



RENSSELAER CITY NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 10

OCTOBER 2025

Office of the Mayor



Mayor Mike Stammel
518-426-9511

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Highlights in this month's issue



Candlelight Vigil



Lafayette's Tour



Historic Business

City Administration Delivers Record Investments

Under the leadership of Mayor Mike Stammel, the City of Rensselaer has experienced one of the most successful periods of infrastructure investment in its history. With a focus on building a stronger, safer, and more vibrant community, the administration has secured record levels of funding to improve the quality of life for residents and prepare the city for long-term growth.

One of the most noticeable achievements has been the extensive road paving projects throughout the city. Residents don't just hear about the improvements – they see and drive on them every day. Long-neglected streets have been resurfaced, creating smoother and safer travel for vehicles and pedestrians alike. Alongside these road projects, major water line repairs have been completed, ensuring cleaner, more reliable service to homes and businesses. The administration has also made significant progress in modernizing the city's aging sewer system, protecting public health and ensuring compliance with environmental standards.

Beyond core infrastructure, Mayor Stammel and his team have made a priority of improving community spaces. Several city parks have been upgraded with new and modern playground equipment, offering children and families safe, accessible, and enjoyable places to gather. These enhancements reflect the administration's commitment not only to infrastructure, but also to quality-of-life improvements that make Rensselaer a more welcoming place to live and raise a family.

These investments are also laying the foundation for future growth and economic opportunity. Improved roads, utilities, and public spaces will help attract new businesses to the community – including a much-needed grocery store. As the city continues to enhance its infrastructure and amenities, it becomes a more attractive place for private investment and commercial development. To build on this momentum, the City Planning Department will soon conduct public workshops to gather community input as they prepare to apply for another round of Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI) funding. This program offers the potential for transformative projects in Rensselaer's business district and beyond.

Mayor Stammel's administration has demonstrated that progress is not just measured in words, but in tangible results that residents can see, use, and enjoy every day. From repaved roads to improved parks and strengthened utilities, the City of Rensselaer is moving forward with a renewed sense of pride and optimism.

Candlelight Vigil Honors the Life of Brent Reed

On Monday, September 22, family, friends, and community members gathered at Riverfront Park for a candlelight vigil in memory of Brent Reed, whose life was tragically cut short at the young age of 32. The soft glow of candles lit the evening sky as loved ones came together to honor Brent's memory and celebrate the joy he brought into their lives.

Brent's family has long been a part of the Rensselaer community, with many members known for their work at the popular local restaurant, Cugino's. Their deep ties to the city made the gathering not only a moment of remembrance but also a reflection of the strong bonds that connect Rensselaer residents to one another.

Those who knew Brent described him as charismatic and lighthearted, with a "goofy" personality that could brighten any room. He will be remembered for his warmth, humor, and the genuine kindness he shared with others.

As candles flickered in the cool night air, stories were shared, tears were shed, and hugs were exchanged. The vigil served as both a farewell and a reminder that Brent's spirit will continue to live on in the hearts of those who loved him.

The City of Rensselaer extends its deepest condolences to the Reed family during this difficult time.



City of Rensselaer—2025 Street and Sidewalk Improvements Update

2025 has been a very productive year for the City of Rensselaer in terms of street and sidewalk improvements. Thanks to several State reimbursement programs, including CHIPS and STR, we've been able to make significant progress in maintaining and enhancing our City's infrastructure.

Phases 1-6 Completed

As of today, six of the seven planned phases of street and sidewalk work have been completed, with Phase 7 pending City Council approval. Each project phase was carefully planned, with quotes requested from seven local preapproved paving contractors. These contractors used State and County bid unit pricing to ensure transparency and cost efficiency. All quotes were reviewed and approved by the City Council prior to project awards.

The completed work in Phases 1-6 covered 5.28 miles of City streets.

Approximately 7,000 tons of asphalt were used to resurface these streets. In addition to milling and paving, other improvements included:

- Installation of 500 linear feet of underdrain
- Replacement of 400 linear feet of sidewalk
- Installation of 45 new ADA-compliant handicapped ramps
- Replacement of deteriorated signs
- Installation or replacement of crosswalks and stop bars
- Repair or replacement of several drainage structures

Looking Ahead – Phase 7

Phase 7, pending City Council approval, will continue this work with milling and paving on 4th Street (Fowler to dead end) and the Alley portion of 3rd Street. Additional sidewalk work is planned for:

- 7th Street (2 locations)
- Washington Ave.
- Central Ave. (2 locations)
- Birch Street
- Partition Street
- 2nd Street

This next phase will include approximately 5,000 linear feet of new or replaced sidewalks and the installation of 10 additional ADA-compliant handicapped ramps, further enhancing accessibility and safety across the City.

Mayor Michael E. Stammel emphasizes, "Investing in our streets and sidewalks is investing in the quality of life for our residents. We are proud of the progress made this year and look forward to completing the final phase to make Rensselaer an even better place to live, work, and visit."

Rensselaer Fire Department Welcomes Three New Firefighters

The City of Rensselaer Fire Department is proud to announce the appointment of three new members to its ranks. Please join us in welcoming **FF/EMT Jacob Memole, FF/EMT Ethan Radley, and FF/EMT Nick Clute** to the department.

This week marks the start of their journeys with us. FF/EMT Memole and FF/EMT Radley have begun Recruit Class, training alongside other agencies at an academy hosted by the Troy Fire Department. Their coursework and field instruction will prepare them for the challenges of a career in the fire service.

FF/EMT Clute, already a certified firefighter and EMT, joins Rensselaer as a lateral transfer. He will immediately begin in-house training through the department's structured mentor program, designed to integrate experienced firefighters into our team while maintaining the highest standards of safety and service.

The City extends its congratulations to our three newest firefighters and wishes them long, safe, and successful careers protecting and serving the Rensselaer community.

We are grateful to the **New York State Professional Firefighters Association (NYSPFFA)** and the **Rensselaer Professional Firefighters** for their continued support in strengthening our department.



Zappala Block Inducted Into NYS Historic Business Registry

On September 9, Mayor Mike Stammel joined Rensselaer County Executive Steve McLaughlin, County Legislator Scott Rogers, and other state and local officials to celebrate a historic milestone for one of Rensselaer's most enduring businesses. Zappala Block, a family-owned company that has been operating for over 100 years, was recently inducted into the New York State Historic Business Preservation Registry.

Founded in 1922 by Salvatore Zappala, the company began humbly when Salvatore hand-crafted concrete blocks beside his home. Through dedication, innovation, and a strong sense of community, the business grew steadily and became a trusted name throughout the Capital Region.

Today, Zappala Block remains in family hands, with the fourth generation proudly carrying on Salvatore's legacy.

The recognition places Zappala Block among a select group of New York businesses that have demonstrated remarkable longevity, resilience, and contributions to their communities. Officials at the ceremony highlighted the company's role not only in shaping Rensselaer's built environment but also in strengthening its economy and community identity.

Mayor Stammel praised Zappala Block as a true cornerstone of the city's history: "The Zappala family has shown what it means to build a business with heart and commitment. For more than a century, they have been an integral part of Rensselaer's growth and pride."



City Applying for \$10 Million Revitalization Grant

The City of Rensselaer is applying for \$10 million in state funding through the Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI), a program designed to bring transformative projects to communities across New York State. If awarded, these funds could help improve, expand, and reimagine Rensselaer's downtown—shaping a stronger and more vibrant future for our city.

But we can't do it without YOU! The City is inviting residents to share their ideas about what types of projects should be funded and what they would like to see in Downtown Rensselaer. Two opportunities are available to get involved:

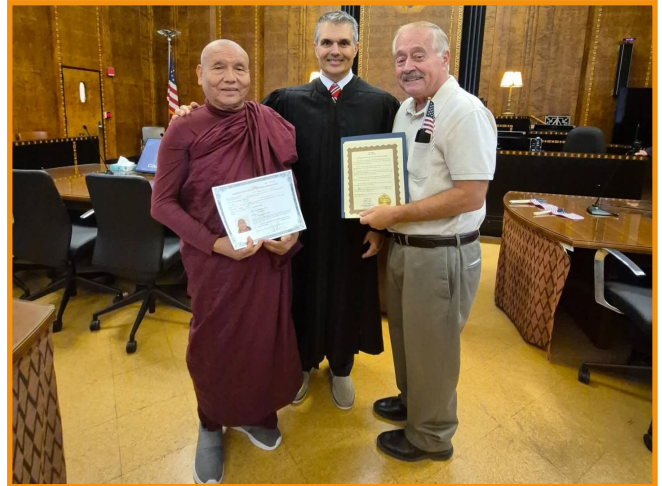
- **Thursday, October 2nd** – Visit us at the Rensselaer Farmers Market, 4–7 PM at Riverfront Park
- **Monday, October 22nd** – Join the DRI Workshop at City Hall, 5–6 PM

This is a chance for every resident to have a voice in shaping the future of Rensselaer. We encourage you to stop by, join the conversation, and help us bring new energy and opportunity to our community.

For more information, visit <http://rensselaerplanning.com>

Mayor Congratulates U Eithareya on U.S. Citizenship

Mayor Michael Stammel recently recognized an important milestone in the City of Rensselaer, congratulating Mr. U Eithareya on officially becoming a citizen of the United States. In honor of this achievement, Mayor Stammel presented Mr. Eithareya with a formal Proclamation from the City, highlighting his commitment to both the community and his new country.



Mr. Eithareya, who serves as the head Monk at the Dhammavadi Aung Myay Mingala Monastery in Rensselaer, has long been a respected spiritual leader and valued member of the city. The proclamation acknowledged not only his personal accomplishment in earning citizenship but also his ongoing dedication to fostering peace, cultural understanding, and service within the community.

Mayor Stammel expressed pride in recognizing Mr. Eithareya's achievement, stating that his journey reflects the values of perseverance and dedication that strengthen the fabric of Rensselaer. The City looks forward to his continued leadership and contributions as both a spiritual guide and now, a proud United States citizen.

Mahabodhi Buddha Celebration Brings Joy to Rensselaer



Mayor Stammel and Legislator Scott Rogers recently had the pleasure of attending the Mahabodhi Buddha Celebration at Riverfront Park. The event was a joyful occasion, filled with kindness, delicious food, and uplifting music. Both Mayor Stammel and Legislator Rogers expressed how much they enjoyed meeting community members and sharing in the warm and welcoming atmosphere.

The Mahabodhi Buddha Celebration is an important cultural and spiritual event rooted in Buddhist tradition. It commemorates the enlightenment of the Buddha beneath the Bodhi tree in Bodhi Gaya, India, one of the

most sacred sites in Buddhism. The celebration is marked by reflection, prayer, and expressions of gratitude, but also by the sharing of food, music, and fellowship. It brings people together across cultures and faiths to honor values of compassion, peace, and mindfulness.

As part of the day's festivities, Mayor Stammel and Legislator Rogers were introduced to Sepak Takraw, a traditional Southeast Asian sport similar to volleyball. Unlike volleyball, however, players use their feet, knees, chest, and head to keep a woven rattan ball in play. The exciting and skillful game added an engaging cultural experience for all who attended.

Catching Up with Lydia at Riverfront Park

At a recent event at Riverfront Park, Mayor Michael Stammel had the pleasure of catching up with Lydia Kyaw. Lydia is doing well and is now in college, working toward her goal of becoming a lawyer.

Many of you will remember Lydia for her outstanding work with the City of Rensselaer Planning Department, where she completed an internship from December 2023 to May 2024. During her time there, Lydia went above and beyond—assisting with office tasks, translating documents, inputting survey data, and even helping to coordinate a large public event at Rensselaer High School.



Her contributions were key to the Rensselaer Rising BOA Study, where she served as an important youth voice, bridging the gap between our city planners and the younger generation. Her professionalism, energy, and leadership left a lasting impact and set the bar high for future interns.

Television and Electronics Recycling

Residents of Rensselaer looking for a safe and reliable way to dispose of old televisions and other electronics now have a convenient resource just across the river. eLot Electronics Recycling, Inc., located at 64 Hannay Lane in Glenmont, is a full-service electronics recycling facility registered with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC).

As technology continues to evolve, households are left with outdated or broken devices that should not end up in landfills. Televisions, computers, and other electronic equipment contain materials that can be harmful to the environment if not handled properly. eLot provides the expertise and services needed to ensure these items are responsibly recycled, keeping hazardous materials out of the waste stream and helping protect our community's natural resources.

Unlike some municipalities, the City of Rensselaer does not offer curbside or bulk collection for electronics recycling. That's where eLot steps in as a valuable option. The facility accepts a wide range of electronics, including TVs, and is open Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., making it easy for residents to drop off unwanted items during the week.

For Rensselaer residents who want to do their part in protecting the environment while responsibly clearing out unwanted electronics, eLot Electronics Recycling offers a trusted and accessible solution.

Hybrid Athletics Basketball Tournament a Slam Dunk for Rensselaer

This past weekend, Rensselaer was buzzing with excitement as the **Hybrid Athletics Basketball Tournament** tipped off right here in our city. The tournament was a tremendous success, bringing together athletes, families, and fans for a weekend filled with energy, competition, and community pride.

Mayor Michael Stammel teamed up with **Devin Brooks and his Hybrid Athletics team** to help bring the event to Rensselaer. Together, they worked to make sure our city was the perfect home court for this tournament — and the results spoke for themselves. Packed stands, enthusiastic players, and a strong sense of community spirit made it a weekend to remember.

“Events like this showcase the best of Rensselaer,” said Mayor Stammel. “By partnering with leaders like Devin Brooks, we can create opportunities for our young athletes while bringing people together in a positive way.”

The City of Rensselaer extends its gratitude to Devin and his dedicated team for their hard work, passion, and commitment. Their efforts gave local athletes a chance to shine and reminded all of us of the power of sports to inspire, unite, and uplift a community.

With such a strong debut, we look forward to seeing the Hybrid Athletics Tournament become a growing tradition in Rensselaer.



Flotsam River Circus Brings Magic to Riverfront Park

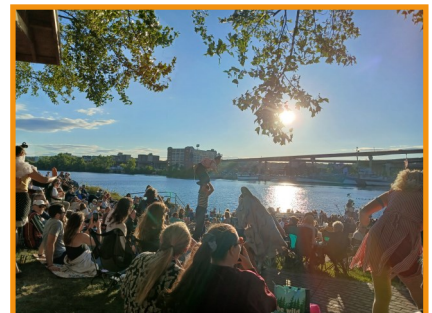
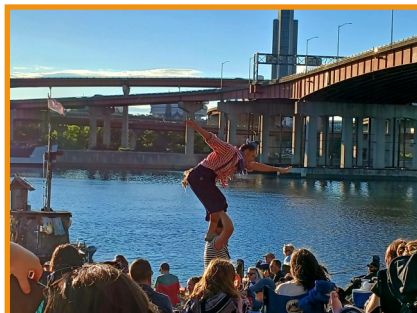
On Saturday, August 30, Rensselaer's Riverfront Park was filled with laughter, gasps, and applause as the **Flotsam River Circus** brought its one-of-a-kind floating spectacle to town. Performing on a hand-made raft stage anchored on the Hudson, the circus dazzled audiences with acrobatics, live music, and comedic theater—all against the stunning backdrop of the river. Families and visitors lined the shore to watch the performance, which seamlessly blended artistry, whimsy, and community spirit.



Flotsam River Circus is the brainchild of veteran circus performer **Abe Cohen**, who envisioned a troupe traveling by water to share their talents with riverside communities. Founded in 2019, the circus is unlike any other in the country. Instead of touring by road, the group sails a fleet of homemade rafts, carrying performers, instruments, and equipment along America's waterways. Each summer, they stop in towns both big and small, turning riverbanks into stages and passersby into captivated audiences.

This year, the circus embarked on its **East Coast tour**, traveling along the **historic Erie Canal and Hudson River**. Their journey retraced routes that once served as vital arteries of commerce and culture in New York State. From Albany to Troy, Schuylerville to Rensselaer, and onward downriver, each performance has been free and open to the public, inviting everyone to share in the joy of live performance art.

The Flotsam River Circus is more than entertainment—it is a celebration of creativity, resilience, and community connection. By bringing their floating theater to Rensselaer, the troupe not only provided a memorable night of wonder but also reminded us of the power of the arts to transform ordinary spaces into places of magic.



NYCLU Joins Fight to Close Dunn C&D Landfill

The New York Civil Liberties Union (NYCLU) has stepped into the long-running battle over the S.A. Dunn construction-and-demolition (C&D) landfill in Rensselaer, filing a detailed amicus curiae brief urging the Rensselaer County Supreme Court to nullify the state's recent permit renewal for the site. The NYCLU's intervention frames the landfill dispute not only as an environmental and zoning matter but as a civil-rights issue implicating environmental justice and the health and safety of a disadvantaged community.



The NYCLU's amicus brief supports arguments already advanced by the Rensselaer Environmental Coalition (REC) and the City of Rensselaer, who have mounted coordinated litigation challenging the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's (DEC) decision to renew Dunn's operating permits. The lawsuits — filed by REC and the city — allege the DEC failed to properly evaluate public health impacts, ignored overwhelming community opposition, and relied on a flawed renewal process that glossed over odors, dust, diesel pollution, and the intense truck traffic concentrated near neighborhood streets and the adjacent K–12 school campus.

The timing of DEC's action intensified the controversy: the agency issued and made effective renewed permits in late December 2024, with public notice appearing in the days just before Christmas Eve. Opponents say the timing amounted to a stealth decision that avoided full public scrutiny during the holidays. The permits do include new conditions — such as a 30% reduction in diesel truck traffic and a requirement that the operator fund emissions-reduction projects — but community leaders and REC contend these changes are inadequate to remedy longstanding harms.

NYCLU's involvement matters for several reasons. An amicus brief from a statewide civil-liberties organization elevates the litigation's profile, brings legal expertise around issues of civil rights and environmental justice, and can help shift the frame of the dispute toward constitutional and equitable claims — for example, whether state action disproportionately burdens a low-income or otherwise disadvantaged community. For REC and the City, the NYCLU's support strengthens arguments that the DEC's decision implicates broader public-interest and civil-rights concerns beyond narrow permitting technicalities.

Beyond legal strategy, the stakes are human. Residents and school officials have repeatedly documented the landfill's neighborhood impacts: persistent diesel fumes, dust and particulate concerns, noise from heavy truck traffic, and recurring foul odors that school staff say have disrupted classrooms and raised alarms among parents. Advocates argue these conditions pose both short-term quality-of-life harms and potential long-term health risks for children and other vulnerable residents. Those lived harms are central to REC and the city's request that a court scrutinize — and potentially vacate — the DEC's permit renewal.

What happens next is a legal battle that could set important precedents for how New York balances industrial permitting decisions against community health and environmental justice claims. With the NYCLU amplifying REC's case, the litigation now carries added legal heft and a sharper public-rights narrative. For Rensselaer residents and their allies, the filing signals renewed hope that the courts will take a harder look at whether the state fulfilled its duty to protect communities — especially children — who live beside the Dunn landfill.

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@rensselaer.ny.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.

General Lafayette's Historic Arrival in Rensselaer

On **Saturday, October 18, 2025, at 10 AM**, we invite you to join us at the corner of **Forbes Avenue and Central Avenue** for the unveiling of a new **Lafayette Trail marker**.

This marker commemorates **General Lafayette's two visits to Greenbush (Rensselaer) in 1824 and 1825**, important moments in our community's history. The ceremony is **free, open to the public, and family-friendly**.

On September 17, 1824, the City of Albany welcomed one of America's greatest Revolutionary heroes, General Marquis de Lafayette, with unparalleled excitement and celebration. His journey to the capital city began just across the Hudson River in the Town of Greenbush—today known as Rensselaer—where he boarded a ferry that carried him across the waters to Albany's bustling riverfront. The Hudson River, then a vital artery of travel and commerce, connected Greenbush and Van Rensselaer Island with Albany by means of a well-established ferry service. This was the very passage that Lafayette used to make his grand arrival.



A large and eager crowd had gathered on the Albany shore to greet the beloved French general, the last surviving major general of the Continental Army and a steadfast ally of George Washington during the American Revolution. Lafayette's visit was part of his grand tour of the United States, a year-long journey from 1824 to 1825 that would take him to all 24 states, rekindling the nation's revolutionary spirit nearly half a century after independence was won.

As Lafayette stepped ashore in Albany, he was met with thunderous applause and a ceremonial escort of troops. From the riverside, he was paraded through the city's streets under beautifully decorated arches, symbols of both honor and remembrance, before being brought to the old New York State Capitol. The hero's welcome reflected the immense gratitude felt by the people of Albany and all Americans for his contributions to liberty and the founding of the nation.

Lafayette's crossing of the Hudson from Greenbush to Albany was more than a simple ferry ride—it was a symbolic bridge between past and present. His arrival reminded citizens of the sacrifices made for independence and celebrated the enduring friendship between the United States and France. For the City of Rensselaer, then still the Town of Greenbush, it was a moment of historical significance: the small riverside community played a key role in ushering Lafayette into Albany for one of the most memorable celebrations of his farewell tour.

Lafayette's visit remains a cherished chapter in local and national history, one that highlights both the importance of the Hudson River as a gateway of connection and the deep respect Americans held for a hero of their Revolution.

Learn more about the William G. Pomeroy Foundation and how you can request historic markers by visiting their website at <http://nwgpfoundation.org>

Sign up for our email newsletter!

OCTOBER 2025



RENSSELAER PUBLIC LIBRARY

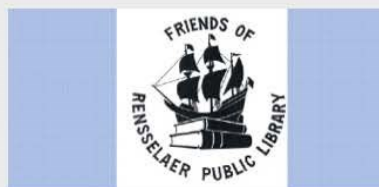
The Library will be **CLOSED**
Monday October 13th

Friends of the Library Meeting

Thursday October 16, 6 PM.

New members wanted!

Make friends, have fun and support a good cause: the Library!



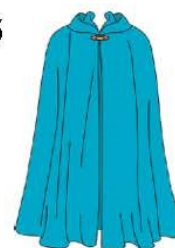
Did you know?

You can borrow books from any of the 36 libraries in the Upper Hudson Library system, and drop most items off at any location. Go to UHLS.org for more info.



Halloween Party- Friday October 31, 3:30 PM
Bring your little ones to show off their costumes. We will have photo stations, refreshments and activities. Ages 2-10.

Teen Costume workshop Saturday October 25
1 PM Meet-up to talk about making costumes. We will have a sewing machine and costume-making supplies available. Wearing costumes optional. Please sign up. Ages 13-18.



Drop-in Computer help:

Wednesday, October 1, 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 Job Help

Thursday October 2, 1-3 PM Stop in to get help on your job hunt with Rensselaer County Career Center.



Next month- November 1, 1 PM **Mystery Author's Panel**- meet 6 authors!

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

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



Like us on Facebook for updates and city info.

Rensselaer Public Library
676 East Street
Rensselaer NY 12144
(518) 462-1193
RensselaerLibrary.org

HOURS:

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

Romance you can
read right now.



Libby.

The library reading app

What's with George?

Walk into almost any school or government building in the United States, and you're likely to find a portrait of George Washington on the wall. But why? Washington's image has been displayed in public spaces since the early 19th century as a symbol of unity, patriotism, and civic virtue. After leading the Continental Army to victory and becoming the nation's first president, he quickly became a model of leadership and democratic ideals.

In New York State, as in much of the country, Washington portraits became common in classrooms, courthouses, and municipal buildings as a way to instill respect for the nation's founding principles. The practice was especially encouraged in the late 1800s and early 1900s, when civic education and patriotic displays were seen as essential to strengthening national identity.

At Rensselaer City Hall, a portrait of George Washington proudly hangs on the southwest wall of the second floor. More than decoration, it serves as a reminder of the values of service, sacrifice, and leadership that Washington embodied—principles that continue to guide American government and civic life today.



History of Halloween



Halloween, celebrated every year on October 31, has roots that stretch back over 2,000 years. The holiday began with the ancient Celtic festival of Samhain, a time when people marked the end of the harvest season and the beginning of winter. The Celts believed that on this night, the boundary between the living and the dead was blurred, and spirits could roam the earth. To ward off ghosts, they lit bonfires and wore costumes.

When Christianity spread through Europe, the church sought to replace pagan traditions with Christian observances. November 1 became All Saints' Day—also called All Hallows'—and the evening

before was known as All Hallows' Eve, which eventually became Halloween.

Immigrants from Ireland and Scotland brought Halloween customs to America in the 1800s, where traditions like carving pumpkins, telling ghost stories, and dressing in costumes grew popular. Over time, the holiday became more community-centered, with parties, games, and eventually the tradition of trick-or-treating.

Today, Halloween blends its ancient roots with modern fun, bringing together history, folklore, and celebration in one spirited night.

Heating Safety

There is something about the winter months and curling up with a good book by the fireplace. But did you know that heating equipment is one of the leading causes of home fire deaths? With a few simple safety tips and precautions you can prevent most heating fires from happening.

BE WARM AND SAFE THIS WINTER!

- Keep anything that can burn at least three-feet (one metre) away from heating equipment, like the furnace, fireplace, wood stove, or portable space heater.
- Have a three-foot (one metre) "kid-free zone" around open fires and space heaters.
- Never use your oven to heat your home.
- Have a qualified professional install stationary space heating equipment, water heaters or central heating equipment according to the local codes and manufacturer's instructions.
- Have heating equipment and chimneys cleaned and inspected every year by a qualified professional.
- Remember to turn portable heaters off when leaving the room or going to bed.
- Always use the right kind of fuel, specified by the manufacturer, for fuel burning space heaters.
- Make sure the fireplace has a sturdy screen to stop sparks from flying into the room. Ashes should be cool before putting them in a metal container. Keep the container a safe distance away from your home.
- Test smoke alarms at least once a month.



Heating Equipment Smarts

Install wood burning stoves following manufacturer's instructions or have a professional do the installation. All fuel-burning equipment should be vented to the outside to avoid carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning.

Install and maintain CO alarms to avoid the risk of CO poisoning. If you **smell** gas in your gas heater, do not light the appliance. Leave the home immediately and call your local fire department or gas company.



FACT

Half of home heating fires are reported during the months of **December, January, and February.**



**NATIONAL FIRE
PROTECTION ASSOCIATION**
The leading information and knowledge resource
on fire, electrical and related hazards

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 Rensselaer 518-487-4427

Hoosick Falls: 518-686-7561 Grafton: 518-279-3413 Schodack: 518-451-9741

October 2025

****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 | 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) Sliced Corned Beef Cabbage Whole Baby Carrots Marble Rye Bread Fresh Fruit | 2) Prime Rib Burger w/Onion Gravy Fluffy Mashed Potatoes Brussel Sprouts Dinner Roll Applesauce | 3) Tuna Noodle Casserole Buttered Wide Noodles Peas Biscuit Diced Peaches |
| 6) Sloppy Joe Corn Carrot Coins Round Roll Fresh Fruit | 7) Swiss Steak w/Tomato Gravy, Buttery Mashed Potatoes Cut Green Beans White Bread Cookie | 8) L/S Kielbasa German Potatoes Harvard Beets Unsalted Pretzel Stick Fresh Fruit | 9) Grilled Chicken Strips on Tossed Salad w/Dressing Cottage Cheese w/Peaches Croutons Tropical Fruit Cup | 10) Mediterranean Salmon White Rice Wax Beans Yogurt |
| 13) Columbus Day!  | 14) Italian Style Sausage & Peppers Pasta w/Sauce Italian Blend Italian Bread Fresh Fruit | 15) Chef's Choice  | 16) Chicken Tenders w/Ranch Tater Tots Winter Squash Diced Pears | 17) Crabmeat Salad on Lettuce Macaroni Salad Pickled Beet Salad Saltine Crackers Diced Peaches |
| 20) Liver w/Bacon & Onion Gravy Italian Roasted Potatoes Sliced Carrots Wheat Bread Fruit Bar | 21) Spaghetti & Meatballs w/Sauce Italian Blend Italian Bread Fresh Fruit | 22) Harvest Cheddar Turkey Burger Sweet Tater Tots Red Cabbage Round Roll Tropical Fruit Cup | 23) Butter Crumb Cod w/Tartar Sauce Rice Broccoli Florets Fresh Fruit | 24) Sliced Ham Cold Plate on Lettuce Potato Salad Pickled Beet Salad Rye Bread Yogurt |
| 27) BBQ Chicken Patty Mashed Sweet Potatoes Cut Green Beans Biscuit Fresh Fruit | 28) Prime Rib Burger w/Onion Gravy Seasoned Potato Wedges Normandy Blend Graham Crackers | 29) Creamy Macaroni & Cheese Zucchini & Tomatoes California Blend Fresh Fruit | 30) L/S Hot Dogs w/Mustard Vegetarian Baked Beans Seasoned Sauerkraut Hot Dog Roll Diced Pears | 31) Spooky Meatloaf w/Onion Gravy, Buttery & Batty Mashed Potatoes Diced Carrots Dinner Roll Halloween Dessert |

Suggested voluntary contribution of \$3.00 per meal. Guests under 60 must pay \$5.00 per meal.

No one is denied due to the inability to contribute.

Seniors Center Events for October

Here is what's happening at the East Greenbush-Rensselaer Senior Center

Don't sit home alone. Come join the fun!

We Serve 60 years old or older

- October 1st Lunch will be Corned Beef and Cabbage served at noon
Entertainment by Paul Slingerland & Co., 12:30-2:00
- October 2nd Food Demo with Jillian 10:30-11:30, Crafts with Harry 12:30-2:00, Tech Drop-in with Michelle St. Louis 10:30-11:30
- October 7-9 BLOW OUT SIDE WALK SALE (weather permitting)
- October 8th Oktoberfest, come for music by Jan's German Trio (Oom-Pah band), 12:45-1:45
food and a good time
- October 9th Scams Presentation by East Greenbush Police 11:00
- October 13th **CLOSED**
- October 14th Karaoke with Brian Zappel and October Birthday celebration
lunch will be sausage, peppers and onions, pasta and a special birthday cake
- October 15th Craft class with Debbie-Crochet Fall Pumpkins, 1:00-2:30
You **DO NOT** have to crochet to participate in this class
- October 16th Crafts with Harry, 12:30-2:00
- October 21st BINGO with Kate, 12:45
- October 24th Crafts with Lori, 10:00-12:00
- October 31st Halloween Party, Entertainment by Bobby T.
Lunch will be spooky meat loaf, monster mashed potatoes
Dress to impress, Halloween Costume Contest with prizes
The 3 categories for cash prizes are: Most Original, Scariest and Funniest

We will be trying new programs every Monday during the month on a trial basis. Will be offering either Sit and Be Fit exercise program, Cardio Drumming or a movie. Please check Facebook for more updates. Gloria also will be keeping everyone updated with her lunchtime announcements.

Check Facebook for details on all upcoming events.

Economic Development Loan Program

The city's Economic Development Loan Program is designed to offer below-market rate prime fixed at closing loans to eligible City businesses to encourage economic growth. Money has been appropriated through the City's Community Development Block Grant/Small Cities Program, as well as through the repayment of previous loans.

For more information on the loan program, check out the City's website at:

<https://rensselaerny.gov/economic-development-loan-program>

City of Rensselaer Industrial Development Agency

The City of Rensselaer Industrial Development Agency (CRIDA) is a not-for-profit public benefit agency established by an act of the New York State Legislature under Article 18-A Title 2 Section 903-c of the General Municipal Law. The CRIDA can help qualified businesses and not-for-profit organizations relocate, expand, and build in the City of Rensselaer.

Using tax abatement incentives, the CRIDA can help eligible companies cut the cost of acquiring, equipping, and constructing industrial, commercial, manufacturing and civic projects.

The CRIDA can also assist new and expanding businesses with site selection. To learn more visit www.cityofrensselaerida.com

Meetings of the CRIDA take place at 4:15 pm on the fourth Monday of each month in the Main Conference Room at Rensselaer City Hall, Meetings are also broadcast live on the CRIDA's Facebook page at: facebook.com/cityofrensselaerida

The Public is welcome to attend all meetings.

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!

Common Council Workshops & Meetings

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

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

Fall Cleanup & Preparation of Yard Waste

BRUSH: LEAVES / GRASS CLIPPINGS MUST BE IN PAPER BIODEGRADABLE BAGS. WE WILL NOT PICK UP LEAVES / CLIPPINGS IN PLASTIC BAGS. ALL BRUSH / BRACHES, TWIGS SHALL BE NO LONGER THAN 4 FT (NOT OVER 40 LBS) AND MUST BE TIED TOGETHER. CUT DOWN TREES / LIMBS OR EXTREME LARGE PILES WILL BE CHARGED BASED ON SIZE.

YARD WASTE PICK UP SCHEDULE: **MONDAY MORNINGS (EXCLUDING HOLIDAYS)**

BRUSH / TWIGS, LEAVES, GRASS CLIPPINGS, CHRISTMAS TREES (PLACE CURBSIDE SUNDAY NIGHT)

HOLIDAY PICK UP SCHEDULE CHANGE:

COLUMBUS DAY MONDAY 10/13/25 NO BRUSH PICK UP

VETERAN'S DAY TUESDAY 11/11/25 CHANGE OF PICK UP DAY

Normal Tuesday & Wednesday Pick Up is Wednesday, Normal Thursday Pick Up is Thursday and Normal Friday Pick Up is Friday

THANKSGIVING DAY THURSDAY 11/27/25 CHANGE OF PICK UP DAY

Normal Tuesday Pick Up is Monday, Normal Wednesday Pick Up is Tuesday, Normal Thursday & Friday Pick Up is Wednesday

DAY AFTER THANKSGIVING FRIDAY 11/28/25 CHANGE OF PICK UP DAY

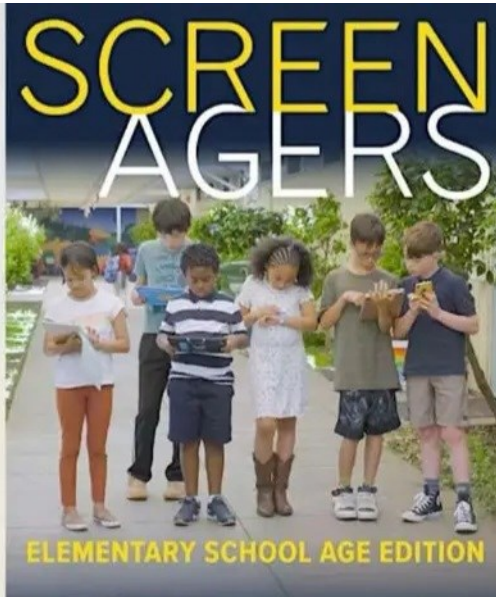
Normal Tuesday Pick Up is Monday, Normal Wednesday Pick Up is Tuesday, Normal Thursday & Friday Pick Up is Wednesday

CHRISTMAS DAY THURSDAY 12/25/25 CHANGE OF PICK UP DAY

Normal Tuesday Pick Up is Monday, Normal Wednesday Pick Up is Tuesday, Normal Thursday & Friday Pick Up Is Wednesday



**JOIN US FOR
TABLING W/
COMMUNITY
AGENCIES,
PIZZA, MOVIE
& A PANEL
DISCUSSION**



*Proudly offered by
Rensselaer County
Department of Mental Health:
The Prevention Services
Team*

**“ IT DOESN'T JUST DISCUSS
SMARTPHONES
BUT ALSO SMARTWATCHES
TABLETS AND COMPUTERS ”**



COMMUNITY MOVIE NIGHT

**TUESDAY OCTOBER 7TH
FROM 5:30 – 8:00 PM**

Knickerbacker Middle School
Auditorium
320 7th Ave, Troy, NY 12182

Screenagers: Elementary School Edition addresses issues that elementary school-aged kids, parents, and educators are facing, i.e., phones/smartwatches in class, unhooking from and monitoring video gaming, and social media pressures. The film will explore what the research shows regarding a healthy amount of screen time and many solutions to these and other challenges

If transportation assistance is needed, please contact
SAP Supervisor Kim Favro at KFavro@renscony.gov

**Snacks and pizza will be
provided at 5:30pm**



**THANK YOU!
Jimmy's Pizzeria**

**This event is not intended as an open forum for addressing district cell phone policies*

CHILI COOK-OFF

THE RENSSELAER FARMERS MARKET AT
RIVERFRONT PARK

THURSDAY, OCT. 2ND 4 PM - 7 PM

COMPETITION
& PRIZES

LIVE MUSIC

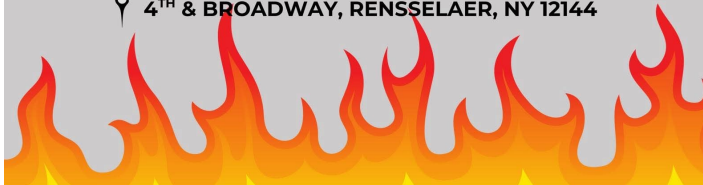
FOOD TRUCKS
& VENDORS



CALLING ALL CHILI LOVERS!

- FREE TO ENTER
- FREE TO TASTE
- ENCOURAGED TO VOTE!

📍 4TH & BROADWAY, RENSSELAER, NY 12144



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, OCT. 9TH 4 PM - 7 PM

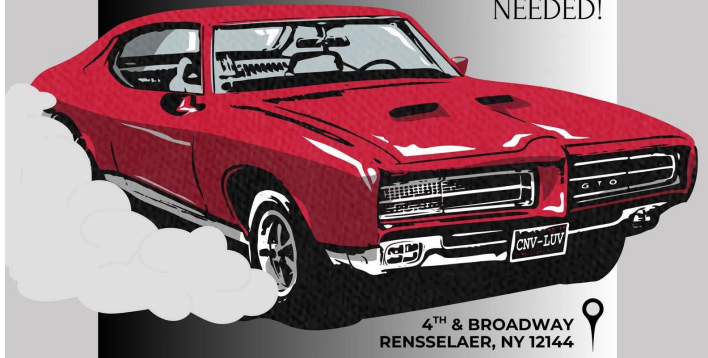
LIVE MUSIC

GREAT FOOD

PRIZES

RAIN DATE: OCT. 16TH

NO REGISTRY
NEEDED!



4TH & BROADWAY
RENSSELAER, NY 12144



Rensselaer Public Library

FREE FRUITS AND VEGETABLES
CAPITAL ROOTS SQUASH HUNGER



SQUASH HUNGER

TUESDAYS

Starting between 12:30 and 1 PM.

RENSSELAER PUBLIC LIBRARY
676 EAST STREET RENSSELAER

Extra! Extra!
Read all about it!

The New York Times

Access news from The New York Times
through your library!



NATIONAL PRESCRIPTION DRUG TAKE-BACK DAY



Turn in your unused or expired medication for safe disposal
Saturday October 25, 2025 from 10am to 2pm.

**Rensselaer City Police Department
201 Broadway
Rensselaer, NY 12144**

Sponsored by the Rensselaer Police Department

Proper disposal of unused prescription and over-the-counter medications is important to protect both people and the environment. Unused prescription and over-the-counter medications that remain in the home can cause serious harm to people if they are taken accidentally, intentionally misused or inappropriately given to someone else. Studies show that a majority of abused prescription drugs are obtained from family and friends, including the home medicine cabinet. Unused medications that are flushed down the toilet or poured down the sink can enter the water supply, harming fish and other wildlife and posing a potential risk to people.

Do not bring hazardous wastes, sharps such as used needles, or illegal drugs.

For more information or for additional collections sites go to:

<https://www.dea.gov/takebackday>

Any questions can be directed to Deputy Chief John M. Mooney Jr. at
john.mooney@rensselaerpolice.org

City of Rensselaer Events and Meetings

OCTOBER 2025



| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-----|--|---|---|---|---|-----|
| | | October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month  | 1 Common Council Meeting AND PUBLIC HEARING 6:30 @ City Hall | 2 FARMERS: MARKET Chilli Cook Off 4-7 pm | 3 | 4 |
| 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 FARMERS: MARKET Car Show 4-7 pm | 10 | 11 |
| 12 | 13 City Hall Closed Columbus Day | 14 Common Council Work- shop @ 6:30 City Hall | 15 Common Council Meeting AND PUBLIC HEARING 6:30 @ City Hall | 16 FARMERS: MARKET 4-7 pm | 17 | 18 |
| 19 | 20 Planning Commission Reg. Meeting 6:30pm @ City Hall Applications due to Planning | 21 | 22 | 23 FARMERS: MARKET 4-7 pm | 24 | 25 |
| 26 | 27 ZBA Meeting 6:00 pm @ City Hall | 28 | 29 | 30 FARMERS: MARKET 4-7 pm Revised Application Due to Planning | 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 |
| 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 |