



RENSSELAER CITY NEWSLETTER

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MAY 2024

From the Desk of Mayor Stammel

Office of the Mayor



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Highlights in this month's issue



Coyne Field Upgrades



USS Albany Dedication



Memorial Day Parade

I am very excited to inform you of the remarkable progress and development happening in the City of Rensselaer. Over the past year, our city has seen significant strides, particularly in addressing housing needs and enhancing community infrastructure.

Firstly, let's talk about housing. We've completed several apartment buildings, alleviating the strain on our housing market and meeting critical demands. But we're not stopping there. Plans for additional apartment constructions are underway, showcasing our dedication to diversifying housing options and catering to our growing community's needs. Our success in this area has even led us to submit an application to New York State to be designated as a Pro-Housing Community, a designation we expect to receive very soon. This designation will help us to access vital discretionary funds and further our housing initiatives. Several housing projects are already underway, including affordable housing developments and mixed-use properties, ensuring we meet the diverse needs of our community.

Turning to infrastructure and community enhancements, we've secured two substantial grants. An \$85,000 Brownfield Opportunity Area (BOA) grant for the Rensselaer Rising project aims to revitalize underutilized properties, laying the foundation for comprehensive urban development. Additionally, a \$1,927,000 grant for the Neighborhood Safe Parks Improvement Project will bring new park equipment, water stations, and surveillance infrastructure, rejuvenating our parks and creating safe, welcoming spaces for community engagement and recreation.

We have additional projects planned to enhance our residents' quality of life and support our growing community. These include road and transportation improvements, water and sewer upgrades, parks and recreation facilities enhancements, public safety enhancements, and technology and connectivity initiatives. These projects underscore our commitment to building a vibrant, resilient, and inclusive community.

Rensselaer's efforts haven't gone unnoticed. We've been honored with two RESTORE NY Awards for redevelopment initiatives at the former Hilton Center project at Barnet Mills and the McManus Center (formerly St. John's School). These projects will offer a blend of residential and retail spaces, boosting economic growth and enriching our city's fabric.

Looking ahead, our priorities include continuing our commitment to sustainable urban development and community well-being. We're dedicated to further progress in housing diversification, infrastructure improvements, and the revitalization of brownfield and underutilized properties. These efforts signify significant strides in Rensselaer's growth and revitalization journey.

Rensselaer is a city of opportunities for businesses and non-profit organizations alike. With our strategic location, robust infrastructure, and supportive business environment, we offer unparalleled access to markets. But it's not just about business; it's about community. Our vibrant non-profit sector enriches the lives of our residents and strengthens our community. Whether you're a business leader or a non-profit organization, Rensselaer is the place to be, where collaboration, diversity, and inclusivity thrive.

Honoring the Legacy of Pat Jackson



The community joined in honoring the enduring legacy of Pat Jackson, a stalwart champion of our city, during a heartfelt dedication ceremony on Friday, May 3rd. The event took place at the playground in Eastland Park, situated on Lakeview Avenue, where friends, family, and residents gathered to pay tribute to her remarkable contributions.

Pat Jackson was more than a public servant; she was a force of nature, tirelessly advocating for our community with unmatched passion and dedication. Her unwavering commitment to improving our city left an indelible mark on all who had the privilege of knowing her. As we come together to honor her memory, we reflect on the profound impact she had on countless lives and her enduring love for our city.

The dedication of the playground in Eastland Park serves as a fitting tribute to Pat Jackson's legacy. Just as she brought joy and laughter to our community, this playground will stand as a symbol of her enduring spirit, providing a space where children can play, laugh, and create cherished memories for generations to come.

As we celebrate the remarkable life of Pat Jackson and the legacy she leaves behind, let us unite in remembrance, reflection, and a commitment to carry forward her spirit of service and love for our city.



Rensselaer City Fire Department Showcases Life-Saving Innovation

In a recent emergency response, the Rensselaer City Fire Department (RCFD) demonstrated exceptional skill and innovation, showcasing their commitment to saving lives within the community. The deployment of Continuous Positive Airway Pressure (CPAP) technology played a crucial role in the successful treatment of a critically ill patient, underscoring the department's dedication to advancing emergency medical care.

The swift action and effective utilization of CPAP technology by the RCFD undoubtedly made a life-saving difference for the patient. What's particularly striking is the rapid impact of the one-month-old CPAP program, highlighting the department's proactive approach to implementing cutting-edge medical interventions.

FF/EMT Eric Hopkins, FF/EMT J. Schumaker, Chief Brooking, Assistant Chief Cherubino, and the entire RCFD team deserve commendation for their exemplary performance and dedication to excellence. Their quick thinking and proficient execution in utilizing advanced medical equipment reflect their unwavering commitment to serving the community. This successful outcome also underscores the importance of continuous

training and access to state-of-the-art equipment in emergency response settings. By staying abreast of the latest medical advancements and diligently honing their skills, the RCFD ensures that they are equipped to handle any emergency situation with professionalism and efficiency.

The Rensselaer City Fire Department serves as a shining example of professionalism, compassion, and excellence in emergency response. Their tireless efforts to improve and innovate in the field of emergency medical care are a testament to their unwavering commitment to the safety and well-being of the community they serve.



Rensselaer Community Comes Together to Prep Coyne Field for Opening Day

As the warm spring air fills the atmosphere, signaling the arrival of another baseball and softball season, the community of Rensselaer geared up for an exciting opening day at Coyne Field. Over a few short days, dedicated members, alongside volunteers from various organizations, worked hard undertaking much-needed improvements to ensure that the field is ready for the upcoming festivities.

The Rensselaer Little League, a cornerstone of the community, relies on Coyne Field as the backdrop for its games and events. Recognizing the importance of maintaining this vital community space, members of the Rensselaer Professional Firefighters, along with other dedicated volunteers, rallied together to prepare the field for the upcoming season.

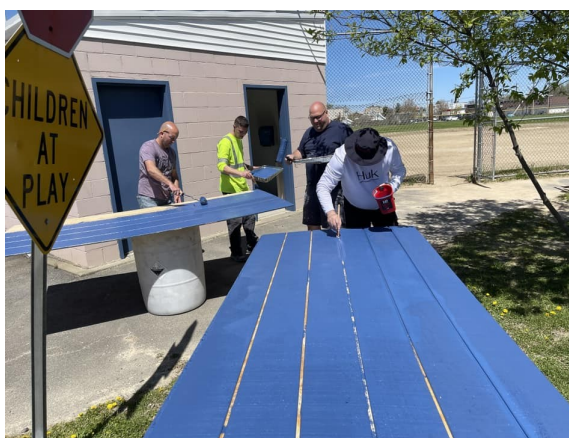
Under the guidance of Chief William F. Brooking Jr., these volunteers poured their time, energy, and expertise into the task at hand. From field maintenance to facility upgrades, every aspect received careful attention, ensuring that Coyne Field will provide a safe and enjoyable environment for players and spectators alike.

What makes this effort even more remarkable is the commitment of the on-duty fire crews who remained fully in service throughout the duration of the work. Despite the demands of their duties, these dedicated individuals stepped up to respond to several calls for assistance, demonstrating their unwavering dedication to serving the community, both on and off the field. Such collaborative endeavors serve as a testament to the strength and resilience of the Rensselaer community. It is a community where individuals from all walks of life come together, united by a shared sense of purpose and a commitment to making a positive difference.

As opening day approached, the community extended its heartfelt gratitude to Chief William F. Brooking Jr. for his leadership and inspiration, as well as to the Rensselaer Professional Firefighters and all the volunteers who generously gave their time and effort to ensure that Coyne Field is primed and ready for action.

But the appreciation doesn't stop there. The community also extends its thanks to everyone who has shown their support, whether through donations, participation, or simply cheering on the sidelines. It is this collective spirit of support and camaraderie that truly makes events like opening day at Coyne Field a special occasion for all involved.

Let us celebrate not only the game of softball but also the spirit of community that binds us together, making moments like this possible. Together, we are stronger, and together, we will continue to build a brighter future for Rensselaer and its youth.



CRIDA's Transparent Practices and Blight Reduction Efforts Drive Rensselaer's Development

The City of Rensselaer Industrial Development Agency (CRIDA) stands as a testament to the commitment to transparency and community involvement under Mayor Stammel's administration. Rigorous procedures precede any assistance granted by CRIDA, ensuring public participation and adherence to established policies.

These procedures include:

- Publicly announcing meeting schedules and dates.
- Conducting open public hearings.
- Adhering strictly to the Uniform Tax Exemption Policy (UTEP), with any deviations communicated promptly to relevant authorities.

Featured prominently on the CRIDA website <https://www.cityofrensselaerida.com/> the UTEP encompasses various projects, including recent mixed-use developments. These projects, aligned with local tax exemption laws, have spurred nearly \$40 million worth of mixed-use ventures throughout the city, including the construction of 150 market-rate apartments, enriching Rensselaer's housing landscape.

Recognizing the economic potential, developers are considering additional market-rate apartments, acknowledging their capacity to stimulate growth in communities.

During a recent CRIDA public hearing, stakeholders articulated a vision to complement the influx of market-rate residents with a vibrant downtown, complete with essential amenities like banks and grocery stores. This vision aims to elevate the overall quality of life for Rensselaer residents.

Before the successful adoption of the mixed-use UTEP component, a public hearing convened, attended by key stakeholders, who endorsed the initiative's potential to invigorate the local market and attract retail enterprises.

CRIDA's proactive stance leveraging state resources, underscores its commitment to Rensselaer's growth and prosperity.

Notably, CRIDA was not operational prior to Mayor Stammel's administration. Since its re-establishment, the agency has flourished, with several projects currently on the horizon, showcasing a renewed dedication to Rensselaer's development.



Revitalizing Albany's 787 Corridor: A Collaborative Vision for Rensselaer Rising

In a momentous step towards urban renewal, Rensselaer Rising and the Albany Riverfront Collaborative have joined forces to envision a transformative future for the 787 corridor. On April 25, 2024, Mayor Mike Stammel and the City Planning Department convened with key stakeholders to launch the "Reimagine 787" initiative. This groundbreaking effort seeks to rejuvenate access to the Albany waterfront while considering its profound implications for Rensselaer Rising, a vital urban redevelopment project.

Mayor Stammel set the stage for the discussion by underlining Rensselaer's recent advancements and its current access to the picturesque Hudson River waterfront. He emphasized the pivotal role of community engagement in shaping the city's trajectory. Scott Townsend of the Albany Riverfront Collaborative echoed this sentiment, commending the New York State Department of Transportation (DOT) for actively involving the community in the initiative.

Tom Hulihan, the City Planning Director, offered valuable insights into Rensselaer Rising, a multifaceted endeavor aimed at breathing new life into underutilized properties to foster a more dynamic community. Norabelle Greenberger from LaBella Associates is leading this initiative, generously supported by a Brownfield Opportunity Area (BOA) grant. Importantly, the potential changes envisioned by the "Reimagine 787" project could profoundly impact Rensselaer's urban landscape, necessitating thorough consideration within the BOA study area.

Kelley L. Kircher from DOT underscored the pivotal role of community input in shaping the future of the 787 corridor. She highlighted an upcoming open house scheduled for May 1, 2024, at the Albany Capital Center, providing an opportunity for the broader community to contribute their insights and ideas towards the corridor's evolution.

The meeting witnessed active participation from attendees, who posed pertinent questions and shared invaluable perspectives. This collaborative effort underscores a shared commitment to fostering sustainable urban development and enhancing the quality of life for residents in Rensselaer and beyond.

For those seeking further information, resources are available at Rensselaer Rising (<https://www.renssealerplanning.com/>) and the Albany Riverfront Collaborative (<https://www.albanyriverfrontcollaborative.com/>).

These platforms serve as hubs for ongoing updates and opportunities for community engagement, ensuring that the vision for the 787 corridor reflects the collective aspirations of all stakeholders involved.

Albany Riverfront Collaborative



**Rensselaer
RISING**

Buffalo Bills Star to Host Youth Football Camp in Rensselaer



Exciting news for young football enthusiasts in Rensselaer! Buffalo Bills star running back, James Cook, in collaboration with FlexWork Sports Management, will be presenting a youth football camp right here in our city this summer. The camp is scheduled to take place at Rensselaer Junior/Senior High School on July 7th.

The youth football camp presents a unique opportunity for aspiring young athletes to learn from one of the NFL's brightest stars. Participants can expect a day filled with skill-building drills, expert coaching tips, and valuable insights from Cook himself. Whether they're honing their technique or gaining inspiration from Cook's journey to the top, attendees are sure to benefit from this exciting event.

Registration details and further information about the camp will be made available soon, so stay tuned for updates. Don't miss this chance to learn from one of football's elite talents and take your game to the next level. Get ready to lace up your cleats and join us for an unforgettable day of football fun with James Cook!

USS Albany Association Memorial Service & Dedication

The City of Rensselaer is deeply privileged to have been selected to commemorate the legacy of the USS Albany. We invite you to join us as we pay tribute at the Memorial Service & Dedication organized by the USS Albany Association. This significant event will be held on Saturday, May 11, 2024, at 11:00 am in the serene surroundings of Rensselaer Riverfront Park, situated at 5th Avenue and Broadway.

This Memorial Service holds profound significance as we honor the service of all those who have served aboard the USS Albany, spanning from 1846 to the present day. Let us come together to honor their unwavering dedication and selfless sacrifice.



2024 Annual Spring Bulk Pick Up Schedule

For Bill Paying City Residents Only:

<u>If your Trash is picked up on</u>	<u>Your Bulk Day is</u>
WEDNESDAY mornings	Monday May 6, 2024
THURSDAY mornings	Monday,, May 13, 2024
FRIDAY mornings	Monday, May 20, 2024

The bulk size must not exceed a measurable size of 4 feet wide, 4 feet high and 8 feet long!

Check the City's website for more detailed information at:

https://rensselaer.ny.gov/application/files/5217/0870/6673/MARCH_2024_BILLING_INSERTS.pdf

Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

The City of Rensselaer Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for 2023 is here. The full report can be found on the City's website <https://rensselaer.ny.gov/news/annual-drinking-water-quality-report-2023> or contact the Water Department @ 518 462-6466

City Newsletter - Subscription & Article Submission

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

Inquires regarding articles, submission of articles or to be added to the Newsletter distribution list please send an email to Info@rensselaer.ny.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 Meetings 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://rensselaer.ny.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!

Memorial Day Parade

The annual Memorial Day Parade sponsored by the Gerald O'Neil American Legion Post 1683 and the City of Rensselaer will take place on Sunday, May 26th. Ceremonies will begin at 1 PM with gun salutes at the Beverwyck Cemetery on Washington Ave. The parade procession will kick off at the corner of Washington Ave and Forbes Ave at 2 PM. This year's parade route will Broadway, cross the Veteran's Crossing Bridge and will end in front of City Hall.



Library Corner

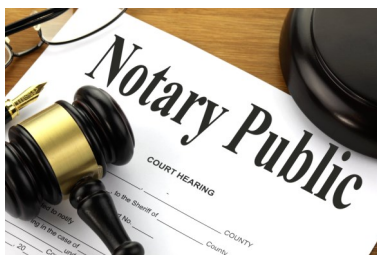
For any of our events requiring sign-up, please call the Library at 518-462-1193.



Is it time to renew your Library Card?

Contact the Library directly at 518-462-1193 or stop in!

Did you know residents of the City of Rensselaer with a valid library card can borrow a mobile hotspot for wifi for a month. Call us at 462-1193 for more information. Priority will be given to students of Rensselaer City School District.



Notary services and computer help are available with appointment, contact the Library directly for details. (Please make appointment to ensure someone is available.)

City Hall Garden Club!

Rensselaer City Hall Garden Club is once again looking forward to its 4th Annual City Hall Garden. Each year, City Hall staff members come together to plant flowers in front of City Hall and this year is no exception. The garden is a beautification initiative dedicated to our local Veterans. If you are interested in donating plants and clippings from your garden, please contact Amy Lolik in the Planning Department at 518-462-4839 x1523 or at amy.lolik@rensselaerny.gov before May 10th, 2024.



Annual City Hydrant Flushing

The Rensselaer City Water Department will flush hydrants throughout the city beginning May 13th, 2024 and ending May 16, 2024. Users may experience low water pressure and temporary discoloration caused by the stirring up of sediment in the system. This is not harmful. It is recommended that the washing of clothes be avoided when flushing is taking place in your local area. To remedy discoloration, run cold water in all your faucets for five minutes or until clear. Periodic flushing of the water distribution system is necessary to remove sediment and as a means of locating non-working hydrants and valves.

The flushing schedule - 8 A.M. to 3 P.M. Daily

MONDAY May 13th: All hydrants South of Partition St.

TUESDAY May 14th: All hydrants North of Partition St. to Fowler Ave

WEDNESDAY May 15th: All hydrants North of Fowler Ave to I-90

THURSDAY May 16th: All hydrants North of I-90 to the end of City Line



Beer & Pretzel Day!

Date: Sunday June 16th 2024

Time: 12:00 PM– 4:00 PM

Celebrate “Vadersdag” (Father’s Day) at Crailo!

Enjoy an afternoon of fun for the whole family with FREE colonial games and crafts at Crailo State Historic Site. Will your family compete to win our obstacle course challenge with a 17th century twist? Or explore our museum on a self-guided open house tour? Or simply enjoy some FREE snacks? Luckily, you can do it all!


The Friends of Fort Crailo will also be holding a Beer Garden fundraiser on the grounds of Crailo, where local craft brews will be sold. Please check our social media late-May for details and where you can purchase tickets.



Friends of
Fort Crailo



MAY 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Common Council Meeting 6:30 @ City Hall	2	3	4
5	6 ZBA Appeals Applications Due Planning Commission Meeting 6:30 pm City Hall	7	8	9	10	11
12	13 Common Council Workshop @ 6:30 City Hall	14 Planning Commission Applications Due	15 Common Council Meeting 6:30 @ City Hall	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26 	27	28	29	30	31 Planning Revisions Due	1

JUNE 2024

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2	3 Common Council Workshop @ 6:30 City Hall ZBA Applications Due	4	5 Common Council Meeting 6:30 @ City Hall	6	7	8
9	10 Planning Commission Meeting 6:30 pm City Hall	11 Planning Commission Applications Due USS Albany Memorial @ Riverfront 11:00 am	12	13	14	15 Father's Day @ Crailor 12:00 pm
16	17 Common Council Workshop @ 6:30 City Hall	18	19 Common Council Meeting 6:30 @ City Hall	20	21	22
23	24 ZBA Meeting @ 6:00 City Hall	25	26	27	28 Planning Revisions Due	29
30						

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