



RENSSELAER CITY NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 8

AUGUST 2025

Office of the Mayor



Mayor Mike Stammel
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Highlights in this month's issue



Groundbreaking Fire Science Program



Celebrating Our Youth



Parking at Valley View Park

From the Desk of Mayor Stammel

As of the release of this newsletter, the City of Rensselaer Common Council has not yet completed its final review or submitted edits to the Mayor's proposed budget, which was presented on June 1st. By law and good governance practice, the Council's budget review should have been completed and submitted by July 1st so the City could have an approved budget in place on August 1st.

(See City Charter—Chapter C: Title IV Section 70—Determination of Amount of Annual City Tax Levy at <https://ecode360.com/12077560#12077560>)

Despite hiring a consulting firm for \$30,000—under a contract that has been in place since May 19th—the Council has still not delivered a finalized budget. Because of this delay, as of August 1st—the very first day of our 2025-2026 Fiscal Year—the City of Rensselaer is operating without an approved budget.

This is not just a procedural matter. Without a budget in place:

- Critical city services risk interruption.
- Infrastructure repairs and maintenance may be postponed.
- Funding for public safety, community programs, and day-to-day operations could be stalled.
- Grant opportunities and outside funding may be jeopardized due to the lack of an approved financial plan.
- Health insurance premiums for City employees and retirees may go unpaid, putting coverage at risk.

The longer this continues, the greater the impact on our residents, employees, and local economy. A timely budget is not just good governance—it is essential for keeping our city running effectively and responsibly.

Our hope is that the Common Council will put aside delays and partisanship and take immediate action to pass a budget that serves the best interests of all Rensselaer residents. Our city cannot afford to wait!

City of Rensselaer | 62 Washington Street Rensselaer, NY 12144 | rensselaerny.gov

Water Line Replacement After Late-Night Break



City of Rensselaer Department of Public Works and the Water Department crews worked through the night to repair yet another water main break on Wilson Street. Rensselaer Common Council President, John DeFrancesco, initially refused to bring forward a resolution for a vote for the July 16th Council Meeting that would authorize replacing the aging Wilson Street water line. He wanted the City to apply for a grant. The City Comptroller had already confirmed that funding was available for this project, and that doing the work while contractors were already mobilized would save the City significant money. This replacement could have been completed while contractors were already on site replacing the bridge over the creek in the Hollow near the Little League Field.

Ignoring this old, deteriorating water line only guarantees more breaks in the future—breaks that will cost taxpayers far more than replacing it now. Instead,

City of Rensselaer Launches Groundbreaking Fire Science Program for Students



On Monday, July 7, 2025, Mayor Mike Stammel joined Rensselaer City School District Superintendent Joseph Kardash to officially sign an agreement launching the City's new **Career and Technical Education (CTE) Fire Science Program**—a first-of-its-kind partnership between the City of Rensselaer and the school district.

The innovative program is designed to prepare high school students for real-world careers in firefighting and emergency services, while also supporting the staffing needs of local fire departments. Students will gain hands-on experience with professional firefighting gear and equipment, providing a true taste of what it's like to serve on the front lines of public safety.

Alongside technical skills, the curriculum reinforces academic foundations in English, math, and science, ensuring participants receive a well-rounded education that connects directly to future employment opportunities. Students will also have the chance to earn industry-recognized certifications and receive mentorship from experienced professionals.

Mayor Stammel was joined at the signing by Fire Chief Brookings and Deputy Fire Chief Cherbino, whose leadership and expertise will be integral to the program's success. "This is more than just a class—it's a pathway to purpose, opportunity, and service," said Mayor Stammel. "By investing in our youth, we're investing in the future of Rensselaer."

The City and school district see this program as a model for how education and municipal partnerships can prepare students for meaningful careers while strengthening the community.

Historic St. John's School Reimagined as The McManus Apartments

The former St. John's School has entered a new chapter as it transforms into **The McManus Apartments**, a thoughtfully redeveloped complex offering modern living in a historic setting.

City officials recently toured the property to view some of the beautifully completed one- and two-bedroom units. Each apartment blends contemporary design with the building's original charm, creating a space that feels both fresh and timeless.

Residents will have access to a variety of amenities, including a fitness room, community room, on-site laundry facilities, and a welcoming outdoor seating area perfect for relaxing or socializing.

Currently, about one-third of the apartments are finished and leasing is already underway. As construction progresses, excitement continues to build for the full completion of The McManus Apartments—breathing new life into one of Rensselaer's cherished landmarks.



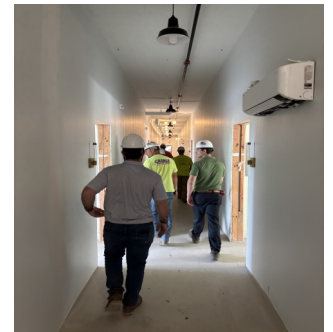
Barnet Mills: A Historic Gem Revitalized on Rensselaer's Riverfront

Mayor Mike Stammel recently toured the Barnet Mills construction site, where a remarkable transformation is breathing new life into one of the city's most iconic riverfront landmarks.

When complete, Barnet Mills will offer 72 unique apartments, each with its own style, character, and view of the Hudson River. The development blends the site's historic charm with modern amenities, including a fitness room, on-site laundry, a restaurant/taproom, and commercial retail space—enhancing the vibrancy of the riverfront and creating a new destination for residents and visitors alike.

This ambitious project is not only restoring a treasured building but also strengthening Rensselaer's waterfront as a place to live, work, and gather. Construction is expected to continue through the summer and fall, with a grand opening planned for late fall.

For those who remember the interior's previous state, the change is nothing short of extraordinary—a testament to the vision and investment shaping the city's future.



Rensselaer On The Move - Plans Advance For Long Awaited Connector Trail

Mayor Mike Stammel is excited to see momentum building for a long-envisioned connector trail between the Cities of Rensselaer and Troy — one that would finally link the communities along the scenic east bank of the Hudson River.

"This idea has been near and dear to me since my time in the County Legislature," said Mayor Stammel. "We have a beautiful, underutilized stretch of riverfront land that has incredible potential. It's time we give our residents and visitors the opportunity to enjoy it."

Thanks to more productive conversations with key landowners, including RPI, and support from Rensselaer County and local leaders like Troy Mayor Carmella Mantello, this decades-old vision is starting to feel within reach. Once easements are secured, the County plans to begin a feasibility study — paving the way for future trail construction.

This future trail would not only increase access to our natural spaces but also complement major private investment already underway along Rensselaer's waterfront. Mayor Stammel has worked to ensure that projects like the Polsinello riverfront redevelopment include dedicated bike paths and trails that connect to Riverfront Park - a critical step toward a more walkable, bikeable, and vibrant city.

"There's no reason we can't have what Albany and Watervliet enjoy today — safe, scenic, and connected riverfront trails that benefit the entire Capital Region," Stammel added.

The City of Rensselaer remains committed to supporting this project and partnering with state, county, and regional leaders to make the Hudson River more accessible for all.

Stay tuned — Rensselaer is on the move!

Parking Area Completed at Valley View Park

Valley View Park now has a brand-new parking area - making it easier than ever for residents and visitors to enjoy one of Rensselaer's recreation spots.

The addition marks a significant improvement for park accessibility, providing much-needed convenience for families

Mayor Mike Stammel praised the project's completion, noting, "Valley View Park is a treasured space in our community, and this new parking area ensures that people can enjoy it safely and comfortably. It's a great step forward for our park system."

The parking area is expected to encourage more residents to take advantage of the park!

With this improvement now in place, Valley View Park is more welcoming than ever - just in time for summer activities and beyond.



City of Rensselaer Showcases Major Community Investments

The City of Rensselaer is making unprecedented strides in revitalization, with more than **\$51 million** in state and federal funding secured to drive housing, infrastructure, park upgrades, and sustainable transportation.

From the **\$26.4 million transformation of the historic Barnet Mills** to the **\$8.8 million restoration of the McManus property**, these investments are breathing new life into treasured landmarks and expanding housing options. Projects like **Railroad Place (\$6.4M)** and the **Infrastructure Grant Program (\$1M)** are unlocking long-stalled development sites, paving the way for hundreds of new homes and vibrant mixed-use spaces along the waterfront.

Parks and recreation are also receiving a major boost, with **\$1.92 million in CDBG funding** for improvements at Riverfront, First Street, Plum Street, and Tracy Street Parks, along with **\$1.6 million for the Riverfront Trail** and **\$3 million for The Hollow Trail**, expanding pedestrian access and green space.

Additional initiatives—from **housing rehabilitation** and **brownfield cleanup** to **electric vehicle charging stations**, **mobility planning**, and **ADA accessibility upgrades**—demonstrate the City's commitment to building a stronger, more inclusive community.

Mayor Mike Stammel celebrated the progress, saying, *“These investments are the foundation for Rensselaer’s future—strengthening neighborhoods, creating opportunity, and ensuring our city thrives for generations to come.”*

✨ Highlights of Community Investment ✨

Barnet Mills- \$26.4M

Awarded under Restore NY to support redevelopment of the historic Barnet Mills site. Plans include adaptive reuse for **housing** and **commercial redevelopment**.



McManus- \$8.8M

Restore NY funding will support the **restoration and revitalization** of the McManus property, enhancing its potential for **residential and commercial redevelopment**.

Railroad Place \$6.4M

This redevelopment initiative focuses on **new workforce housing** to Green Street, bringing new energy to this key **transit-adjacent corridor**. **Infrastructure Grant Program \$1M**

Pivotal infrastructure improvements along Forbes Ave, where a major sewer line has long stood in the way of progress. Relocating the line will unlock the full potential for a **\$96M mixed-use waterfront development including 300 new housing units**.



Park Revitalization (CDBG-Funded)-\$1.92M

Upgrades at Riverfront, First Street, Plum Street, and Tracy Street Parks. Includes new playgrounds, picnic areas, benches, hand-washing/bottle-

filling stations.



Riverfront Trail-\$1.6M

A scenic, multi-modal pathway that will link to the highly anticipated Livingston Avenue Bridge with a proposed future pedestrian connection to Troy.



The Hollow Trail-\$3M

Greenway linking neighborhoods with parks, the school campus, and waterfront. Enhances pedestrian access and supports community wellness.



Home Program Rehabilitation- \$1.6M (awards years: 2022, 2023 & 2024)

Housing investments to stabilize neighborhoods for qualifying single-family homes. The city has made vital home repairs to over 40 homes in under 5 years.



Rensselaer Rising Brownfield Assessment & Cleanup-\$300K



Municipal ZEV Infrastructure Grant-\$233K

This award will allow the city to purchase two new charging stations for electric vehicles.



NYSDA Clean Mobility Planning Study -\$100K

Planning for equitable mobility solutions that support a shift toward clean, zero-emission and shared mobility options that can help reduce transportation greenhouse gas emissions in New York State.



ADA Transition Plan -\$100K

An ADA Self-Analysis and Transition Plan to ensure pedestrian infrastructure in the public right-of-way is accessible for everyone including people with disabilities.



Hudson River Estuary Tech Assistance (DEC)-\$100K

A study aimed at protection of stream corridors by use of overlay conservation zoning



Farmers Market Resiliency Grant -\$50K

Funding to help market the weekly Farmers Market at Riverfront Park.



Natural Resources Inventory & Open Space Plan-\$50K

A comprehensive assessment of Rensselaer's environmental assets and recreational resources which guides conservation, sustainable development, and resilience efforts. Both plans prioritize habitat protection, trail expansion, and green infrastructure.

Vacant Rental Property Program

The City of Rensselaer is preparing to apply for funding from New York State to support a Vacant Rental Property Program — and we need your participation!

If awarded, this grant would allow the City to assist property owners in rehabilitating vacant housing units and converting unusable spaces, such as former commercial areas, into safe, high-quality, and affordable rental housing.

Eligible repairs may include:

- Health & safety improvements
- Code violation corrections
- Accessibility upgrades
- Environmental remediation
- General residential updates

Potential Grant Assistance:

Up to \$50,000 per unit if you agree to rent to households at or below 80% Area Median Income (AMI) for 10 years.

Up to \$75,000 per unit if you agree to rent to households at or below 60% AMI for 10 years.

This is a valuable opportunity to bring Rensselaer's vacant properties back to life—creating affordable housing and stronger neighborhoods.

City Offers Economic Development Loans for Local Business

The City of Rensselaer is now accepting applications for its **Economic Development Loan Program**, a HUD-funded initiative designed to support business growth and job creation within the city.

This revolving loan fund is available to both new and existing businesses — including manufacturers, wholesalers, retailers with three or more employees, and eligible service-based businesses.

Program Highlights:

- **Loan amounts** range from **\$30,000 to \$150,000**
- **Fixed interest rate** based on the *lowest Wall Street Journal Prime Rate* at time of closing
- Loan may fund up to **40% of the total project cost**
- **Job creation requirement:** One job created within 2 years for every \$10,000 borrowed (at least 51% of jobs must benefit low-to-moderate income households)

Fees: \$25 pre-application, \$150 full application, and 1% commitment fee due before closing

Loan funds can be used for:

- Acquiring fixed assets
 - Purchasing inventory
 - Supporting current accounts receivable
- Refinancing existing debt (if required as part of the total project financing)

Please note: loan proceeds **cannot** be used for capital improvements.

Apply or learn more:

Visit <https://rensselaer.ny.gov/economic-development-loan-program> to access the application and full program guidelines.

Firefighters and Mega Kone Bring Sweet Summer Fun to the City Youth Camp

The City of Rensselaer's career and volunteer firefighters traded in their helmets for ice cream scoops this week, delivering a delicious surprise to the kids at the City Youth Camp. Partnering with Mega Kone, they served up cones, laughter, and plenty of summer spirit.

The firefighters didn't stop there—they even set up a basketball hoop, keeping the energy high and giving campers a chance to burn off some of that ice cream excitement. It was a perfect combination of fun, community, and connection.

These men and women show us every day that their dedication goes far beyond the fireground. Whether responding to emergencies or creating moments like this, they are always finding ways to serve and strengthen our community.

A huge thank you to our firefighters—both career and volunteer—for their commitment, compassion, and generosity. You make Rensselaer proud.



Spring Flag Football Program Scores Big with Local Youth

This past spring, Mayor Mike Stammel teamed up with the Rensselaer Volunteer Fire Department Engine #2, the Rensselaer City School District, and Kids 1st Youth Development to launch a spirited flag football program for students in grades 4–6.

The initiative offered far more than just a game—it created a welcoming space where young athletes could build confidence, form lasting friendships, stay active, develop teamwork skills, and connect with mentors from the community.

Week after week, the field was filled with energy and excitement as players learned the value of sportsmanship while enjoying the thrill of competition. The program's success was a true community effort, driven by the dedication of volunteers, the support of partner organizations, and the enthusiasm of the kids themselves.

Mayor Stammel expressed his gratitude, saying, "This program shows what we can accomplish when the City, our schools, and our community partners work together for our youth."

A heartfelt thank you goes out to everyone who made this season possible. With such a strong start, plans are already in motion to grow the program in the seasons to come. See the video on Facebook at

<https://www.facebook.com/share/v/16aCDURVjb/>

Celebrating our Youth: Ishmeal Receives His First Paycheck!



The City of Rensselaer is proud to support young workers through the **Rensselaer County Summer Youth Employment Program**. This summer, several local teens are gaining valuable job experience while making meaningful contributions to our community.

Ishmeal, one of this year's program participants, recently received his **first paycheck** — a proud moment for him and a rewarding milestone for the program. Ishmeal is currently assigned to the **Boys and Girls Club of Southern Rensselaer County**, where he's assisting staff and learning the importance of teamwork and community service.

Also working with the City this summer are **Da'Asia and Khalia**, who are gaining firsthand experience at **City Hall** while supporting municipal staff.

This program not only helps youth earn income — it also builds skills, confidence, and community connections that will serve them well into the future. The City is honored to be part of their journey.

Rensselaer Firefighters Bring the Cool to Summer Camp!

On one of the hottest days of the summer, the City of Rensselaer Fire Department delivered a refreshing surprise to local kids at the Boys & Girls Club Summer Camp.

With temperatures soaring, firefighters rolled up in their truck, hooked up the hoses, and turned the afternoon into an all-out splash party. Mayor Stammel joined in the fun, helping spray water and sharing laughs with the campers as they cooled off under the refreshing spray.

The event brought smiles, laughter, and plenty of soaked T-shirts—but it was more than just a way to beat the heat. It was also an opportunity for kids to meet their local heroes, learn a little about the important work firefighters do, and experience the community spirit that makes Rensselaer special.

"A day like this shows that our Fire Department goes above and beyond—not only keeping us safe but creating memories our kids will never forget," said Mayor Stammel. "It's what being a community is all about."



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!

Planning Commission Regular Meetings

Your interest in Rensselaer's future is vital to how our city grows and develops. The Planning Commission plays a key role in reviewing projects, shaping policies, and guiding responsible development—and your voice matters in that process.

Planning Commission meetings are held **on the third Tuesday of each month at 6:30 PM** at City Hall. These meetings are open to the public, and we encourage residents to attend, listen, and share their perspectives.

Agendas are posted on the City's website prior to each meeting at:

<https://rensselaerny.gov/meeting-agendas-and-minutes>

Your attendance and input help ensure that decisions about Rensselaer's growth reflect the priorities of the people who live here. We hope to see you at an upcoming meeting—your city needs your voice!

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





NOW ENROLLING

Career & Technical Education

FIREFIGHTING PROGRAM

Hosted By: City of Rensselaer Fire Department

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



Scan to Apply



CONTACT INFO

JoinRFD@RensselaerNY.Gov

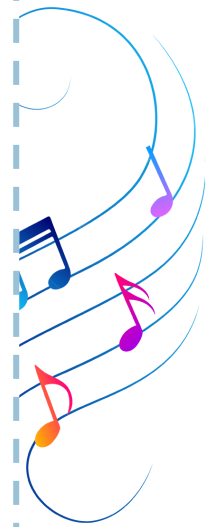
Rensselaer Seniors Spotlight



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

Rensselaer County Department of Unified Family Services- AGING Nutrition Services- 518-270-2739
To Reserve or Cancel Call: Troy: 518-270-2740 GRAB & GO Rensselaer 518-487-4427
Schodack: GRAB & GO 518-477-6581 Hoosick Falls: 518-686-7561 Grafton: 518-279-3413

August 2025

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Nutrition Abbreviations: NCS-No Concentrated Sweets L/S-Low Sodium (salt) Soft-Low Fiber UNS-Unsweetened	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			1) Shepard's Pie Seasoned Ground Beef in Brown Gravy Mashed Potatoes Peas, Corn, & Carrots Biscuit Diced Peaches
4) Chicken Tenders w/Ranch Tater Tots Normandy Blend Mandarin Orange Cup	5) Mediterranean Salmon Parmesan Mashed Potatoes Steamed Broccoli Fresh Melon	6) CHEF'S CHOICE	7) Ham Steak w/Pineapple Glaze Mashed Sweet Potatoes Spinach Rye Bread Cake	8) Corned Beef Cold Plate On Lettuce w/Mustard Potato Salad Summer Slaw Rye Bread Yogurt
11) Stuffed Shells w/Alfredo Sauce Spinach w/Mushrooms Garlic Breadstick Graham Crackers	12) Baked Chicken Breast w/Rosemary Gravy Baked Potato Broccoli Florets Dinner Roll Cookie	13) Veal Patty Marsala Garlic Mashed Potatoes Wax Beans Dinner Roll Fresh Fruit	14) Egg Cold Plate on Lettuce Italian Pasta Salad Pickled Beet Salad White Bread Orange	15) L/S Hot Dogs w/Mustard Vegetarian Baked Beans Seasoned Sauerkraut Hot Dog Roll Diced Pears
18) Cheeseburger Tater Tots Brussel Sprouts Round Roll Granola Bar	19) Chicken Parmesan Pasta w/Sauce Italian Blend Italian Bread Italian Ice	20) Butter Crumb Cod w/Tartar Mashed Potatoes Spinach Strawberry Applesauce	21) Hawaiian Turkey Burger w/Pineapple Teriyaki Glaze Confetti Rice Carrot Coins Sweet Glaze Biscuit Fresh Fruit	22) Sliced Ham Cold Plate on Lettuce Potato Salad Cottage Cheese w/Peaches Wheat Bread Yogurt
25) Liver w/Bacon and Onion Gravy Fluffy Mashed Potatoes Cut Green Beans White Bread Cookie	26) Sausage w/Gravy Butter Garlic Noodles Brussel Sprouts Dinner Roll Fresh Fruit	27) Ziti w/Meat Sauce Italian Blend Veggies Garlic Breadstick Banana	28) BBQ Chicken Salad Cold Plate w/Lettuce Macaroni Salad Cottage Cheese w/Peaches Fresh Fruit	29) Lemon Garlic Cod w/Tartar Rice Steamed Broccoli Cinnamon Applesauce

MENU SUBJECT TO CHANGE

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

AUGUST 2025

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Senior Center Activities

East Greenbush-Rensselaer and Schodack Activities Announcements

Chair Yoga will be held at the East Greenbush-Rensselaer Senior Center through Monday, July 28th, returning to the Schodack Senior Center Monday August 11, 2025.

Chair Exercise – the last class will be July 30th at the East Greenbush-Rensselaer Senior Center. Classes will resume in Schodack in September. (Our instructor will not be available until then.)

Board & Card Games-the last meeting will be Tuesday morning, July 29th and will resume in Schodack on Tuesday, August 12th.

Chorus- the last rehearsal was held on August 8th at East Greenbush-Rensselaer, perform at Eddy Terrace, Troy on August 11th, NO CHORUS ON August 18th. Chorus will resume in Schodack on Monday, August 25th.

Line Dancing-there will be no Line Dancing on August 5th then resume as normal in East Greenbush-Rensselaer.

Art Class with Tom-there will be no Art Class with Tom for the month of August while he is on vacation. Tom plans to resume his art class in East Greenbush-Rensselaer on Friday mornings beginning September 5th.

Crafts with Lori-there will be no crafts this month. We do have exciting new fall craft projects planned for September.

Please be patient with us. We will be working very hard to offer all our seniors as many activities as possible.

Please check Facebook or the bulletin board in the lobby for more information. We will try to keep you updated as the two Centers transition.

**Highlight of August Events
at the Rensselaer County, East Greenbush-Rensselaer Senior Center**

August 5th-Grand Re-Opening in Schodack

Doors open 9:00 a.m., Coffee and pastries 10:00, Opening ceremonies 11:00

August 7th, 10:30-11:30 - we will have Michelle St. Louis, our very own tech specialist helping us one on one to understand your cell phone, laptop or tablet. Reservations are needed.

August 7th - Elvis in Hawaii

Join Donny Elvis at our Hawaiian Luau. This performance is in remembrance of Jane Livingston and Gerry Forley, two sisters who loved Elvis. The only thing that kept them from Donny's shows was health matters. So, get your grass skirts out and your island clothes and join us for a fun day. The lunch menu consists of Ham with Pineapple sauce, vegetable, potato and a very special dessert. Show time is 1:00 pm.

August 11th, 12:45 - The ever-popular Bingo with Kate

Join us for lunch and stay for fun.

August 12th, 5:00-7:00 p.m. - Nighttime at the Center

Enjoy the music and harmonizing with **Standard Edition Trio** (Courtney Shane and company). This show is sponsored by Richard Seik in honor of his late wife Andrea. We guarantee a memorable evening. Call or stop by to make your reservation. Don't miss this evening of music.

August 22nd - Root Beer Float Day

Join us for lunch at noon and enjoy a root beer float for dessert.

August 26th, 12:30-2:00 - Karaoke with Bobby T

Once a month we enjoy the talent in our beautiful center. Please join us for an enjoyable afternoon. Let us know in advance if you have a special request.

Please be patient with us this month while we are transitioning. We will try to keep everyone up to date and are looking forward to introducing some new events and programs.

***The Center hours are M-F, 9:00-3:00 lunch is served at noon
prior reservations are required (518) 487-4427***

The Boutique is open M-F, 10:00-12:00 and 12:30-2:00

***For more information or current events, please check us out on
Facebook:***

East Greenbush-Rensselaer Senior Center

Library Corner

Sign up for our email newsletter!

AUGUST 2025



RENSSELAER PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Library will be
**CLOSED August 30
and September 1**



Drop-in Job Help

Thursday August 7, 1-3 PM
Stop in to get help on your
job hunt with Rensselaer
County Career Center.



Summer reading: Color Our World runs 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.



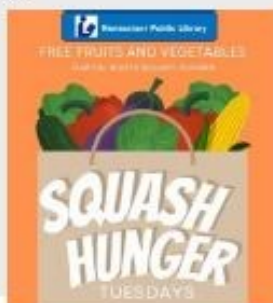
Art Lab Tuesday August 5 at 2 PM. This week we will try out string art!! Ages 5-10.

Drop-in Computer help:

Wednesday, August 6, 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!



Geology Rocks!— Saturday August 2 at 1 PM.

Join scientist and author Anita Sanchez in a hands-on class. Imagine yourself back in time, in the age of the ancient cave painters. We will examine rocks, “paint with dirt”, and look for fossils. Participants will leave with a few rock specimens to start their own collections. Ages 5 and up. Please sign up.



Reader Party— Saturday August 9 at 1 PM. Readers who participated in “Color Our World” and their families are invited to a party, with food, prizes and certificates of completion.

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

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



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

GREATER
HOPE

NEW HOPE
Helping Other People Excel
GREATER COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT INC

GRAND REOPENING

HOPE Pantry &
Greater HOPE Family Life Center

New Location



FAITH AND LOVE FELLOWSHIP
85 WASHINGTON ST
RENSSELAER, NY

CONTACT US AT
NEWHOPEFLCCDC@AOL.COM

Sunday,
August 10, 2025

11:15 am Worship Service

11:55 am Food Pantry Ribbon
Cutting Ceremony



FOAM PARTY

THE RENSSELAER FARMERS MARKET AT
RIVERFRONT PARK

THURSDAY, AUG. 14TH

4:30 PM - 6 PM

FUN FOR THE
WHOLE FAMILY

LIVE MUSIC

FOOD TRUCKS
& VENDORS



📍 4TH & BROADWAY
RENSSELAER, NY 12144

FREE ENTRY
ALL AGES

CAR SHOW

THE RENSSELAER FARMERS MARKET AT
RIVERFRONT PARK

CALLING ALL CAR ENTHUSIASTS!
VINTAGE, SPORTS, CLASSIC, HOT RODS, ANY AND
EVERY KIND OF CAR IS WELCOME

THURSDAY, AUG. 21ST

4 PM - 7 PM

LIVE DJ

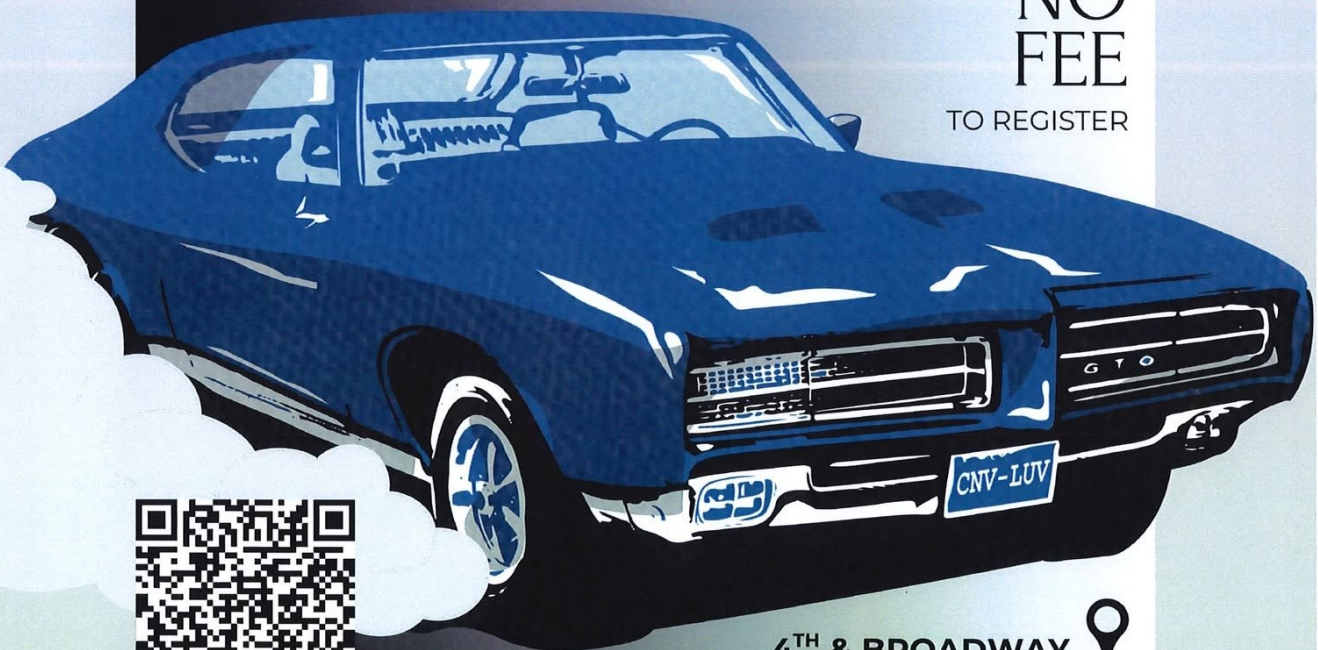
GREAT FOOD

PRIZES

RAIN DATE: AUG. 28TH

NO
FEE

TO REGISTER



4TH & BROADWAY
RENSSELAER, NY 12144



TO REGISTER: SCAN THE QR CODE OR
EMAIL US AT FARMERSMARKET@RENSSELAERNY.GOV

City of Rensselaer Events and Meetings

AUGUST 2025

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

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
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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