

## Rensselaer County News

**TROY**

### Rensco And ValleyCats Partner For 2021 Season

Rensselaer County and the Tri-City ValleyCats will be teaming up for a number of community outreach projects during the 2021 season, including several efforts to encourage residents to become vaccinated.

The partnership between the county and the Cats was announced Monday, May 17 at a press conference at the Joseph L. Bruno Stadium with County Executive Steve McLaughlin, members of the ValleyCats front office and new Cats Manager Pete Incaviglia.

"The ValleyCats are Rensselaer County's hometown team, and we look forward to partnering with the Cats to get people out to The Joe and encourage residents to be vaccinated," said McLaughlin.

"We've partnered with Rensselaer County to help vaccinate our team and this is a great opportunity for fans to do the same," said ValleyCats President Rick Murphy. "We look forward to working together on a safe and fun-filled summer as we prepare for our inaugural season in the Frontier League."

The Cats will hold the home opener on June 4. The county will bring a vaccination clinic to The Joe for Opening Day and encourage residents to be conveniently and safely vaccinated.

The Opening Day vaccination clinic on June 4 is



When ValleyCats mascot Southpaw found out Eastwick Press reporter Amy Modesti has been fully vaccinated, he gave her the "ole squeeze play." Photo by County Legislator Bob Loveridge.

the first of seven vaccination clinics. Other clinics at Cats games at The Joe include June 19, July 7, July 29, August 6, August 19 and August 29.

As an incentive, individuals who become vaccinated at a county Cats clinic at The Joe will receive a family four-pack of tickets redeemable at the August 29 game. The first 2,000 kids in attendance will receive a free youth ValleyCats baseball jersey.

The county and Cats partnership will include a family BBQ event at The Joe, including a meet and greet with Cats players and a vaccination opportunity.

There will also be a special senior day at a Cats game during the summer, also including an opportunity for vaccinations.

During the 2021 season, individuals who receive vaccinations will be entered into

drawings to win ValleyCats merchandise, including jerseys, hats, t-shirts and on-field experiences.

"We are excited to see the Cats take the field, just as we are excited to see progress in the fight against COVID-19. We are encouraging residents to come out for a great night of baseball with future stars of the game, and to take the opportunity to be vaccinated conveniently," said McLaughlin.

### Letter To The Editor

#### Give It Back

So, Rensselaer County has a budget surplus of \$18 million. Here is a novel idea – give the money back to the local residents, reduce your budgets for next year, and lower the taxes on those that created this surplus! Remember all Governments, whether Federal, State or Local, receive all of their monies from taxpayers, that is, we the people.

Garth Cowan, Stephentown

### The Eastwick Press



34 Richmond Road  
Cropseyville, NY 12052



Telephone: 518-203-7574

email: news@eastwickpress.com

Advertising Dept.: ads@eastwickpress.com

Doug La Rocque, Editor & Publisher

Tom Withcuskey, Publisher

Steve Bradley, Sports Editor

Miranda Sehl, Graphic Design

Heidi Woofenden, Executive Assistant

Reporters: Alex Brooks, Amy Modesti,  
Denise Wright, Chris Teragliafera

The Eastwick Press is the official newspaper of the Towns of Berlin, Grafton, Hoosick, New Lebanon, Petersburg, and Stephentown, the Village of Hoosick Falls, and the Berlin, Hoosick Falls, and New Lebanon School Districts.

### New York Press Association Award Winning Newspaper

Winner of 2020 Good News Rensselaer  
County Award presented by the  
Rensselaer County Chamber of Commerce

#### Subscription Info:

A regular subscription is \$40 per year mailed by second class mail. Subscriptions outside Rensselaer County cost \$50. A Supporter of The Eastwick Press pays \$60 per year; a Patron pays \$75 per year. If you like the paper and would like to see it prosper, please consider becoming a Supporter or a Patron.

**Office Hours:** Monday - Wednesday 9 am to 5 pm;  
Friday and Saturday by appointment.  
Closed Thursday and Sunday.

The Eastwick Press, USPS 017-765, is published 50 times a year on a weekly schedule by The Petersburg Press, LLC except one issue is skipped in early July and one in late December. Subscriptions are \$40 per year, \$50 outside of Rensselaer County. Offices are located at 13 Babcock Lake Road in Grafton, NY. Periodicals Postage Paid at Petersburg, NY.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to:

The Eastwick Press  
34 Richmond Road, Cropseyville, NY, 12052

### Sweeney's Tree & Land Management

"Managing timberlands  
to insure an everlasting forest"

Forest management plans  
Timber appraisal  
Timber harvesting  
(518) 428 9164

Licensed in New York and Massachusetts

**TROY**

### Rensselaer County Ready To Emerge Stronger From Pandemic

Rensselaer County Executive State McLaughlin's Spring Column

Greetings to friends and neighbors in Eastern Rensselaer County. This column is presented to give residents up to date information and a better understanding of issues being dealt with in county government. One area of interest is the State of the County I recently delivered before residents and members of the County Legislature.

The State of the County is an annual address, required by the County Charter, and offers a look at important events, accomplishments, goals and challenges. Obviously, the ongoing pandemic and the response to COVID-19 made the 2021 State of the County even more unique.

There are reasons to be optimistic as we move forward during a time of challenge. The 2021 budget includes a tax decrease, the third consecutive tax reduction for the county. Along with lowering taxes three consecutive years, we have remained under the state tax cap since the cap was implemented a decade ago.

The county has also improved needed services. During the State of the County, we looked at our success in paving roads. In 2020, we paved 50 miles, a record number of miles. During the past three years, we have paved over 105 miles of roads. We recognize that for many residents, paving roads is a major priority and have worked hard to improve roads in every

corner of the county.

Along with the paving of 105 miles of roads, the county has also made important investments to upgrade the county Highway fleet to ensure efficient and up to date equipment for our crews. I also joined with Highway Superintendents from across the county to advocate for needed state funding for highway projects.

The county is also continuing work to develop a new emergency services training tower in North Greenbush, to replace the tower that has been closed for several years. We recognize the outstanding service of our volunteer firefighters and their families and appreciate the dedication and bravery they show our county.

The county continues to make a major effort to rebound from COVID-19. The county POD (Point of Delivery) at Hudson Valley Community College has successfully delivered thousands of vaccines and received considerable praise and appreciation from residents. We thank our Health Department and volunteers with the Medical Reserve Corps for doing an outstanding job safely and efficiently providing vaccines to residents. Community partners at medical offices and pharmacies have also done solid work

Continued on page 19