST 1, 2025, 10:00 AM TO 12:30 PM | **SUMMER SAMPLER**

Summer fun at Crailo! To celebrate the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution and its history at Crailo, kids ages 7-12 are invited to participate in activities related to 18th century history! For information about fees, sign-up, and policies, please visit parks.ny.gov, email fiona.lyons@parks.ny.gov or call (518) 463-8738. **Registration required!**

City of Rensselaer Events and Meetings

JULY 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 Common Council Meeting AND PUBLIC HEARING 6:30 @ City Hall	3	4 	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14 Common Council Workshop 6:30 @ City Hall	15	16 Common Council Meeting AND PUBLIC HEARING 6:30 @ City Hall	17 Farmer's Market 4:00 pm—7 pm Riverfront Park	18	19
20	21 Planning Commission Meeting 6:30 @ City Hall	22	23	24 Farmer's Market 4:00 pm—7 pm Riverfront Park	25	26
27	28 Zoning Board of Appeals 6:00 pm @ City Hall	29	30	31 Farmer's Market 4:00 pm—7 pm Riverfront Park		

DIRECTORY

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