



# RENSSELAER CITY NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 3

MARCH 2024

Office of the Mayor



Mayor Mike Stammel  
518-426-9511

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## Highlights in this month's issue



Open Space Plan



Spring Neighborhood Cleaning



Boat Launch Docks

## *Dunn Landfill: Rensselaer's Discord, Discontent, and a Quest for Closure*

The Dunn Landfill, a towering testament to construction debris in the heart of Rensselaer, has become a symbol of discord and discontent for residents. Approved by previous city administrations, the landfill now faces fierce opposition from Mayor Stammel and a growing chorus of voices demanding its closure. The landfill's operations are not helping the city financially. The city had budgeted to receive \$1 million a year from the landfill but is only averaging about \$446,000.00 in annual revenue.

For years, residents have endured the pungent odors, dust clouds, and incessant truck traffic emanating from the facility. Concerns over air and water quality linger, fueled by proximity to the Rensselaer City School District and the potential health risks posed to students and staff. Property values are being impacted, casting a shadow over the economic well-being of the community.

Mayor Stammel, a long-standing critic of the landfill prior to his election, points to the expired permits and ongoing legal battles as evidence of its troubled operation. He emphasizes the impact on quality of life, stating, "The foul odors, the constant truck traffic, and the potential health risks are simply unacceptable. This landfill has no place in our community."

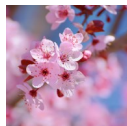
Businesses, too, feel the pinch. Increased truck traffic congests roads, disrupts deliveries, and discourages customers. Local shops struggle to compete with the noise and dust, further hindering their ability to thrive.

The previous city administration boasted about the economic benefits they said the landfill brought to the community, including jobs and tax revenue. They also highlighted the landfill's community support, citing sponsorships and donations to local organizations.

Prior to Mayor Stammel taking office, the previous administrations' perspective clashed with the concerns of residents and environmental groups. Residents as well as environment groups countered that the economic benefits are outweighed by the negative impacts on quality of life, property values, and potential health risks. The proximity to the school district remains a major point of contention, raising fears about student well-being.

Mayor Stammel has been working closely with Rensselaer Environmental Coalition, a community group dedicated to environmental protection. Both stand alongside residents and businesses in the quest to close Dunn Landfill. They advocate for stricter regulations and comprehensive studies to assess the landfill's true impact. "The health and well-being of our community is paramount," says Sarah Jones, a coalition member. "We urge the authorities to listen to our concerns and take decisive action to protect our environment and our future."

The Dunn Landfill saga highlights the complex challenges associated with waste management and its impact on communities. As the debate continues, one thing remains clear: the residents of Rensselaer will not be silenced. Their voices, amplified by their concerns and fueled by a desire for a cleaner, healthier future, demand a solution.



Spring



## Open Space & Recreation Plan (OSP)

The City of Rensselaer is buzzing with excitement as it embarks on a journey to transform its natural spaces and recreational opportunities. The **Open Space & Recreation Plan (OSP)**, launched in March 2022, marks a significant step towards enhancing the city's livability, resilience, and connection to the majestic Hudson River. This preservation initiative, funded by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's Hudson River Estuary Program, aims to achieve two key goals:

- **Conserve and enhance existing open spaces:** The plan will identify and prioritize natural areas for protection, ensuring the preservation of Rensselaer's unique ecological heritage. This includes exploring the potential for expanding green corridors, protecting wetlands, and safeguarding wildlife habitats.
- **Create a more vibrant and accessible recreation landscape:** The OSP envisions a city where residents of all ages and abilities have access to diverse recreational opportunities. This could involve improvements to existing parks and playgrounds, the development of new trails and green spaces, and the creation of programs that promote health and well-being.

### **Community Engagement is Key:**

The success of the OSP hinges on active community participation. Public meetings, workshops, and surveys have been conducted to gather resident input and ensure the plan reflects the needs and aspirations of the community.

The OSP has been completed and is available for review and final comment at <https://www.rensselaerplanning.com/openspaceplan>. All comments provided by March 22, 2024 at 3:00 PM will be shared with the Steering Committee, Planning Commission and Common Council. A copy of the final plan may be received by emailing [thomas.hulihan@rensselaerny.gov](mailto:thomas.hulihan@rensselaerny.gov)

The Open Space & Recreation Plan is not just a document; it's a roadmap for a greener, healthier, and more vibrant Rensselaer. With community collaboration and a shared commitment to sustainability, this initiative has the potential to transform the city's landscape and create a lasting legacy for generations to come. So, let's join hands, embrace the spirit of renewal, and work together to make Rensselaer a place where nature thrives, recreation flourishes, and community spirit soars!

## Boat Launch Docks Reopening Soon!

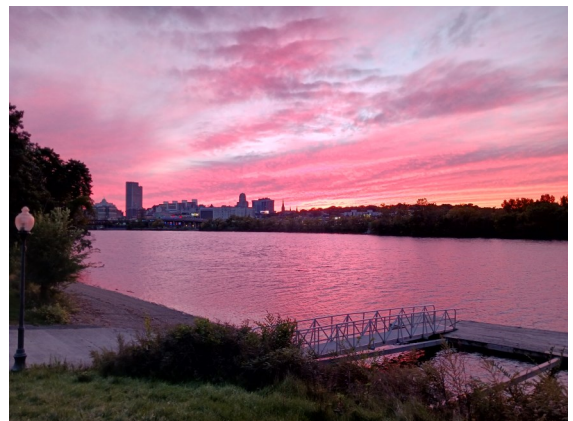
We're thrilled to announce that the City's docks will be installed at the boat launch on April 12th!

With warmer weather on the horizon, it's time to gear up for another season of adventures on the open waters.

Our boat launch is your gateway to aquatic exploration.

Round up your crew, gear up, and prepare for another fantastic season on the Hudson River.

We'll see you at the launch!



## Summer Employment Opportunities Available for Rensselaer's Youth

The City of Rensselaer is currently conducting interviews for summer employment opportunities within the Youth Bureau. We are looking to fill positions for 4 adults and 4 individuals aged 16-21 to supervise three of our recreational parks across the city. Additionally, the Boys & Girls Club summer program will also require 1-2 younger adults.

Employment will span July and August 2024, and applicants must be available to work all or parts of some weekends.

Responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

- Initiating and participating in activities with the city's youth
- Maintaining work areas
- Inventory and monitoring playground supplies
- Locking and unlocking sheds
- Reporting issues/concerns
- Being a positive role models for our youth and the City of Rensselaer

To apply, please contact Jim Konstantakis, Youth Bureau Director, at [jim.konstantakis@rensselaerny.gov](mailto:jim.konstantakis@rensselaerny.gov).



# Library Corner

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



## **Mad Hatter Tea Party: Thursday March 14 at 6 PM.**

We're having a wild tea party with Alice. Decorate mini whimsical top-hats and enjoy tea and refreshments at our Alice in Wonderland themed party. For adults, teens welcome. Sign up for this event is required. Please visit the library's website or contact the library for more information.

## **Drop-in Tech Help: Wednesday April 3rd from 2pm to 3pm.**

Cornell Cooperative Extension Digital Literacy educator is here to help with your technology questions. No sign up needed, bring your device. You can also make an appointment with library staff.



## **NYS Citizen Preparedness Corps Training Program: Saturday March 23, 2024**




With severe weather events becoming more frequent and more extreme, it is more important than ever that New Yorkers are prepared for disasters.

The NY Citizen Preparedness Training Program teaches residents to have the tools and resources to prepare for any type of disaster, respond accordingly and recover as quickly as possible to pre-disaster conditions.

The training course will provide an introduction to responding to a natural or man-made disaster. Participants will be advised on how to properly prepare for any disaster, including developing a family emergency plan and stocking up on emergency supplies.

Sign up on the Library website at <https://www.rensselaerlibrary.org/>

or call 518 462-1193



### The New York State Citizen Preparedness Corps Training Program

Invites you to participate in a private training event at:

**Rensselaer Public Library**  
676 East Street, Rensselaer, NY 12144  
March 23, 2024 10:30am - 11:30am  
Point of Contact: Jane Chirgwin at (518) 462-1193

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Note: Disaster Preparedness Kits are not distributed at private training events. Seating will be on a first come, first serve basis. Max Capacity: 40

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

**(518) 462-1193**



# Spring is in the Air

As the days grow longer and the sun paints the sky with shades of orange and pink, spring brings a sense of renewal. With birdsong filling the air, it's time to embrace this season by keeping our Rensselaer community clean.

Let's come together to beautify our neighborhoods. Simply picking up trash around our properties can make a big difference. Whether it's a stray coffee cup or fallen leaves, every bit counts in maintaining the natural beauty emerging around us.

Don't forget to tidy up remnants of winter by raking leaves and bagging them neatly for collection. This ensures our sidewalks and streets remain clutter-free, promoting a healthier and more enjoyable environment for all.

Beyond aesthetics, a clean neighborhood fosters community pride and responsible stewardship. By actively participating in cleanliness efforts, we create a vibrant and welcoming atmosphere for everyone.

So, let's get to work! By working together, we can make Rensselaer a place where spring truly flourishes. Let's beautify our streets, nurture community spirit, and welcome the new season with open arms.

## Spring Into Health: Tips for a Fresh Start This March

As the days grow longer and the temperature begins to rise, March marks the perfect time to rejuvenate our health routines. With the onset of spring, it's an ideal opportunity to embrace positive changes and foster a healthier lifestyle. Here are some tips to help you spring into better health this March:

**Get Moving Outdoors:** Whether it's a brisk walk, a jog in the park, or cycling along scenic trails, outdoor activities can invigorate both body and mind.

**Embrace Seasonal Eating:** Spring brings an abundance of fresh fruits and vegetables to the table. Incorporate seasonal produce such as strawberries, asparagus, spinach, and peas into your meals for added nutrition and flavor.

**Prioritize Mental Health:** As we transition into a new season, take the time to check in with your mental well-being. Practice mindfulness techniques, such as meditation or deep breathing exercises, to reduce stress and promote inner calm. .

**Spring Cleaning for Your Health:** Just as you tidy up your living space, consider decluttering your health habits. Evaluate your diet, sleep patterns, and exercise routine, identifying areas for improvement. Set realistic goals and create a plan to incorporate healthier habits into your daily life, whether it's meal prepping, establishing a regular sleep schedule, or scheduling regular workouts.

**Stay Hydrated:** As the weather warms up, it's essential to stay hydrated throughout the day. Aim to drink plenty of water to maintain optimal hydration levels and support overall health.

**Practice Sun Safety:** While enjoying outdoor activities, don't forget to protect your skin from the sun's harmful rays. Apply sunscreen with a high SPF, wear protective clothing, and seek shade during peak sun hours to prevent sunburn and reduce the risk of skin damage and skin cancer.

**Get Adequate Rest:** Quality sleep is crucial for overall health and well-being. Aim for seven to nine hours of uninterrupted sleep each night to allow your body and mind to recharge. Create a relaxing bedtime routine, limit screen time before bed, and create a comfortable sleep environment to promote restful sleep.

By incorporating these tips into your daily routine, you can spring into better health this March and set yourself up for a vibrant and energized season ahead. Embrace the opportunities for renewal and make your health a top priority as you welcome the arrival of spring.

## 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>
TUESDAY mornings	Monday April 29, 2024
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://rensselaerny.gov/application/files/5217/0870/6673/MARCH\\_2024\\_BILLING\\_INSERTS.pdf](https://rensselaerny.gov/application/files/5217/0870/6673/MARCH_2024_BILLING_INSERTS.pdf)

## City Newsletter - Subscription & Article Submission

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

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

We look forward to hearing from you!

## Common Council Workshops & Meetings

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

Agendas are posted on the City's website at

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

each Monday prior to the Workshops. Your attendance and input are important and your community needs your support. We hope to see you there!



Rensselaer County number: **(518) 270-2888**  
 City of Troy, NY number: **(518) 279-7313**

# Paint Recycling Event

Saturday, April 6 9am-1pm  
 at Hudson Valley Community College

Open to all Rensselaer County residents

Registration Required:  
<https://circular.eco/event/rensselaer-paint-recycling-event>

Paint must be in original labeled container  
**\*\*No cracked or leaking containers\*\***



## Accepted Materials:

- ▶ urethanes
- ▶ oil-based and latex-based paints
- ▶ acrylic paint
- ▶ varnishes, shellacs and lacquers
- ▶ primers
- ▶ clear coatings

## Not Accepted:

- ▶ spray paints, marine and auto paints
- ▶ household hazardous waste
- ▶ electronics
- ▶ paint thinner
- ▶ driveway sealers

**GreenSheen**  
 Eco-Friendly Paint

**PaintCare**  
 RECYCLING MADE EASY



Hudson Valley Community  
 College, Parking Lot B  
 North Drive Entrance

Cornell Cooperative Extension | Rensselaer County

## SENIOR VETERANS & SPOUSES



## Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) Tech Help

Our resource educator will provide personalized assistance to help you get the most out of your cell phone, laptop, or tablet.

Sessions are held at our office and are open to adults of all ages. We only ask for a donation to support our cause.

Call Michelle today to book your free consultation and unlock the full potential of your devices!

## Sign Up Today!

Call: Michelle St. Louis  
 Phone: (518) 272 - 4210 Ext. 108  
 Email: [ms3756@cornell.edu](mailto:ms3756@cornell.edu)

Date: Monday, March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024  
 Time: 10:30AM - 11:30AM  
 Place: 99 Troy Road, Suite 203  
 East Greenbush, NY 12061

Check out CCE Events:

<https://rensselaer.cce.cornell.edu/events>

Dartmouth  
 Cancer Center



# Seeking women ages 40-49 for a study

## This study involves:

- Joining in a confidential 1 to 1.5 hour focus group or individual interview (online or in-person)
- Discussing your thoughts and concerns about environmental breast cancer risks (e.g., PFAS)
- Looking at material that helps women make choices about breast cancer screening and provide feedback

**Participants receive a \$50 gift card for their time!**

## This is a study for women who are:

1. Age 40-49
2. Have not had breast cancer
3. Living in the following counties since 2016:

### New Hampshire:

- Merrimack
- Hillsborough
- Rockingham

### Maine:

- Kennebec
- Waldo
- Somerset
- Penobscot

### Vermont:

- Bennington

### New York:

- Rensselaer

To learn more or  
 participate, contact:

Mia St. Angelo, MPH  
 603-646-5610  
[Mia.St.Angelo@dartmouth.edu](mailto:Mia.St.Angelo@dartmouth.edu)



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS  
 OF SOUTHERN RENSSELAER  
 COUNTY

# Taste of Elegance

**Friday, April 5 7:00 - 10 pm**

**Hilton Garden Inn**  
 235 Hoosick Street, Troy, NY 12180

## Join the event of the year!

Taste of Elegance is the renowned Boys & Girls Club fundraising event featuring the Capital Area's best food, wine, beverage and market vendors. Tickets and sponsor opportunities are available now!



[BGCSORENSCO.ORG/TOE](http://BGCSORENSCO.ORG/TOE)

\$150 Honorary Ticket

\$99 Advance Ticket

\$75 Young Professional

\$125 Door



Proceeds to benefit Boys & Girls Clubs of Southern Rensselaer County



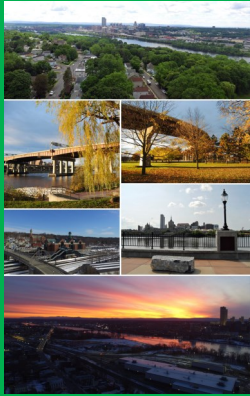


Photo Compilation  
by Dave Ellis

*Yard waste (grass  
clippings, leaves  
brush and twigs  
are scheduled for  
pick up on  
Mondays.*

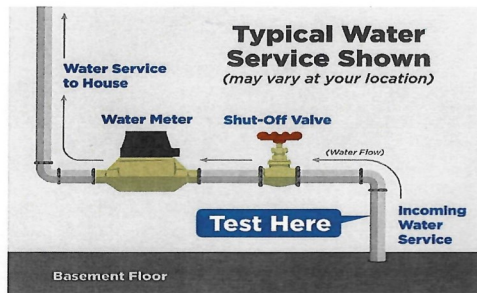
## City-Wide Lead Pipe Replacement Program

By now you have surely heard that the City's Water Department is asking homeowners to inspect their water lines from inside their home that connects to the water meter. This program is part of a State-wide mandate and our Water Department needs this information in order to meet the guidelines set for the Lead and Copper Rule Improvements. For more information on how to complete the steps to find out if you have a lead service line see below. You can set up an appointment to have the City complete the steps for you, just contact the Water Department at 518 462-6466 ext. 2

### How to Find Out if You Have a Lead Service Line

**Complete the steps below and submit your results.**

This information will help in the planning of a City-wide lead pipe replacement program.



#### You will need:

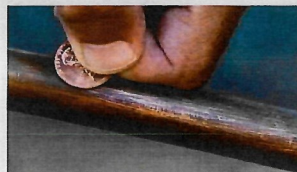
- Key or a coin
  - Strong refrigerator magnet
1. Find the water meter in your basement. Look at the pipe that comes through the outside wall of your home and connects to your meter.
  2. Carefully scratch the pipe (like you would a lottery ticket) with a key or a coin. Do not use a knife or other sharp tool. **NOTE:** If pipe is painted, use sandpaper to expose the metal first.
  3. Place the magnet on the pipe.
  4. Compare your pipe to the images below and submit your results at [water@rensselaerny.gov](mailto:water@rensselaerny.gov)

#### Lead



A magnet will not hold.  
The scratched area will be shiny silver and flake off.

#### Copper



A magnet will not hold.  
The scratched area will be copper in color, like a penny.

#### Steel



A magnet will hold to the surface.  
A scratch test is not needed.

The Rensselaer City Water Department does not have information on the material of your water service line and we need your help collecting this information. Alternatively, please contact the Water Department to schedule an appointment for a staff member to come check the material of your water service line.

The City's water mains are not made of lead. However, the water service line running from the water main to your home may be made of lead. Free lead testing of your tap water is available, visit <https://rensselaerny.gov/City-Departments/water-and-sewer-department>

518-462-6466 | [water@rensselaerny.gov](mailto:water@rensselaerny.gov) | [rensselaerny.gov/City-Departments/water-and-sewer-department](https://rensselaerny.gov/City-Departments/water-and-sewer-department)



# City of Rensselaer Events and Meetings

## MARCH 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Planning Apps Revisions Due	2
3	4 Common Council Workshop pm @ 6:30 City Hall ZBA Application Due	5	6 Common Council Meeting 6:30 @ City Hall	7	8	9
10	11 Planning Commission Meeting 6:30 pm @ City Hall	12 Planning Apps Due	13	14	15	16
17 	18 Common Council Workshop @ 6:30 City Hall	19	20 Common Council Meeting 6:30 @ City Hall	21	22	23
24	25 ZBA Meeting @ 6:00 City Hall	26	27	28	29 Planning Apps Revisions Due	30

# DIRECTORY

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