

OCTOBER 2015

# CLIFTON PARK

AN EXCLUSIVE MONTHLY PUBLICATION  
FOR RESIDENTS

## Neighbors



*For the  
Pennartz Family,  
Home Is Where  
the Heart Is*



Best Version Media

Cover photo by Niki Rossi Photography





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### COMMUNITY SUBMISSIONS

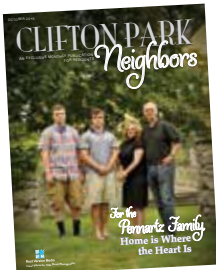
Have feedback? New ideas? We would be happy to hear from you! Please contact Jenna Caputo at [jcaputo@bestversionmedia.com](mailto:jcaputo@bestversionmedia.com) for information on how to submit ideas, articles, updates, reminders, events, high-resolution photos and more. We will do our best to include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

### MAGAZINE DEADLINES

Please submit your content by the 10th of each month. Clifton Park Living will usually arrive in your mailbox within the first week of every month. Dates may vary depending on the post office.

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### ON THE COVER

The Pennartz Family

## Dear CLIFTON PARK RESIDENTS

Welcome to the October issue of *Clifton Park Neighbors*. I love our new magazine name because it is more of a match for what this magazine is all about – getting to know your neighbors – influential families, community leaders and small business owners who live down your block, up the street and around the corner.

I can hardly believe it's already been 10 months since I launched this magazine – times flies when you are having fun. The best part about my job really is meeting all of you!

This past summer, I had the chance to spend a week in the Adirondacks hiking with my mom, my sister and my two nieces. We all managed to make it to the top of Mt. Jo near the ADK Loj in Lake Placid. If you know the area, you will know Mt. Jo is apparently the easiest family hike there is. But to us, making it to the top was a huge accomplishment. My youngest niece is 6 years old and had never hiked a mountain before and my mom just recently turned 70! And then there was me, recovering from a recent concussion and feeling dizzy on the rock ledges. Half way up, I was so dizzy I started crying and almost turned around and quit. But my sister wouldn't let me hike by myself so everyone encouraged me to keep going... and I am so glad that I did. When we got to the top, another family asked me to take their photo. I always love the mood at the top of a mountain – there's a sort of celebratory energy, with everyone feeling a sense of accomplishment. After I took the photo I asked the family where they were from and of course, they were from Clifton Park! So, I told them to send me the photo and I would share it in the next issue. So, here they are – meet the Clintons! They have been hiking as a family in the Adirondacks for more than 20 years! And so has my family... well, probably almost 40 years now. We are all so lucky to live so close to such a beautiful outdoor playground. Next summer maybe we'll try for a high peak?

If you have an interesting story about one of your neighbors, or about yourself, let us know. We'd love to meet you!

*Jessie Riley*

PUBLISHER



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# A Host of Characters Rest in Clifton Park Cemeteries

By John L. Scherer, Clifton Park Historian

What do an eccentric storekeeper, a woman who enjoyed canning, a Civil War soldier who died in the Pinninsular Campaign, a country doctor, the aunt of Clara Harris who witnessed the assassination of President Lincoln, and a wife beater murdered by his wife all have in common? They have all found eternal rest in the cemeteries of Clifton Park.

Cemeteries are noteworthy places for their beauty, artwork, architecture and tranquility. They provide a helpful key in unlocking historic information, and a better understanding of a community – connecting the past with the present.

The earliest cemeteries in Clifton Park were family cemeteries, usually located on a knoll on the family farm. The Shepherd Cemetery at Bowman Orchard on Sugar Hill Road is an example of this type of cemetery. It was established before any churches flourished in the area, and was used for deceased members of a family, but includes deceased neighbors as well.

The cemeteries at the Clifton Park Center Baptist Church and at Amity Reformed Church are fine examples of churchyard cemeteries. Churchyard cemeteries on Vischer Ferry Road near the Transfer Station, and on Clifton Park Center Road near the mall have remained long after their churches have disappeared.

The rural cemetery movement of the 19th century

moved across the Northeast. It changed burial customs, gravestone designs and graveyard appearances. “Burying grounds” or “graveyards” became known as cemeteries. Paris, France was the European root of this movement. An 1804 acquisition of a section of open Paris land, upgraded with roads and landscaping, sold small parcels as gravesites. Within 20 years, this Pere Lachaise Cemetery became a significant tourist attraction and model for other cemeteries throughout the world.

The starting of large, planned cemeteries near the edge of community eliminated overcrowded urban graveyards. Taken into account were population growth, unhealthy graveyards close to wells and family homes, as well as changing attitudes toward the sacred nature of death and graveyards. Such a planned cemetery made individual ownership of gravesites possible. Architecture and sculptural displays provided a place for contemplation, education and recreation before the common development of public parks.

The Jonesville Cemetery with its rolling hills and winding paths is

a small example of a rural cemetery. The park-like setting and fancy monuments encourage one to wander and explore. Victorians would often take a picnic lunch when they strolled through the cemetery. Interestingly the class structure in life continued after death, the more influential citizens being buried on top of the hill, displaying the larger monuments.

Nineteenth century tombstones are decorated with Victorian symbolism that today have hidden meaning. A willow indicates weeping or grief; a wreath, victory in death. A rose indicates condolence or sorrow and oak tree, supernatural power and strength or eternity, and an anchor indicates hope or life eternal.

Our Victorian ancestors were fascinated with death. Because of the high mortality rate in nineteenth century America, death was much more a part of life than today. As the years passed, death became a private rather than a community event. Reverence for burying grounds diminished. Society lost much of the traditional respect for honoring memories that a cemetery originally represented.



*The Seymour and Catharine Birch monument at the Grooms Methodist Church Cemetery on Vischer Ferry Road. Seymour and Catharine were killed in a steamboat collision on Lake Erie in 1854.*

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# Shenendehowa School Counselors Kick Off the School Year

By Rebecca Carmen, Shenendehowa Central Schools

At Shenendehowa the emphasis of the K-12 Counseling Program is the academic and personal success of all students. In each building across the district, counselors strive to build relationships and serve as advocates to ensure that all students have the opportunity to learn, grow and accomplish their personal and educational goals.

Throughout the year the counselors at Shenendehowa elementary schools provide services to students, parents and school staff. Some of these direct services include presenting classroom lessons, facilitating counseling groups, or providing responsive counseling to meet students' immediate needs. Counselors regularly engage in consultation and collaboration with parents and teachers to help students acquire the knowledge and skills appropriate for their age and developmental levels. When additional assistance or resources are needed, counselors serve as a liaison between school and community agencies to assist families in obtaining the necessary resources or services.

During the month of October, counselors in all elementary schools are coordinating classroom based and school wide activities surrounding the theme of Bullying Prevention. Defining for students what bullying is, discussing the various forms of bullying that can occur and focusing on strategies our students can utilize to spread kindness and acceptance and build a positive school climate are some of the goals for the program. Helping students work together through the use of literature and discussion, artistic projects, utilizing technology to analyze data of student ideas and responses to survey questions, and celebrating acts of kindness are some of the avenues



our counselors and school staff will use to engage students with this topic.

The focus of the month is on prevention and empowerment, helping students understand what they can do if they witness bullying or other forms of mean behavior and how students can treat each other to help prevent bullying from taking place in our schools. When we lead by example and regularly practice and promote positive interactions among students' families and staff, we are showing our students what is possible. The mission of Shenendehowa is "To work continuously and in partnership with the community to ensure that all students develop and demonstrate the knowledge, skills and abilities and character needed to live useful, productive and rewarding lives." Kindness Matters- Pass it on. ■



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## COVER STORY

By Jenna Caputo

# For the Pennartz Family, Home Is Where the Heart Is

Sheri Pennartz knows what it's like to move around. After living in Germany for 12 years, and travelling around the world on top of it for her husband's job, Sheri became all too familiar with the game of not only finding a home for her family, but finding someone she could trust to help her locate the right neighborhood and schools, learn a new language and culture, and meet new people. It

became such a part of her life that she thought it was something she'd like to do when she eventually came back to America. "I wanted to help other families," she says.

Originally from Baltimore, Maryland, Sheri grew up an active child, participating in field hockey, tennis and cheerleading. She always enjoyed travelling. Sheri met her husband Carsten while working at a

fitness center selling memberships in Maryland. Originally from Germany, Carsten was a chemical engineer and travelled the world for his job. Sheri returned to Germany with him to start their family.

Life abroad was never dull. Leaving the country to visit other areas was a requirement for the visa, so while Sheri's family lived in Germany, Israel and Taiwan, they also visited Switzerland, Hong Kong, Philippines, England, Thailand, Egypt, Guam, Italy, Turkey, Africa, Malaysia, Amsterdam, Sweden – the list goes on and on. Her favorite place to visit was Bali because not only were the people and hotels really nice, she also enjoyed the beautiful handcrafted jewelry and culture. She met some influential people in her travels as well, including Shimon Perez, President of Israel.

Teaching herself German by volunteering in a German kindergarten class and in a church, she then took classes until she became fluent. She also has the ability to understand Mandarin. She taught aerobics to the German professional hockey team, Nuremberg Ice Tigers, every other day for coordination. Sheri also taught English to the business professionals in the German-based company, Siemens – an engineering company composed of workers from around the world, specializing in MRIs and medical diagnosis, as well as energy-efficient, resource-saving technologies for power generation and transmission.

Deciding it was time to come back to the states, Carsten's job offered them five location choices. They chose the Capital District since it was closest to Sheri's family in Baltimore. Now a Construction Director for GE, Carsten still has to travel, but Sheri's family has now been based here for 12 years out of their 25-year marriage. Their children: Marcel, 20, is a student at Plattsburg and plans to pursue his masters in international financing in Germany; and Lars, 17, is a senior

in Shen and plans to attend UTI in Boston. The family also now includes 3 dogs – Chester, Stella, and Lilly, and one cat, Pheebe. Still active, Sheri and her family enjoy running in local charity 5k races.

Not knowing anyone when they first moved here, Sheri arranged a book group and a Bunco game group to meet some of her neighbors and to connect with people. She also volunteered at local YMCA events. She started her business off sitting on a hockey bench in Clifton Park stuffing folders, and eventually grew her business through the school and community and is now in the top 5% of the newly formed Berkshire Hathaway Home Services, which recently merged from Prudential and is run under Warren Buffet as Chairman. She is an area specialist and has received numerous high honors and presidents awards. In addition to her general real estate clients, Sheri also helps international families relocate to the area for Global Foundries and other technology companies, guiding them in the right direction to finding the perfect homes for their families.

Remembering what it is like to be in that situation, all of Sheri's clients are treated as relatives. She works very hard to know the area, the market and is always looking out for her clients' best interests. "I treat people like they are my own family. People do not know that I work 60+ hours a week to make my buyers happy and sellers feeling they picked the best person to get the job done."

She is passionate about helping people meet their real estate goals – whether selling or buying. "Buying and selling is a very emotional process. You need to trust the person who will represent you to take care of all your needs." It is a process, and her advice on the first thing to consider when buying a house is to get preapproved. Then decide where you want to be financially within that



amount. She cautions to always keep reserves. Be sure to actually drive by the neighborhood location of a house you're interested in to ensure you like the location, and consider the layout, upgrades and flow of the entire house before making any decisions.

If you're selling a house, be sure to get a current market analysis for your area before starting. Don't over invest in your property before checking the analysis, because the market for your neighborhood might not be able to support your investment.

When choosing the right agent for you, check referrals, websites and testimonials from prior clients for the past two years. Read them carefully. Focus on going with an area specialist that does real estate as a full time job in order to get the benefit of a full, reliable experience.

As a realtor, Sheri is privileged to hear many interesting stories from people's lives and says that everyone has their own special needs in what they look for in a house. She has had clients that look for a house based around their pool table or their cats, as well as the typical needs like a specific

kind of kitchen. "I love meeting new people and hearing their stories," says Sheri.

Sheri and her family have certainly settled into the Capital District, and like most people in Clifton Park, states how much she loves the community and location. In her spare time, Sheri loves to read, run, attend local theatrical productions, participate in local events, and yes, she still enjoys travelling, although she doesn't feel the need to constantly roam around anymore. "We were very fortunate at a young age to experience all these cultures while we and the kids were still young."

Sheri loves being a part of this community and is happy to give a free market analysis to any seller and a free consultation on what's currently happening in the market for this area. She can be reached at 894-8994 or at [spennartz@bhhsblake.com](mailto:spennartz@bhhsblake.com). ■

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).



# Migraines Come in a Variety of Types, But Relief is Possible

By Ellis Medicine

Most people have experienced common tension headaches, but migraines can cause much more discomfort with symptoms that include throbbing pain that starts on one side of the head and spreads, nausea and vomiting, and sensitivity to light and sound.

Signs of a classic migraine typically appear 10 to 30 minutes before the migraine occurs. The symptoms, called auras, are visual changes or hallucinations such as blinking or brightly colored lights. Other symptoms of classic migraines include noxious smells or weakness of an arm or leg. Classic migraines typically last one to two days.

Unlike classic migraines, a common migraine does not have the warning of the aura. Symptoms that signal a common migraine include mood changes, fatigue and unusual retention of fluids. During common migraines, people may have nausea and vomiting. Common migraines typically last three to four days.

Many migraines occur as a reaction to an external condition, or trigger, such as:

- Lack of food
- Lack of sleep
- Changes in weather or altitude
- Exposure to bright lights or sunshine
- Hormonal changes
- Anxiety and stress
- Certain foods and beverages (including chocolate, dairy products, red wine and aged cheese)

Treatments for migraines may include medications, including over-the-counter and prescription medications. The most frequent medication to treat migraines is ergotamine or triptans.

For some people, the FDA-approved BOTOX treatment for chronic migraines is appropriate. Chronic migraines last longer and occur more frequently. The Neuroscience Center at Ellis Medicine offers BOTOX treatment cycles to prevent chronic migraines.




Roberta D'Ercole of Scotia had been suffering from frequent migraines for more than 30 years. "It would be like a blinding headache where I could not function," she recalls. "The headaches lasted three or four days at a time and the pain felt like a screwdriver in the side of my head," she says. She was experiencing migraines four to five times each week when she went to see Dr. Richard Jackson at the Neuroscience Center.

Dr. Jackson recommended BOTOX treatments for Roberta and she said the results were very positive. "About three weeks after my first BOTOX treatment, I was getting much better with my headache frequency, only getting about two headaches a month."

BOTOX uses 31 small injections to seven areas of the head and neck. The very fine needles feel like tiny pinpricks and may cause minor discomfort. Studies have shown that BOTOX reduces the number of migraine days each month. The injections have a 12-week cycle, with the injection process repeating itself every 12 weeks.

For more information about migraines and the treatment of chronic migraines using BOTOX, call Ellis' Neuroscience Center at 518.243.3387 or <http://bit.ly/1WCxTUU> ■





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# Visit the Vistas Homeowners Association in Clifton Park

By Gerard F. Havasy, President, The Vistas Home Owners Association

The Vistas at Route 146 and Vista Drive is one of the newest developments in Clifton Park and is comprised of 26 duplex units that is self-managed by a homeowners association (HOA). The HOA provides the contract management of the insurance, lawn care, snow and refuse removal through a board of five elected members. The board and appointed officers collect monthly homeowner fees, engage in contracts, pay bills, file taxes and help lead the 26 member covenant community.

The Vistas is one of a dozen or more Covenant Communities in Clifton Park. The responsibilities of the HOAs vary and can be as simple as entrance and circle maintenance to the complete running of the HOA like The Vistas.

There is a trend nationwide to provide homeowner associations for condo and townhouse communities and in communities like neighboring self-managed 325-unit Sheldon Hills, which has a mix of townhouses, condos and single-family homes. Many of these associations have a professional property manager, which comes at a greater cost than self-managed associations.

There are pros and cons to the various types of HOA managements, which can be found at length on the Internet.



L-R: Ed Galka-Finance, Mary McCarthy-Co-treasurer, Jerry Havasy-President, George Blanche-Architecture, Ray Burkitt-VP-Grounds

Suffice to say, self-managed homeowner associations require talent, dedication and volunteerism to make them work. The two most important jobs are the president and the treasurer. Most people moving into a covenant community expect everything to be taken care of. That's part of its attraction. However, it soon becomes apparent that good communities don't just happen. Dedicated volunteers with an interest in the greater good are required. Nothing is free!! We have to work at success in our neighborhoods.

At The Vistas, we have had several picnics, a couple of evening socials and a Christmas party, as well as several work days of titivating and beautifying the community. Each of these activities requires someone to lead and coordinate necessary happenings of the event. Email and a website enable us to quickly and efficiently get the word out on any subject and no one has been bashful about joining the discussions. Most of us want a slower pace and the chance to do other things than maintain our dwellings. We are proud of our community as we see it continuing to mature. ■

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# Welcome to the Neighborhood

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

Paper manufacturing is alive and well in Halfmoon and Waterford! A recent tour of Cascades Tissue Group's local facilities demonstrated the operation to area business leaders (L-R): Chuck Steiner (left), President of the



Capital Region Chamber of Commerce, Robert Boss, General Manager for Mohawk Global Logistics and Chairman of the Tech Valley Global Business Network, and Pete Bardunias, President/CEO of the Chamber of Southern Saratoga County. The Tech Valley Global Business Network is a collaborative effort of the Capital Region Chamber, the Chamber of Southern Saratoga County and the Center for Economic Growth, helping enhance the growth and prosperity of the international business community by offering valuable networking

relationships and practical education opportunities for expanding international trade.



Cutting the ribbon at the Cookie Factory's new Halfmoon location: Owner Chris Alberino (white shirt, center) helps son Luciano and fiancée Heather Welch with the scissors, as proud Mom Felicia Eccles (blue outfit), Halfmoon Town Supervisor Kevin Tollisen, Assemblyman Jim Tedisco, landlord Bruce Tanski, Chamber of Southern Saratoga County President/CEO Pete Bardunias, and members of the CSSC's Ambassador team look on. Besides its several local stores, The Cookie Factory is a supplier to area grocers and its Italian-themed red, white and green labels are well known to customers. The new Halfmoon bakery is located at 1705 Route 9, serving up cakes, pastries, pies, cookies and breads, plus coffee, cappuccinos and lattes and an in-store dining area.

Meet other business neighbors at [www.southernsaratoga.org](http://www.southernsaratoga.org).

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# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## Wednesday, October 7

### SMALL BUSINESS ALBANY SHOWCASE

@Latham Holiday Inn Express

Underwritten by The Daily Gazette, Albany Broadcasting and SEO Web Mechanics, this event features Speed Networking with area business owners, marketing experts, social media managers and marketing executives from 7:30a-8:30a, opening networking, a meet and greet with all exhibitors, seminars and a full line up of exciting speakers and presenters from 9a to 5p. Admission to the SBA Showcase and all Seminars is free.

Time: 7am-5pm | Cost: FREE

## Wednesdays, starting October 7

### MEMORIES TO MEMOIRS

@Shenendehowa Adult Community Center

For adults of all ages who would like a gentle, supportive atmosphere and thought-provoking assignments. Time allowing, participants can request editorial suggestions to improve their writing. The class runs for five Wednesdays. In-person registration and \$15 fee are required before the first class. Space is limited. Please call 383-1343 for more information.

Time: 10am | Cost: \$15

## Wednesday, October 7

### DAV PILKEY: CAPTAIN UNDERPANTS &

### THE SENSATIONAL SAGA OF SIR STINKS-A-LOT

@Saratoga Music Hall

Tickets are on sale now for a fun-filled evening with Dav Pilkey, author of the hilariously gross - and wildly popular - Captain Underpants series!

**Tickets are required for this event, and space is limited!**

Time: 6pm

Cost:

- **\$15: 1 Seat/1 Book:** Admission for one to the event, one hardcover copy of "Captain Underpants and the Sensational Saga of Sir Stinks-a-Lot"
- **\$20: 2 Seats/1 Book:** Admission for two to the event, one hardcover copy of "Captain Underpants and the Sensational Saga of Sir Stinks-a-Lot"
- **\$25: Family Pack! 3 Seats/1 Book:** Admission for three to the event, one hardcover copy of "Captain Underpants and the Sensational Saga of Sir Stinks-a-Lot," plus a coupon good for \$2.00 off any one book by Dav Pilkey.

Tickets are available at Northshire Bookstore Saratoga, 424 Broadway, on our website, or by phone at 518-682-4200.

## Wednesday, October 7

### APPLES, APPLES

@Clifton Park Halfmoon Library

Let's sing and read about apples - then cook up some applesauce to take home! This is a **drop-in** program for **families with children ages 3-8**. Siblings welcome.

Registration is **NOT** necessary but children must be accompanied by an adult.

Time: 6:30-7:30pm | Cost: FREE

## Thursday, October 8

### STAR PARTY

@The Frances Young Tang Teaching Museum and Art Gallery at Skidmore College

Join us on the Tang rooftop for an evening exploring the cosmos. Organized with the Albany Area Amateur Astronomers.

Time: 7:30pm | Cost: FREE

## Fridays & Saturdays, October 9-31

### SARATOGA SCARE FAIR

@Saratoga County Fairgrounds, Gate 5

The Institute Of Fear brings your fears and phobias to life in an 8,000 sq. ft., terror inducing, indoor teen/adult haunted house located at the Saratoga County Fairgrounds! In 2013, the Albany Times Union voted this terrifying attraction as one of the scariest haunts in the entire 518 area code. This truly scary attraction is not suitable for small



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children or the faint of heart.  
Time: 6:30-10pm | Cost: \$10

## Sunday, October 11

"THE WAY WE WERE" CAR SHOW IN BALLSTON SPA, NY

@Wiswall Park, Ballston Spa

The Ballston Spa Business & Professional Association will once again be hosting the 12th Annual "The Way We Were" Car Show. Front Street will be closed to traffic in order to showcase hundreds of classic and specialty cars and trucks. There will be food, music and vendors and downtown shops will be open as well.

Time: 9am-4pm | Cost: FREE

## Sunday, October 11

RECONNECTING CHILDREN WITH NATURE

@Saratoga Springs Public Library

October is leaf season and we will be going on a walk to Congress Park with Librarian Laura Clark for a nature scavenger hunt! We will collect leaves and learn about the different trees in the Park. Back at the library we will make a great nature mobile with the leaves and other items that have been collected! For children ages 3-9. Contact the Saratoga Springs Public Library at (518) 584-7860 option 3 to register.

Time: 11am-12:30pm | Cost: FREE

## Saturday, October 17

CHALLENGER ADVENTURES

@Museum of Innovation and Science, Schenectady

Join other museum visitors in this out-of-this-world experience! See what it's like to do experiments in space and take home a souvenir from your experience. Please Note: Space is limited. To guarantee a spot, **purchase tickets in advance by calling**; or purchase tickets when you arrive at miSci (if space is available).

Time: 2-3pm

Cost:

Children (3-12) accompanied by an adult:  
Admission+\$5

Seniors (65+): Admission+\$8

Adults (13+): Admission+\$10

## Tuesday, October 20

SICILY COOKING SCHOOL

@Chianti II Ristorante, Saratoga Springs

Executive Chef Fabrizio Bazzani leads you on a culinary journey through the Italian region of Sicily. Explore Sicily and learn tips from a master while you sip wine and watch a fantastic meal prepared from start to finish.

Time: 6:30-9pm | Cost: \$55/pp

## Sunday, October 25

SPECIAL OLYMPICS NEW YORK RUNDEAD 5K

@Saratoga Springs State Park

This 5K trail run supports Special Olympics New York. The obstacles on this run... zombies!!

**Will You Survive?**

Each runner will start off with a flag belt and three flags. These flags represent your lifelines. Zombies throughout the course will be attempting to take these one at a time. If you lose all three, you're dead and the zombies have won. If you finish the race with at least one flag, you've survived. If zombies have taken all your flags you can complete the race but you won't be eligible for awards. Runners or Zombies can sign up as individuals or teams. All ages welcome!

Time: 7:30am-3pm

Cost: \$25 pre-registration; \$30 day of

## Sunday, October 25

ALBANY FESTIVAL OF NATIONS

@Empire State Plaza, Albany

The 44th Annual Albany Festival of Nations represents 23 different countries, with each country celebrating their culture through food, crafts and performances.

The festival is presented by ethnic groups from Argentina, Armenia, Bangladesh, Burma,

China, Dominican Republic, Ethiopia, Greece, Hungry, India, Indonesia, Israel, Italy, Korea, Liberia, Lithuania, Mexico, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, Puerto Rico, Russia, Scotland, Taiwan, Turkey, Ukraine. Come and be part of the celebration of cultural diversity!

Time: 11:30am-5pm | Cost: \$5 Adults, \$2 Children

## Saturday, October 31

2015 SARATOGA DBA FALL FESTIVAL IN SARATOGA SPRINGS, NY

@Downtown Saratoga Springs

Bring the whole family to celebrate the fall season in beautiful downtown Saratoga Springs with fun and games at the 14th Annual Saratoga Downtown Business Association Fall Festival. Young and old alike will find themselves rediscovering all there is to love about the fall season at this fun-filled FREE event. Plus, with all of the fun activities planned, this is one event you and your family will not want to miss!

Time: 10am-6pm | Cost: FREE





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# Choosing a Wedding Photographer

By Jenna Caputo

Choosing your vendors for your wedding can sometimes be a stressful decision. It's an important day and you want to be sure you find the right match. And finding the right photographer seems even more important since you will have those pictures forever. Here are a few quick considerations to help you choose the right photographer for your special day:

- Do you connect with the photographer's portfolio emotionally? When you look at their work, can you see yourself in those same pictures? Do you lean more toward a formal and traditional style, or are you more on the playful and/or non-traditional side? Choose someone who naturally captures that imagery. Local wedding photographer, Keira Lemonis, states, "A photographer will do their best work when their client's vision aligns with their own vision for capturing the day." So be sure to make this your top consideration when choosing your photographer!

- Keep your budget in mind. Many photographers will at least list their starting package rates right on their website.

- If possible, meet in person first to see if your personalities mesh well. Remember, you will be spending your entire wedding day with this person. Are they professional? On top of taking beautiful photos, can you connect with them on a personal level? Will they be able to interact with your family and friends in a way that will put everyone at ease?

- Not all photographers offer the same options. Be sure they offer what you want. Heirloom album, wall art, prints, digital negatives – what are you looking to have in hand after the day is over?

- While everyone needs to start somewhere, and new photographers can be great, using an experienced wedding photographer will likely allow for a better sense of timing and understanding of how the wedding day flows. An experienced wedding photographer has had the time to perfect where they should be standing and when for each event of the day. If an experienced photographer is out of the budget, be sure to thoroughly discuss your expectations with the novice photographer well in advance. ■



Photo by Keira Lemonis Photography



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## IMPORTANT TOWN PHONE NUMBERS

Town Supervisor *Phil Barrett*.....371-6651  
 Town Board Members.....371-6651  
 Animal Control Officer .....371-6756  
 Town Attorney *Tom McCarthy*.....371-6651  
 Assessor *Walter Smead*.....371-6460  
 Building & Development Director  
*Steve Myers*.....371-6702  
 Building & Grounds Director  
*Mike Handerhan* .....371-6651  
 Town Clerk *Pat O'Donnell*.....371-6681

Town Court, 5 Municipal Plaza .....371-6668  
 Community Development Director  
*Barb McHugh* .....371-6651  
 Town Comptroller *Mark Heggen*.....371-6651  
 Storm Water Management Technician  
*Scott Reese*.....371-6054  
 Director of Communications & Tech  
*Dahn Bull*.....371-6651  
 Highway Superintendent  
*Rick Kukuk*.....371-7310

Parks and Recreation Director  
*Myla Kramer*.....371-6667  
 Planning Director *John Scavo* .....371-6054  
 Receiver of Taxes *Lorraine Varley* .....371-5720  
 Director of Safety and Security  
*Lou Pasquarel*.....348-7311  
 Town Security Officers .....369-6651  
 Sewer Director *Mike O'Brien* .....348-7313  
 Transfer Station Supervisor  
*Jeff Vedder*.....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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