

AUGUST 2016

# CLIFTON PARK

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FOR RESIDENTS

# Neighbors

*Isabel Prescott*  
Wins 2016 Open  
Space Award



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Cover photo by Louis Torres Photography

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### COMMUNITY SUBMISSIONS

Have feedback? New ideas? We would be happy to hear from you! Please contact Jenna Caputo at jcaputo@bestversionmedia.com for information on how to submit ideas, articles, updates, reminders, events, high-resolution photos and more. We will do our best to include as much community information as we can within our space limitations.

### MAGAZINE DEADLINES

Please submit your content by the 10th of each month.

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**ON THE COVER**  
 Isabel Prescott

## Hello CLIFTON PARK RESIDENTS

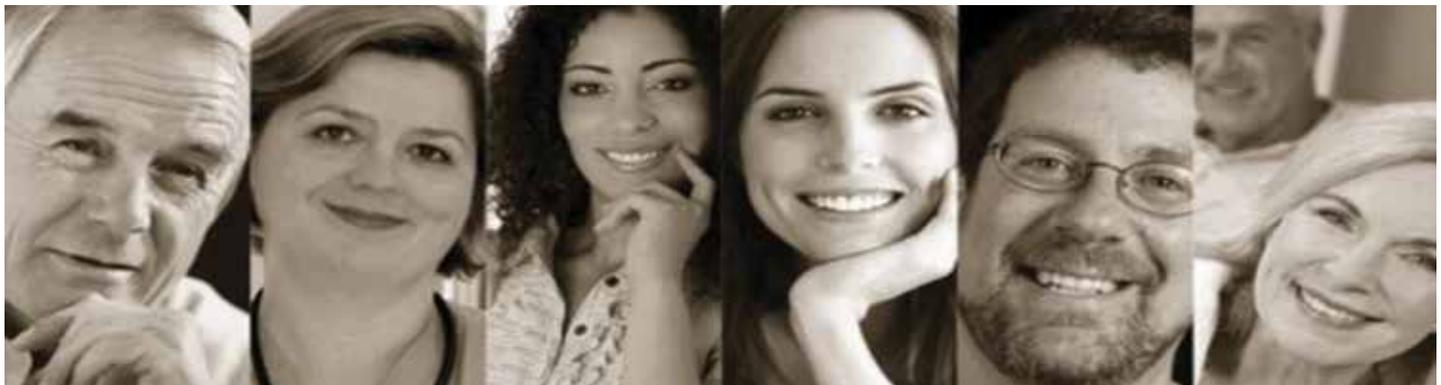
We are so lucky to have many wonderful venues and events to attend in our area year round. But the summer explodes with attractions that pull in tourists from around the world! This year we celebrate one of those attractions – SPAC. Hailed as the 2015 #1 Best Outdoor Venue in America by a USA Today poll, SPAC celebrates its 50th anniversary this year.

As a non-profit performing arts center, SPAC has managed to flourish while other arts venues are fading away under the financial pressure. Besides being a wonderful cultural venue, SPAC is also a major economic force in the area, generating an estimated \$100 million for the area and attracting over 350,000 visitors into our hotels, restaurants and shops. However, other than a small grant from the New York State Council on the Arts, SPAC does not receive any direct support from the local or federal governments. They survive on the support of the community.

The state of the art amphitheater was created to have the best acoustics and dance space available in an outdoor space. Designed with two of the greatest artists in American history, George Balanchine, Founder of the New York City Ballet and Eugene Ormandy, Conductor of The Philadelphia Orchestra, this space is unparalleled and allows the venue to continue to grow and diversify its programming. But after 50 years of use, many of the original elements of the venue need to be replaced or updated in order to keep it a viable force in our community. If you want to help, visit <http://www.spac50.org/contribute.html>. Learn more about the interesting history of this institute at <http://www.spac50.org/the-vision.html>. And above all get out and enjoy the many events planned for this summer at this unique local gem!



*Jenna Caputo*  
 CONTENT COORDINATOR



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# Hannah's Chance for a Miracle

By Matt Sames, Co-Founder of Hannah's Hope Fund and Father of Hannah

"10 years and \$10 million," the doctor said to me. Our 4-year-old daughter was in the midst of being diagnosed for a rare disease we had never heard of. After much cajoling, I bluntly and forcefully asked her, "If she does have this disease, how long will it take to create a therapy for her and how much will it cost?" Her answer left me speechless and grasping at the slim chance Hannah didn't have this strange disease with the ominous name, Giant Axonal Neuropathy.

A couple of weeks later, my wife Lori and I were summoned to Albany Medical Center for our formal briefing on Hannah's biopsies. It was confirmed. She had Giant Axonal Neuropathy. We were told there was no research, no organization, no clinical trials, no budget, no hope. This is an Ultra Rare Disease.

"Enjoy your time with your daughter, and care for her in the coming years," the doctor said.

"So, you're telling us that this is a death sentence for our daughter?" Lori asked. "Yes," replied the Genetic Counselor.

Lori fell to the floor and wailed only as loudly as a loving and broken-hearted mother can. I slumped in my chair, tears streaming down my face. I had no words. We had no hope.

We drove home and frankly my memory of it is a blur. Lori immediately went to work, researching anyone and anything related to G.A.N., our new enemy. I was paralyzed with grief for another 3 days, unable to even talk about it. Finally, inspired by my wife's energy and courage, I kicked myself in the backside and joined the fight. We created a "War Board," a disorganized flow chart of researchers, scientists, organizations and others who might be able to join our fight. Lori spearheaded the medical team effort, and I started the fundraising and marketing initiatives. In a brief moment, I looked at her and said, "Well, someone has to be the first to be cured." Hannah's Hope Fund was born.

8 years and \$8 million. That's how long it has taken, and how much we have raised and spent on developing

a therapy for G.A.N. Next month, Hannah will be treated at the National Institute of Health, and the first 4 patients who have been injected with our gene replacement therapy are showing very positive signs of improved breathing, leg strength and facial expressions. We are told it will take about 2 years post-injection to measure any lasting clinical benefit. We are shedding tears again, and this time they are tears of hope and happiness that our daughter has a chance for a miracle.

Visit [www.hannahshopefund.org](http://www.hannahshopefund.org) to learn how you can change the world for some very special kids. ■



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COVER STORY



# Isabel Prescott

## Wins 2016 Open Space Award

By Jenna Caputo  
Photos by Louis Torres Photography

“A farmer is not only the owner of the land, but the land and farming permeate every aspect of life.” This statement certainly is true for Isabel Prescott, owner of Riverview Orchards in Rexford. Her lifelong passion not only turned into a career, but a lifestyle – a lifestyle that has recently earned her recognition from her beloved hometown.

Farming in the Mohawk Valley can be traced back through Isabel’s family at least to the 1800s. Throughout the years, her family produced a variety of crops and animals. Her parents originally had a poultry farm in Charlton, but her father’s true love was apples. He wanted to make the switch to fruit farming, so in the early 1940s,

they looked for an affordable place with good soil and land they could farm. Their search brought them to Clifton Park.

Isabel says it was a perfect way to grow up. “I truly did not appreciate what a wonderful life I was living. We were not at all well-to-do, but I was part of a loving family surrounded by farm life. My grandparents soon moved into part of our farmhouse, as did the hired man. All of us ate our meals together, worked together, went to grange and church together and experienced a quality of life like no other.”

While it was indeed a wonderful life, Isabel’s father didn’t want his girls to be dependent only on farming or their spouses, so he encouraged them to pursue a good education. Isabel received her BA in English Literature

from Hartwick College in Oneonta before working for over 20 years in Information Systems, Computer Operations and Finance at General Electric and United Artists Cable Systems. But her heart was in farming, and in 1983, she bought the farm from her aging father. "I couldn't stand the thought of a development on our land and at that time, I knew the only realistic option would be to continue my parents' life work."

The farm has changed over the years. Initially selling most of their crop wholesale to supermarkets, they have since expanded their services and opened the farm to the public. Today, they depend on the community to regularly visit the farm, and in addition to picking apples, enjoy the other benefits like hayrides; birthday parties; weddings; meeting the animals; pumpkins; and enjoying the homemade pies, cider donuts, jams and other goods from the store.

Riverview Orchards also hosts many field trips, educating children on various aspects of the farm and our food in its original form. "We love to share the experience of living and growing food on the land with our friends and neighbors," says Isabel. "Today there are fewer farms than ever before and if we want our young people to know and understand where their food comes from, we need them to visit the farm."

Hearing Isabel talk with ease about the work on her farm makes it sound easy, but it's really quite the opposite, especially with the climate change and unpredictable weather we've been having lately. The changes have severely impacted the quantity of apples that all the farmers in the area have been able to produce. "Some people believe that 'apples just grow on trees,' but in reality, there's a lot of work and risk involved," Isabel explains. "We have to prune, spray, move, fertilize, thin and get the apples picked and stored. We have to experience desirable weather, including no late frosts or hailstorms to grow good fruit. To maintain and restore the trees takes a lot of investment and labor. Farming is not all that easy!"

Isabel is passionate about not only educating the public on the origins of our food, but also in preserving open space. In the early 2000s, the Town of Clifton Park began to develop potential options for protecting the land left in the area. Isabel decided to participate with a Purchase of Development Right, which allows the farmer to receive the difference between the value of the farm for agricultural purposes and the value for development of the land. In return, the deed to the farm stays in her name, but has a limitation for usage, prohibiting the land from ever being developed in the future.

Isabel is also on the town's Open Space Committee. This spring she was recognized for her effort in helping the town to carry out their land preservation goals with the 2016

Town of Clifton Park Open Space Award. This was a huge honor for a cause so close to her heart and Isabel was happy to share it with her family and now displays it in the store.

Passionate about local and family history as well, Isabel is a very active member of the Friends of Historic Grooms Tavern; the Saratoga County's Agriculture Promotion Group; Sundae on the Farm; Town of Clifton Park's Open Space, Trails, and Riverfront Committee; Farm Fest Committee; Winter Fest Committee; the Rotary's Apple Blossom Festival and the 41-Acre Park on Riverfront Committee.

Family continues to be an important aspect of Isabel's life. She shares the responsibility of the farm with her son and his family, who also live on the farm. Her nephew works there as well and her sisters live with their families next door. She loves to attend her grandchildren's events and partakes in many of the ongoing activities in the community.

As a lifelong resident, Isabel has seen Clifton Park change dramatically over the years. A student of the original one-room schoolhouses, Isabel was one of the first to attend Shenendehowa School. But the changes obviously haven't stopped there. "As I was growing up, our community center was the grange hall in Grooms Corners. We went there for Halloween and Christmas parties, cover dish suppers and to enjoy other social events. Graduation classes at the newly formed Shenendehowa were under 100 students. We frequented Klingbeil's Store in Grooms Corners and Olsen's in Vischer Ferry for groceries. We saw the onset of television; the building of the Northway, the mall, housing developments, a centralized school system; and an increase in traffic. Nothing could have prepared us for the onset of the computer age and the abilities that have come with it. Although there will always be negatives in growth and development, almost all that I've seen in Clifton Park has been good. We need to keep this continued trend as we strive to maintain the quality of life that we have achieved during the last 50 years. I am completely convinced that when we see the good in our community, we help to maintain it for the future."

So what does she want to see for Clifton Park in the future? Most importantly, maintaining a good balance between development and open space so that future generations can continue to enjoy the many benefits of the area. "Development is OK as long as it is planned," she says. "So far, the Town is in total agreement with that philosophy. I am so proud of my town! To be able to sustain and bequeath to our descendants that which we consider to be the best part of our lives is a privilege." ■

Do you know a neighbor who has a story to share? Nominate your neighbor to be featured in one of our upcoming issues! Contact us at [jcaputo@bestversionmedia.com](mailto:jcaputo@bestversionmedia.com).

# Go To Your Doctor, A Clinic, Or The Emergency Room?

By Ellis Medicine

Whenever an illness or injury occurs, you need to decide how serious it is and how soon to seek medical care. Consideration must also be given to whether it's best to call your doctor, go to an urgent care clinic or head to an emergency department right away.

Treatment in an emergency department can cost two to three times more than receiving the same care in your doctor's office. Think about that and the other issues listed below when deciding where to go for care.

## WHEN TO GO TO AN EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT

Go to an emergency department or call 911 for help for problems such as:

- Trouble breathing or shortness of breath
- Passing out, fainting, sudden dizziness
- Pain in the arm or jaw
- Unusual or bad headache, especially if it started suddenly
- Sudden inability to speak, see, walk, or move
- Sudden weakness or drooping on one side of the body
- Dizziness or weakness that does not go away
- Inhaling smoke or poisonous fumes
- Sudden confusion
- Heavy bleeding
- Possible broken bone, loss of movement, especially if the bone is pushing through the skin
- Deep wound
- Serious burn
- Coughing or throwing up blood
- Severe pain anywhere on the body
- Severe allergic reaction with trouble breathing, swelling, hives
- High fever with headache and stiff neck
- High fever that does not get better with medicine
- Throwing up or loose stools that do not stop
- Poisoning or overdose of drug or alcohol
- Suicidal thoughts
- Seizures

## WHEN TO GO TO URGENT CARE

When you have a problem, don't wait too long to get medical care. If your problem is not life threatening or one that risks you becoming disabled but you are concerned and you cannot see your doctor soon enough, go to an urgent care clinic. The kinds of problems an urgent care clinic can deal with include:

- Common illnesses, such as colds, the flu, earaches, sore throats, migraines, low-grade fevers, and limited rashes
- Minor injuries, such as sprains, back pain, minor cuts and burns, minor broken bones or minor eye injuries

## IF YOU AREN'T SURE, ASK SOMEONE

If you are not sure what to do, and you don't have one of the serious conditions listed above, call your doctor. If the office is not open, your phone call may be forwarded to

someone. Describe your symptoms to the doctor who answers your call, and find out what you should do. Your doctor or health insurance company may also offer a nurse-staffed telephone advice hot line. Call this number and tell the nurse your symptoms for advice on what to do.

## WHEN TO CALL 911

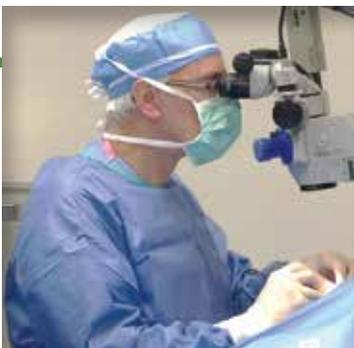
How quickly do you need care? If a person or unborn baby could die or be permanently disabled, it is an emergency. Call 911 to have the emergency team come to you right away if you cannot wait, such as for:

- Choking
- Stopped breathing
- Head injury with passing out, fainting, or confusion
- Injury to neck or spine, especially if there is loss of feeling or inability to move
- Electric shock or lightning strike
- Severe burn
- Severe chest pain or pressure
- Seizure that lasted three to five minutes

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Call 844.518.DOCS to find a physician. ■



# This Ain't Your Grandparent's Cataract Surgery

By Dr. Allen Zieker, Ophthalmic Consultants of the Capital Region

Cataract surgery, as we know it today, has become a procedure requiring minimal recovery time. But like most other surgeries, it hasn't always been this way. Less than 50 years ago, cataract surgery was risky with the chance of infection, detached retina, and systemic complications because of the enforced weeks-long bed rest after surgery. Now cataract surgery involves 3 hours in a surgery center, with the actual procedure usually lasting less than 15 minutes.

## Say Goodbye to Eyeglasses

Not too long ago, patients would have the cataract removed and their only option was thick "coke bottle" glasses to help them see. Today, we implant an intraocular lens (IOLs) to replace the cloudy lens. Modern, refractive cataract surgery requires the eye surgeon to be familiar with all aspects of vision enhancement, including astigmatism surgery and advanced premium IOLs, such as multifocal, accommodative, and toric. With new surgery

techniques and advancements in IOL technology, we can now provide patients with good near vision, intermediate vision and distance vision, significantly diminishing dependency on eyeglasses.

## When Choosing a Cataract Surgeon...Experience Matters

When choosing a cataract surgeon, make sure they are board-certified, perform many procedures each month, have proficiency in implanting all types of IOLs and are experienced in advanced surgical techniques.

## About Dr. Allen Zieker

Dr. Allen Zieker is President and Director of Cataract Surgery at Ophthalmic Consultants of the Capital Region. He has practiced as a board-certified ophthalmologist for more than 34 years. Working with cataract patients is his passion; last year alone he performed more than 1,500 cataract surgeries. To schedule an appointment, visit [myoccr.com](http://myoccr.com) or call 518-777-2777. ■



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# Welcome to the Neighborhood

By Pete Bardunias, President/CEO, the Chamber of Southern Saratoga County

Bella Sophia Boutique (518) 280-7773, a family-owned designer fashion store with clothing, jewelry and accessories for any budget, opened this spring at 227 Kingsley Rd in Burnt Hills. Owner Connie Cocozzo (with scissors) and husband Joe cut the ceremonial ribbon this past May. She was joined by her staff, area dignitaries, as well as staff and volunteers of the Chamber of Southern Saratoga County (CSSC). Holding the ribbon are volunteer Ambassadors



Beth Silvestri of FastSigns of Saratoga Springs (far left), Donna Connor of On The Go Concierge, and Sandy Hassfurter of Berkshire Hathaway Home Services (far right). Behind Sandy is Brian White of Saratoga National Bank, Clifton Park. In the 2nd row are CSSC Member Services Manager Liz Roggenbuck, Chris Rhodes representing Assemblyman Jim Tedisco, CSSC President/CEO Pete Bardunias, and Michael Mansion representing Senator Hugh Farley.

The moment the ribbon was cut at CarpetOne in the Clifton Park Center Mall is captured in this photo, as owner Chris Taylor and his team celebrate their newest store in the company of factory representatives, mall officials, area dignitaries and elected officials, and a whole slew of volunteers from among the membership of the Chamber of Southern Saratoga County.



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**Wednesday, Aug 10**

OPEN HOUSE

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Time: 5-7 | Cost: FREE

**Sunday, Aug 7, 2016**

PERFORMING ARTS AT THE COMMON:

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@Clifton Common Stage

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Time: 7:00 PM | Cost: FREE

**Wednesday, Aug 10, 2016**

PERFORMING ARTS AT THE COMMON: CATSKILL PUPPET THEATER'S "THE LION'S WHISKERS"

@Clifton Common Stage

A delightful musical adaptation of a traditional Ethiopian folktale, this show features a multitude of masks and puppets ranging from three quarter life-sized to gigantic and is highlighted with shadow puppetry and original songs.

Time: 7:00 PM | Cost: FREE

**Wednesday, Aug 3, 2016**

PERFORMING ARTS AT THE COMMON: MARK RUST

@Clifton Common Stage

A multi-talented family & children's performer showcasing "America's Musical Traditions"! Join us for a fun collection of songs on a variety of musical instruments where the audience is involved in some fun way on every tune!

Cost: FREE | Time: 7:00 PM

**Monday, Aug 8, 2016**

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@Clifton Park - Halfmoon Public Library, 475 Moe Road, Clifton Park, NY 12065

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# The Man Behind The Photographs

By John L. Scherer, Clifton Park Historian

Many of the early photograph views of Clifton Park are actually postcards. Postcard views were introduced to the American public about 1900, and by 1905 were all the rage. Views of major attractions, large cities, Main streets and local communities abounded. Such postcard views were used by visitors or local residents to write brief notes to family and friends. Although these early postcards originally sold for pennies, today they are very collectable, and depending on the view and location, an early postcard could sell for five or even ten dollars.

The Clifton Park postcard views were all photographed by Parker Goodfellow of Schenectady. He was born in 1885 and started taking pictures as a hobby. However, when Goodfellow found that he could make a living with his Poco glass plate camera, he decided to go into the postcard business. He began his career as a freelance photographer in 1906, when he started to travel throughout

the state snapping views for his postcards.

Many of Goodfellow's journeys were made on foot. He would walk to such places as Albany and Troy. Sometimes he hired a horse and



Postcard view of the Jonesville Store by Parker Goodfellow, c. 1910

buggy for longer trips. By 1912 he had purchased a motorcycle, which made travel much easier. In fact, if you look carefully, you can see Goodfellow's motorcycle parked in the background in some of the Clifton Park postcards. He certainly got around, for between 1906 and 1918, he photographed more than 32,000 views.

These postcard views would then be offered to hotels and stores in the form of numbered samples, so that quantities could be ordered by view number. Many of the views were of the hotels and stores themselves.

These postcards were then retailed to customers. Selling places in Clifton Park included stores in Vischer Ferry, Jonesville, Elnora, Clifton Park Village, Grooms Corners and Rexford. Postcards could also be purchased at hotels in Vischer Ferry, Jonesville, Rexford and Clifton Park Village. All of these places are featured on Goodfellow's postcard views.

We are fortunate, indeed, that Parker Goodfellow discovered Clifton Park on his journeys; his views have captured moments in history that would otherwise have been lost. Many of Goodfellow's postcard views of Clifton Park can be seen on the Clifton Park Halfmoon Library Web Site by clicking on Local History, then Collections and then Photographs. ■

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Town Supervisor <i>Phil Barrett</i> .....371-6651	Town Court, 5 Municipal Plaza .....371-6668	Parks and Recreation Director
Town Board Members.....371-6651	Community Development Director	<i>Myla Kramer</i> .....371-6667
Animal Control Officer .....371-6756	<i>Barb McHugh</i> .....371-6651	Planning Director <i>John Scavo</i> .....371-6054
Town Attorney <i>Tom McCarthy</i> .....371-6651	Town Comptroller <i>Mark Heggen</i> .....371-6651	Receiver of Taxes <i>Lorraine Varley</i> .....371-5720
Assessor <i>Walter Smead</i> .....371-6460	Storm Water Management Technician	Director of Safety and Security
Building & Development Director	<i>Scott Reese</i> .....371-6054	<i>Lou Pasquarel</i> .....348-7311
<i>Steve Myers</i> .....371-6702	Director of Communications & Tech	Town Security Officers .....369-6651
Building & Grounds Director	<i>Dahn Bull</i> .....371-6651	Sewer Director <i>Mike O'Brien</i> .....348-7313
<i>Mike Handerhan</i> .....371-6651	Highway Superintendent	Transfer Station Supervisor
Town Clerk <i>Pat O'Donnell</i> .....371-6681	<i>Rick Kukuk</i> .....371-7310	<i>Jeff Vedder</i> .....371-6669

If the person you wish to reach is not on the list above, please call 371-6651 to speak to a receptionist who will direct your call to the appropriate individual or department. The Town's office buildings are open from Monday through Friday, 9am to 5pm, excluding holidays. The Town Clerk's Office is open until 7pm every Thursday. The Building and Parks and Recreation Departments are open at 8am Monday through Friday.



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