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1/25/19

<https://theithacan.org/news/ithaca-college-to-establish-a-food-pantry-on-campus/>

According to The Ithacan, Ithaca College plans to establish a permanent food pantry in the spring 2019 semester. Ithaca College Board of Trustees chair, David Lissy, and the Lissy Family Foundation provided funding for the food pantry as part of ongoing efforts to combat campus-wide food insecurity. The Ithaca College Food Insecurity Working Group is developing the pantry and is in the process of selecting someone to supervise its operation. The college has also made strides to provide access to food through programs like Swipe out Hunger and the Food Bank of the Southern Tier mobile food pantry. The new pantry is well received by students, and Ithaca College hopes the pantry will serve as a steady supplier of healthy food options going forward.

<https://www.ithacajournal.com/story/news/local/2019/01/23/new-york-renewable-energy-wind-farm-steuben-schuyler-chenango/2644334002/>

The Ithaca Journal reported that new state-funded wind farms constructed across Steuben County will be among New York's largest sustainable energy projects. The Steuben County project will supply 290 megawatts of energy to up to 50,000 homes. It will also store 20 megawatts in order to shift the region from non-renewables to clean energy consumption. The project is expected to begin once approved by the Public Service Commission and is anticipated to erect approximately 80 wind turbines by 2022. Projects in Schuyler and Steuben counties are part of a \$1.5 billion state investment in New York State clean energy initiatives.

<http://www.weny.com/story/39849730/ithaca-tompkins-regional-airport-giving-more-privacy-options-to-traveling-moms>

The Ithaca Tompkins Regional Airport has established a new nursing station called the "Mamava" for traveling mothers to nurse their children in privacy, according to WENY. Mamava is a privacy pod with soft music and muted lighting that offers an alternative to feeding in public or bathrooms. If mothers choose to use the Mamava, they and their children can insert a passcode, enter a vacant nursing room and lock the door behind them for safety and privacy. The airport management hopes that other airports and public spaces incorporate privacy pods, and it plans to add another nursing station to the newly remodeled area of the airport upon completion of its renovation.

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[https://www.ithaca.com/news/ithaca/planning-board-writes-letter-for-stricter-energy-rules/article\\_10fc5ada-24bd-11e9-9f26-cbee93f88ec2.html](https://www.ithaca.com/news/ithaca/planning-board-writes-letter-for-stricter-energy-rules/article_10fc5ada-24bd-11e9-9f26-cbee93f88ec2.html)

According to Ithaca.com, the City of Ithaca Planning Board wrote a letter that asks new development projects to provide more clear energy code requirements when seeking approval through the planning board. The letter was introduced at a planning board meeting last week. It states that the board is seeking enforceable regulations that adhere to city code in order to achieve an elimination of fossil fuel use by 2050. The board also encourages the creation of an

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energy reduction working group comprised of members of government entities involved in the city planning process. The planning board hopes that these measures will facilitate the project review process, resolve climate change or energy-related issues and make new fossil fuel standards more accessible to the community.

<https://buffalonews.com/2019/01/30/tesla-hedges-on-timetable-for-solar-roof-production-increase-in-buffalo/>

Tesla is regressing from its timeline for a new solar roof production project in Buffalo, according to the Buffalo News. Tesla announced its fourth-quarter earnings last week. However, the report did not indicate that the company is prepared to speed up its operations for this project. Tesla repeatedly failed to meet its 2018 timetable, but the company expects solar roof production to increase significantly during the first half of 2019. Tesla says that it is installing solar roofs slowly due to the complexity of the project, product design changes and the learning process entailed with installing panels in winter months. Tesla experienced the worst quarter for solar energy deployments in recent years, but the company hopes to employ cost-cutting measures going forward.

<https://theithacan.org/news/breaking-sexual-assault-reported-in-emerson-hall/>

The Ithacan reports that the Ithaca College Office of Public Safety notified the campus community of a sexual assault via email on January 31. The Office of Public Safety is investigating a sexual assault that occurred between 2 and 3 a.m. on January 27 in Emerson Hall. The email reminds the college community to remain vigilant and encourages anyone with information to call the Office of Public Safety.

**2/6/19**

[https://www.ithaca.com/news/trumansburg/t-burg-dems-nominate-hannon/article\\_54391416-24b6-11e9-b398-df149fac6058.html](https://www.ithaca.com/news/trumansburg/t-burg-dems-nominate-hannon/article_54391416-24b6-11e9-b398-df149fac6058.html)

Attendees of the January 27 Trumansburg Village democratic caucus unanimously elected Keith Hannon as their nominee for trustee, as reported by Ithaca.com. Caucus attendees decided to nominate their candidate through a majority vote, which meant that the candidate must secure at least 50 percent of votes to be nominated. Hannon is currently filling a vacant trustee seat until the March 19 election. Hannon also works with the Trumansburg Area Chamber of Commerce, Trumansburg Police Department and Tompkins County Board of Directors. If elected, Hannon plans to address a village water processing facility issue and improve village walkability. The trustee position is a one-year term, and another election will be held in 2020 to fill all four trustee seats.

<https://ithacavoice.com/2019/02/neighbors-call-for-affordable-integrated-housing-in-carpenter-park-development/>

According to the Ithaca Voice, residents near the Carpenter Business Park redevelopment project are calling for affordable, inclusive housing. The redevelopment project will bring a Cayuga Medical Center facility, retail area and market-rate residential space to an Ithaca waterfront site. The project also includes affordable housing units that target households making

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50 to 60 percent area median income. At a neighborhood organization meeting Monday, residents asked developers about plans to locate affordable apartments away from market-rate apartments and expressed concern that separate housing units would segregate the neighborhood by income. The developers responded that the separation is due to convenience in financing and compliance with state regulations. More public comment periods are expected as the project progresses through the city planning process.

<http://news.cornell.edu/stories/2019/02/living-arrangements-dreamers-are-more-complex-less-stable-study-shows>

According to the Cornell Chronicle, a new study from researchers at Cornell University's College of Human Ecology provided the first national estimates of family living arrangements of undocumented migrants. The study found that unauthorized Mexican and Central American "Dreamers," or migrants who entered the United States as children or teens, live in more complex and less stable households than documented migrants or native-born citizens. The findings demonstrate that undocumented migrants are more likely to reside with extended family or non-family members, and they live in larger households than their U.S.-born or documented counterparts. These findings indicate the effect of legal status on education, employment opportunities, family-to-family relationships and residential areas.

**2/8/19**

<https://www.ithacajournal.com/story/news/local/2019/02/06/farm-products-expo-comes-corning-community-college/2788383002/>

The Elmira Star Gazette reports that the Taste FLXpo is returning to Corning for its second year on February 22 at Corning Community College. The Taste FLXpo is a food and beverage festival hosted by Finger Lakes Farm Country. The expo utilizes ingredients sourced from Finger Lakes counties. The event includes a food truck, farmer's market, cooking and pairing demonstrations and wine and craft beverage tastings. Corning Community College will bring in college chefs to run food stations and recipe cards will be available during the event for attendees to take home. The last FLXpo attracted 500 visitors, and guests will have the opportunity to learn about local ingredients from farmers and sample prepared dishes at the event.

<http://tompkinsweekly.com/stories/the-cherry-finds-stability-with-grant-funding.2284>

According to Tompkins Weekly, a not-for-profit arts organization called The Cherry Arts Space has received two grants that will cover the organization's operational expenses. The funding was granted by the Regional Economic Development Council and the New York State Council on the Arts. Now, The Cherry can support three full-time salaried positions of artistic director, marketing manager and general manager. The Cherry offers a nightclub-style dance party, local performances and plays. The organization says that it can also book and manage events more easily because it will not have to operate on a project-by-project basis. The organization plans to continue its fundraising efforts, but The Cherry feels that these grants provide affirmation of the importance of its work.

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<https://ithacavoice.com/2019/02/educators-to-be-celebrated-with-winter-recess-teachers-festival/>

Visit Ithaca and the Downtown Ithaca Alliance are hosting the 13th annual Winter Recess Teacher's Festival from February 15 to February 24, as stated in the Ithaca Voice. The weeklong festival coincides with the observance of President's Day and begins with teachers registering online for passes. Once educators arrive in Ithaca, overnight rooms and dining and entertainment experiences are available at discounted rates. The purpose of the Winter Recess Teacher's Festival is to show local appreciation for teachers and celebrate the community's educational roots.

<http://www.weny.com/story/39924630/nys-lawmakers-introduce-bill-prohibiting-trash-incinerators-in-the-finger-lakes>

As reported in WENY, New York State lawmakers introduced bills aimed at prohibiting trash incinerators in the Finger Lakes region. The bills received bipartisan support, and lawmakers hope that they will reach the Assembly floor this year after a failed attempt last legislative session. The bill would eliminate Circular enerG LLC's proposal to build garbage incinerators between Seneca and Cayuga lakes. The proposed incinerator would reportedly bring in state-wide trash by truck or rail on a daily basis. Advocates of the legislation fear that trash burning will emit toxins and harmful chemicals, threaten nearby wildlife and schools and damage the wine and tourism industry. The bills drew support from Finger Lakes businesses, wineries, environmental groups and local officials.

**2/13/19**

[https://www.ithaca.com/news/tompkins\\_county/auctioneer-facing-more-theft-allegations-at-national-book-auctions/article\\_726ad2c2-2f28-11e9-8669-c365425169da.html](https://www.ithaca.com/news/tompkins_county/auctioneer-facing-more-theft-allegations-at-national-book-auctions/article_726ad2c2-2f28-11e9-8669-c365425169da.html)

Auctioneer and consignment company owner David Hall is facing new theft allegations against his company called National Book Auctions. A recent lawsuit filed last week in Tompkins County Court shed light on approximately \$24,000 in payments that Hall allegedly withheld from a client after auctioning their items. Hall is awaiting trial on a second degree charge of grand larceny after his arrest in November. Ithaca.com reports that other customers claim to have lost thousands of dollars to Hall, and six lawsuits have been filed against National Book Auctions and Hall's other auctioning companies in 2017 and 2018. The Tompkins County District Attorney's office says that it is working to proceed with the criminal case and compensate any financial losses.

[https://www.fltimes.com/lifestyle/entertainment/sweeney-song-part-of-grammy-winning-album/article\\_cda14aeb-4349-55f4-9a0d-bb811f6b45ef.html](https://www.fltimes.com/lifestyle/entertainment/sweeney-song-part-of-grammy-winning-album/article_cda14aeb-4349-55f4-9a0d-bb811f6b45ef.html)

Geneva native Bill Sweeney wrote lyrics for a song that is featured in a Grammy-winning album, according to the the Finger Lakes Times. Sweeney composed the lyrics to the song "When My Day Comes" on "The Blues Is Alive and Well" album by blues artist Buddy Guy. At 7 p.m. Sunday at the 61st annual Grammy Awards, the album was named Best Traditional Blues album. Sweeney wrote the song in remembrance of his late father, and Sweeney says that he is honored to have been part of this award-winning album.

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<https://www.timesunion.com/news/article/Forum-hears-pros-cons-of-tougher-emission-limits-13611697.php>

A Climate and Community Protection Act hearing occurred before the Senate Standing Committee of Environmental Conservation yesterday. This bill would require New York State to derive half of its energy from renewable resources by 2030 and eliminate its fossil fuel use by 2050. The bill would also mandate that 40 percent of clean energy funding is spent on projects in economically disadvantaged communities, as stated by the Times Union. Environmental groups advocated the measure for its potential to set a national precedent of reduced greenhouse gas emissions, while opponents of the bill worry that its provisions are too severe. The bill has been introduced previously in 2017 and 2018, and further hearings are scheduled for tomorrow and Friday.

**2/15/19**

<http://tompkinsweekly.com/stories/trumansburg-connection-community-spotlight-t-burg-takes-on-pediatric-cancer,2304?>

T-Burg Takes on Pediatric Cancer is a local non-profit organization that is expanding its outreach from Syracuse and Rochester hospitals to Buffalo and Albany medical facilities that serve pediatric cancer patients. The organization holds several fundraising opportunities annually in order to achieve its goal of assisting the families of children who have been diagnosed with cancer. Tompkins Weekly reports that T-Burg Takes on Pediatric Cancer hosts fundraisers such as a Gala event, an Easter Egg Hunt, dining for dollars at local restaurants, a Fall Family Fun Day and a fishing tournament. The proceeds from these events cover families' everyday expenses and bills while children overcome their battles with cancer. The organization hopes that its expansion and fundraising efforts raise community awareness of pediatric cancer.

<https://theithacan.org/news/student-affairs-creates-higher-ed-certificate-program/>

The Ithaca College Division of Student Affairs and Campus Life is offering a new Emerging Leaders in Student Affairs Certificate Program to students interested in pursuing careers in higher education after graduation. The program began due to the high rate of graduates who were recently employed in student affairs, and it equips students with basic training and leadership skills that are necessary to work in higher education. According to The Ithacan, participants must attend six Student Leadership Institute workshops over the duration of one semester or up to two academic years in order to receive the certification. The college will host a conference in collaboration with other campus departments to raise interest for the program and instruct students of potential careers in student affairs.

<https://ithacavoice.com/2019/02/photos-community-gets-first-look-at-early-immaculate-conception-site-plans/>

The Greater Ithaca Activities Center offered the Ithaca community a look at the redevelopment of the former Immaculate Conception site on Wednesday, as stated in the Ithaca Voice. Ithaca Neighborhood Housing Services received feedback from local residents at its first community engagement session and described its plans to convert the site into a mixed-use community

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with affordable housing, an upgraded gym and a renovated Catholic Charities building. Ithaca Neighborhood Housing Services acknowledged some potential zoning challenges and listened to community concerns about building height and traffic congestion. In response, future engagement sessions will be held to gather more feedback and prepare for a project proposal before Common Council in March.

<https://cornellsun.com/2019/02/15/bank-regulators-need-new-ways-to-detect-discrimination-say-cornell-researchers/>

A Cornell University study found that the algorithms that regulators use to determine if banks are racially discriminating among clients tend to overestimate the amount of discrimination that actually occurs. Cornell researchers found that bank regulators cannot accurately predict disparate impact, which is the difference in experience for two similarly qualified groups that deviate in characteristics like race. Therefore, according to the Cornell Daily Sun, the algorithms that regulators rely on often produce results indicating that lenders discriminate more than they do, which can lead to heavy fines on banks. The study evaluated the accuracy of these algorithms in order to improve the collection of racial data in lending applications without breaking laws or invading customers' privacy.

[https://www.fltimes.com/news/deputies-get-training-for-mental-health-situations/article\\_9e1ae6c7-7d36-530d-bc33-ff7f47972f20.html](https://www.fltimes.com/news/deputies-get-training-for-mental-health-situations/article_9e1ae6c7-7d36-530d-bc33-ff7f47972f20.html)

Ontario County deputies recently received Crisis Intervention Training to help officers better handle individuals who exhibit mental illness. Road patrol deputies and investigators attended an eight-hour in-service training session that instructed officers of methods such as transporting people with behavioral health issues to hospitals instead of jails. Ontario County Sheriff's Office also released January crime statistics to the Finger Lakes Times related to drug overdoses, motor vehicle accidents, traffic patrols, arrests and other violations that occurred in Canandaigua, Farmington, Geneva and Victor.

[https://www.fltimes.com/news/sf-town-board-allocates-landfill-money-for-water-upgrades/article\\_8c497e8e-d046-50d5-a10e-893b215067a7.html](https://www.fltimes.com/news/sf-town-board-allocates-landfill-money-for-water-upgrades/article_8c497e8e-d046-50d5-a10e-893b215067a7.html)

The Finger Lakes Times also reports that the Seneca Falls Town Board voted unanimously Wednesday to allocate over 425 thousand dollars in revenue from Seneca Meadows Landfill to upgrade the town's water treatment system. Seneca Falls received 3.3 million dollars this year from the privately owned landfill, and the town board intends to use this money on projects like water filter replacement, disinfection and a water tower remote monitoring system. These improvements were placed in the water fund rather than the 2019 budget due to the timing of budget adoption and the priority of certain upgrades. The town board hopes to finish these improvements before summer in order to avoid algae outbreaks that may interfere with water quality.

**2/18/19**

[https://www.ithaca.com/news/ithaca/improvements-coming-for-area-homeless-service-providers/article\\_c9d9331c-2e30-11e9-8620-6b51a862c004.html](https://www.ithaca.com/news/ithaca/improvements-coming-for-area-homeless-service-providers/article_c9d9331c-2e30-11e9-8620-6b51a862c004.html)

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St. John's Church is undergoing several electrical upgrades and renovations due to grant funding and community donations. According to the Ithaca Times, St. John's Church will install a fully-working air conditioning system in late spring that will cool the Parish Hall where Loaves and Fishes staff serves hot meals to guests daily. The air conditioning units and newly installed fans will also maximize building use in warmer months. The church received funding from the Park Foundation, the Social Services Agency of Ithaca and parishioners, which supports the air conditioning project as well as roof repairs and a miniature free laundry mat. The church hopes to start a laundry ministry that will operate while Loaves and Fishes serves meals to the homeless population of Ithaca.

<https://ithacavoice.com/2019/02/lint-buildup-leads-to-east-hill-apartment-fire-ifd-says/>

The Ithaca Fire Department responded to a laundry room fire at an East Hill apartment Saturday afternoon that ignited due to a lint buildup. The Ithaca Voice reports that the fire occurred in a first-floor apartment on Summerhill Street in Ithaca. The Ithaca Fire Department and New York State Police contained the blaze in a stacked washer/dryer unit in approximately 10 minutes, and crews remained for two additional hours to investigate the scene. Fire alarms and sprinkler systems are credited with alerting residents and keeping the flames at bay until firefighters arrived. The Ithaca Fire Department recommends regular cleaning of lint traps and vent pipes to prevent lint buildup.

<https://news.cornell.edu/stories/2019/02/mahowald-congress-act-now-arrest-climate-change>

Natalie Mahowald, Cornell University professor of engineering in the Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences, was invited to testify before the House Science, Space and Technology Committee last Wednesday. Professor Mahowald offered testimony about Earth's warming atmosphere via live video, according to the The Cornell Chronicle. She offered her expertise as the lead author of a UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report and faculty advisor of Cornell's Atkinson Center for a Sustainable Future. Mahowald spoke of the possibility of keeping global warming temperature increases below 1.5 degrees if carbon dioxide emissions are cut quickly enough. Mahowald answered questions from House members about practical technology-based solutions and investment in future research in order to better understand climate change data.

**2/22/19**

<https://ithacavoice.com/2019/02/nyserda-launches-1-million-home-energy-ratings-pilot-for-contractors-and-home-inspectors/>

The New York State Energy Research and Development Authority announced its one million dollar Home Energy Rating pilot program that will improve home energy efficiency. According to the Ithaca Voice, Tompkins County is one of six locations in New York participating in the four-phase pilot program that will provide homeowners with energy performance ratings. Through the program, contractors and home inspectors will generate reports that identify potential high-performing energy features and suggest upgrades to increase efficiency and decrease energy costs. The four phases of the program require applications from contractors and home inspectors in order to conduct pre-purchase inspections for homebuyers and

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introduce the program to homeowners. The Energy Research and Development Authority recommends visiting their website for applications and further information.

<https://www.steubencourier.com/news/20190220/reed-sees-arc-of-schuyler-renovations>

U.S. Representative Tom Reed visited the Arc of Schuyler Tuesday to learn about the renovation and expansion of the Arc of Schuyler's food manufacturing facility. The 1.75 million dollar construction program entails the remodeling of a building that will house Glen Co-Pack food manufacturing and a neighboring building for a Neighborhood Center. The Arc of Schuyler received grant funding from the Appalachian Regional Commission Grant and the Dormitory Authority Grant, which will partially cover the expenses of these projects, and additional funds will be derived from future fundraising events. The construction is expected to be completed by late summer of this year.

<https://fingerlakes1.com/2019/02/21/flx-daily-forecast/>

The National Weather Service upgraded the Finger Lakes region from a High Wind Watch to a High Wind Warning. Finger Lakes One reports that sixty five to seventy mile per hour winds will strengthen during morning and midday Sunday. The National Weather Service advises Yates, Wayne, Ontario and Monroe counties to be on alert for gusts that may cause fallen tree limbs and power outages. Other Finger Lakes counties will likely experience Wind Warnings or Wind Advisories early Sunday as well.

<https://ithacavoice.com/2019/02/ithaca-crime-fell-in-2018-police-data-shows/>

Crime fell in the City of Ithaca in 2018, which is the fifth consecutive year that crime rates have remained constant or decreased. The Ithaca Voice also noted that the number of violent crimes in Ithaca rose slightly after it reviewed the Ithaca Police Department's data report to the New York Division of Criminal Justice Services. The data shows that property crimes have fallen since the 1990s, while violent crime rates have fluctuated. Ithaca residents, like many Americans, feel that local crime is worsening despite this downward trend. The steady violent crime rate and the high visibility of a few high profile crimes may contribute to this perception. The police data reveals that Ithaca's crime rate is lower than nearby cities, and Ithaca aligns with a national decrease in crime overall.

**2/27/19**

<https://ithacavoice.com/2019/02/its-like-paint-in-the-water-experts-discuss-algal-blooms-and-threats-to-cayuga-lakes-health/>

The Finger Lakes Land Trust spoke about the threat algal blooms pose to the health of the Finger Lakes during a meeting at the Tompkins County Library on Monday. Ithaca sits on wetlands that have been developed and farmed, which has significantly increased the flow of unfiltered runoff into Cayuga and ten other Finger Lakes. Phosphorus (Foss-for-iss) and nitrogen from farming and increasingly intense storms also contribute to algal bloom growth. The Ithaca Voice reports that algal blooms feed off nutrients in runoff, and the Finger Lakes Land Trust is working to reduce the damage of the algae infestation through data collection and filtration systems. Organizations like the Community Science Institute and Cayuga Lake

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Watershed are also collaborating to test water samples, analyze the causes of algal blooms and generate solutions. In order to slow the rate of runoff into the lake, groups are establishing land trusts around the watershed, exploring engineering solutions and advocating for municipalities to commit to regulations and stormwater management plans.

<http://www.14850.com/02269615-ithaca-festival-1902/>

The theme of the 2019 Ithaca Festival is Full STEAM Ahead in celebration of science, technology, engineering, arts and math in Ithaca. According to 1-4-8-5-0.com, festival organizers are in the planning process for the festival, which will occur May 30 to June 2, and they encourage participants to engage in interactive STEAM activities during the event. This year, Thursday night programming will feature the Festival Parade and food vendors. In order to cover operating costs, the festival received funding from sponsors and donations. The festival organizers are also searching for a graphic artist who can create STEAM-themed artwork for promotional materials and apparel. Artists are encouraged to apply at ithacafest.org by February 28.

<https://theithacan.org/news/sgc-passes-bill-to-provide-free-stamps-for-absentee-ballots/>

On Monday, the Ithaca College Student Governance Council passed a bill that will provide students with free postage stamps for absentee ballots in upcoming elections. The Civic Engagement Bill uses funds in the Student Governance Council budget to purchase 400 stamps that can be picked up at various locations around campus. As stated in The Ithacan, the purpose of the bill is to encourage voting in college students. The bill will be implemented in Fall 2019 in hopes that all resources will be prepared in time for the 2020 presidential election. Depending on the amount of interest generated by this bill, more stamps may be purchased for future primary, midterm and general elections. The Student Governance Council intends to distribute posters to promote the availability of the new stamp initiative.

[https://www.ithaca.com/news/ithaca/cobbler-s-cottage-moves-to-the-commons/article\\_4692db36-354a-11e9-b29a-5bd143777893.html](https://www.ithaca.com/news/ithaca/cobbler-s-cottage-moves-to-the-commons/article_4692db36-354a-11e9-b29a-5bd143777893.html)

Cobbler's Cottage, a shoe and handbag retailer, moved to the Ithaca Commons after 20 years at its Elmira Road location. Store owner Cindy Brashear is relocating her shop due to the less expensive rent on the Commons and greater exposure to a larger, more diverse clientele base. The Ithaca Times reports that the new location opened February 9 after an extensive interior renovation of the ceilings, brick walls and floor of the shop. Brashear is satisfied with her new spot on the Commons and enjoys that she can rent the space from a local landlord and reach new customers.

**3/1/19**

[https://www.ftimes.com/news/state-sen-young-to-lead-cornell-agritech-center-of-excellence/article\\_e416f112-cc82-541e-bc53-11f4a66bb894.html](https://www.ftimes.com/news/state-sen-young-to-lead-cornell-agritech-center-of-excellence/article_e416f112-cc82-541e-bc53-11f4a66bb894.html)

Cornell University appointed New York State Senator Catharine Young as director of the New York State Center of Excellence for Food and Agriculture at Cornell AgriTech. Young represents western New York in the Senate and is an advocate for agriculture and economic development,

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according to the Finger Lakes Times. The Center for Excellence connects New York businesses with resources they need for growth and innovation. The center also offers guidance and financial assistance to startup companies in order to expand the state's food, beverage and agriculture economy. Catharine Young will begin her position on March 11.

<https://ithacavoice.com/2019/02/plans-to-expand-ithaca-reuse-center-put-on-hold/>

Finger Lakes ReUse is working to preserve its Ithaca location and downsize its operational budget after flooding risks and unstable soils delayed its development plans. The Ithaca Voice reports that the expansion project is postponed until ReUse can make a payment to purchase an Elmira Road location from the current site owners. The Reinforce ReUse Challenge is a method to finance the property acquisition through grants, fundraising and awareness in order to prevent property foreclosure at the end of April. Although the nonprofit has met its fundraising goals, it has not secured loans from lending institutions to cover the purchase, closing costs and renovations. ReUse leaders say that the nonprofit is in a strong position to secure loans due to revenue growth and self-sustaining initiatives.

<https://theithacan.org/news/career-services-to-provide-professional-clothes-for-rent/>

During the Attire for Hire fashion show on Monday. Ithaca College Career Services debuted its Career Closet, which lends professional attire for interviews and events to students. The Career Closet opened on Tuesday in order for students of all genders and body sizes to have access to professional clothing items and feel confident in interview and work environments. The Ithacan reports that college faculty, staff and alumni contributed clothing items, and the closet will continue to accept donations. The Attire for Hire Fashion show displayed the range of smart casual, business casual and business professional attire that students can borrow. The fashion show promoted education about the purpose of the Career Closet and provided attendees with tips about the appropriate usage of clothing items in professional settings.

<http://news.cornell.edu/stories/2019/02/ladies-first-law-review-elects-historic-all-female-board>

Cornell Law Review members interviewed and elected an all-female senior editorial board for the first time in recent memory in early February, according the Cornell Chronicle. The Law Review is a student-led journal that publishes scholarship in hopes of impacting the legal community. The Law Review believes that its new editorial board, comprised completely of second-year juris doctorate women, is among the top 14 law schools in the United States with all-female members. The board sets the editorial agenda for the journal and will publish seven issues with submissions from professors, judges and law students in 2019. In response to the election, Cornell students expressed enthusiasm about the direction and potential of the newly elected editorial board.

<https://cornellsun.com/2019/02/28/reporter-explains-metoo-movement-in-japanese-media-sector/>

Chie Matsumoto is a Japanese reporter and activist for the Media Workers' Union Tokyo who gave a lecture at Cornell University on Wednesday about the Me Too movement in the Japanese media sector. Matsumoto described to students and staff the efforts that she is making to achieve legislation that penalizes workplace sexual harassment. The cases of victims

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speaking openly about their sexual assault experiences in the United States inspired a Me Too movement in Japanese female reporters. Journalists in Japan established Media Network Japan, an organization that represents media organizations, offers advice to victims and conducts research about the frequency of sexual harassment committed against women in communications. During her lecture, Matsumoto said that the organization aims to promote good reporting, empower women and expand protections to other industries beyond media.

<http://www.weny.com/story/40049187/tompkins-county-community-members-distraught-over-tree-removal>

A neighborhood in Lansing is concerned after discovering that a significant amount of vegetation in the area is facing removal. Due to potential waterline bursts or breakages, the town of Ithaca announced that it will uproot 50-year-old trees in Lansing that have grown above the waterline. Residents have protested the removal, citing the history of the vegetation, habitat disruption and privacy concerns as evidence against extracting trees. WENY reports that the town of Ithaca stands behind its decision due to future maintenance and safety issues that may arise if the waterline is left in its outdated condition.

<https://www.newyorkupstate.com/news/2019/02/momo-challenge-cny-schools-offer-advice-for-parents-to-talk-to-kids.html>

New York State school districts are offering advice to parents who are concerned with the “Momo (Moe-Moe) Challenge,” an image of a frightening doll-like figure that asks children to respond to it by partaking in a dangerous activity or harming themselves. Momo originated in 2016 and now has reappeared in Youtube Kids children shows and the Facebook-owned messaging app WhatsApp. The apps have since investigated the images. Some experts suggest that the challenge is a hoax, however schools have notified parents to monitor their children's' online activity, according to New York Upstate. Administrators also advise parents to remind their kids that they should not contact strangers online and that Momo cannot make them inflict harm on themselves or others. Parents are encouraged to contact their school districts if they suspect that their children are experiencing harassment online.

**3/6/19**

[https://www.ithaca.com/news/ithaca/mayor-and-common-council-members-officially-announce-re-election-bids/article\\_e28251d8-3fb9-11e9-b795-1390b8facec0.html](https://www.ithaca.com/news/ithaca/mayor-and-common-council-members-officially-announce-re-election-bids/article_e28251d8-3fb9-11e9-b795-1390b8facec0.html)

Ithaca's mayor and five Common Council members announced their reelection bids and responded to questions Tuesday night during the Ithaca City Democratic Committee meeting at Tompkins County Public Library. Mayor Svante Myrick and alderpersons George McGonigal, Ducson Nguyen, Rob Gearhart, Steve Smith and Laura Lewis have begun collecting signatures for their petitions in order to be eligible to run in November.

Svante Myrick noted the concerns that he heard from residents as he sought petitions, and he acknowledged that there is room for improvement in city management going forward. The Ithaca Times reports that Myrick pledged to serve the full four-year term if elected as mayor.

George McGonigal is running for his second term and cited housing, rent rise and overdevelopment issues as initiatives of his campaign. Ducson Nguyen pointed to Common

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Council success with the Green Building Policy and stormwater fees during his term and emphasized his experience in transportation at the meeting.

Steve Smith joined Common Council in 2012 and has worked to bridge the disconnect between Cornell University and the City of Ithaca through affordable housing. Rob Gearhart expressed pride in the restructuring, streamlining and heightened community engagement of four new city commissions. Laura Lewis intends to continue her work with affordable housing and neighborhood housing services if re-elected.

<https://ithacavoice.com/2019/03/legislators-urge-state-to-double-down-on-funding-for-water-infrastructure-improvements/>

Tompkins County legislators unanimously passed a resolution on Tuesday that urges Governor Andrew Cuomo and New York State leaders to secure water infrastructure funding in this year's budget. Tompkins County is requesting grants through the 2015 Water Infrastructure Improvement Act, which meets the needs of municipalities in paying for expensive drinking water and wastewater improvement projects. According to the Ithaca Voice, local governments bear the costs of updating water infrastructure without help from state-funded grants. The Water Infrastructure Improvement Act has helped Trumansburg, Cayuga Heights and Ulysses with drinking water upgrades and wastewater treatment plant improvements. More funding will allow Tompkins County to resolve water issues like the pipe breakage beneath Cayuga Street and upgrade outdated pipes and sewage infrastructure.

<https://ithacavoice.com/2019/03/local-experts-weigh-in-on-combating-a-climate-of-hate/>

A panel consisting of members of marginalized groups in Tompkins County spoke about the struggles that their communities face on Thursday evening at Tompkins County Public Library. Panelists from the Muslim, Jewish, African American, Latin American and LGBTQ communities discussed their personal experiences with discrimination, as well as hate crimes committed against their groups. Topics such as xenophobia, racism, anti-Semitism and sexism were raised during the panel, the Ithaca Voice reports. Panelists shed light on the causes of hate and proposed solutions to counteract the rise in hate crimes locally and nationally. The panel encouraged Tompkins County residents to take action against hatred, focus on economic injustice, acknowledge the realities of different communities and engage in difficult conversations. Panelists advocated for an end to misinformation in the media and a culture of tolerance and inclusivity to protect against future hate crimes in Tompkins County.

**3/8/19**

<https://ithacavoice.com/2019/03/lower-speed-limits-part-of-city-plan-to-improve-traffic-safety-with-vision-zero/>

The Ithaca Common Council passed the Vision Zero resolution, which is proposed legislation to reduce the number of traffic fatalities and vehicle-related injuries to zero through lowered speed limits. Vision Zero entails systemic changes to road safety policies, as stated by the Ithaca Voice. The resolution aims at decreasing city-wide speed limits from 30 miles per hour to 20 or 25 miles per hour. A study on Vision Zero found that lowering speed limits decreased the severity of crashes and the likelihood of vehicles to speed. Currently, New York State does not allow municipalities to reduce the speed limit below 30 miles per hour; however, Common

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Council requested that the state amends this law in order to enact Vision Zero in Ithaca going forward. Common Council is consulting neighboring communities, researchers, police and Ithaca residents to gain feedback and assistance with the enactment process.

<https://cornellsun.com/2019/03/08/cornellians-for-israel-students-for-justice-in-palestine-contest-bds-movement-in-student-assembly-teach-in/>

Cornellians for Israel and Students for Justice in Palestine debated the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement, or BDS, during a Student Assembly teach-in Thursday at Cornell University. BDS is a movement that uses global economic pressure in order for Palestinians to return to regions that were previously inhabited by their ancestors prior to Israel gaining its statehood. The BDS movement is controversial, according to the Cornell Daily Sun, because it has generated success for Palestinian rights while also drawing concern from the Jewish community that BDS is anti-Semitic. The teach-in provided an opportunity to respond to a Students for Justice in Palestine BDS resolution and convince student assembly representatives to promote a course of action for the university. Pro-BDS students hope for the university to cut ties with Israeli businesses, while anti-BDS groups site the Israeli-Cornell organization in New York City as evidence of academic collaboration with the Israeli community. The teach-in participants were commended for their civility and constructive dialogue.

[https://www.ithaca.com/news/groton/doctor-to-give-lecture-on-strength-training-to-fight-disease/article\\_6d610418-402b-11e9-8e6c-d35c6d938132.html](https://www.ithaca.com/news/groton/doctor-to-give-lecture-on-strength-training-to-fight-disease/article_6d610418-402b-11e9-8e6c-d35c6d938132.html)

Author and Cornell University Lab Director Dr. William Shang will speak about disease prevention through strength training at 11 a.m. March 13 at Groton Public Library. The Ithaca Times reports that Dr. Shang, who is certified by the American College of Sports Medicine, has lectured at various locations across the Finger Lakes region and Upstate New York. He hopes to raise awareness about the importance of strength exercise in treating common diseases through his lecture series. Dr. Shang believes the most physicians have not been trained in prescribing exercise for preventing and curing diseases like dementia, diabetes and high blood pressure. He urges physicians to educate themselves on the use of strength training as a substitute to medication, and he encourages patients to learn about the alternative exercise options that are available for disease prevention.

<https://fingerlakes1.com/2019/03/07/supervisors-weighing-options-for-mental-health-department/>

The Seneca County Mental Health Board of Supervisors debated several solutions to the renovation of the Seneca County Mental Health Department at a meeting of the Public Works Committee this week. A local architect conducted an assessment of the infrastructure of the facility, which resulted in concerns about the longevity of its Thurber Drive, Waterloo, location. In addition, board supervisors acknowledge the growing number of youth and adult patients who use services at the mental health facility in recent years. In order to accommodate the need for expanded space, the board is weighing the options of rehabilitating, overhauling, expanding or completing rebuilding the property. Finger Lakes 1 reports that the cost analyses of each option vary, with the more extreme remodeling plans expected to cost approximately five million dollars. The board is requesting more information from project engineers before determining its course of action.

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<https://fingerlakes1.com/2019/03/08/gov-cuomo-announces-funding-to-repair-roads-damaged-by-winter-weather/>

Finger Lakes 1 also reports that Governor Andrew Cuomo announced \$128 million in New York State funding to repave roadways that were damaged by winter weather conditions. The PAVE NY initiative will cover approximately 90 paving projects and nearly 1,000 miles of statewide roadways, and at least one project is guaranteed in each county in the state. PAVE NY comes in addition to \$100 million committed earlier this year in direct state aid for local road repair projects. The funding is part of the Department of Transportation's five-year capital plan to enhance infrastructure that has endured rapid temperature swings and large amounts of snowfall this winter. The repavement is slated to begin in the spring and will be completed later this year.

3/18/19

[https://www.ithaca.com/news/dryden/dryden-looking-to-add-energy-initiatives-to-town-plan/article\\_1eece3ec-45a3-11e9-88fc-530063a51b42.html](https://www.ithaca.com/news/dryden/dryden-looking-to-add-energy-initiatives-to-town-plan/article_1eece3ec-45a3-11e9-88fc-530063a51b42.html)

The Building Energy Subcommittee of the Town of Dryden Planning Board met March 7 to address proposed additions to the Dryden Comprehensive Plan. The purpose of this plan is to incorporate Tompkins County Energy and Greenhouse Gas Emissions policies into Dryden's zoning laws, building codes, project application templates and site plan reviews. The goals of the comprehensive plan are to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, strengthen infrastructure systems, increase the use of renewable energy and improve the efficiency of building and renovating structures. Townspeople who attended the meeting expressed their concerns with the energy initiatives such as the necessity of climate change prevention, the subcommittee's process of integrating policies into the town plan, and the feasibility of energy efficiency in Dryden. Subcommittee members explained that their evaluation of climate change research has caused them to increase their efforts, and the board plans to hold future meetings to discuss the proposed additions.

<https://ithacavoice.com/2019/03/ithacas-youth-join-global-strike-against-climate-inaction/>

Hundreds of Ithaca's youth participated in the Global Climate Strike against climate inaction on Friday in solidarity with 2,000 international protests and thousands of other young people worldwide. Around 11:30 a.m. on March 15, Ithaca students and climate change activists carried signs and chanted as they marched from Ithaca High School to the Ithaca Commons during the strike. Students offered different reasons for striking, such as supporting Indigenous communities, raising community awareness and creating a more sustainable future for themselves. The Ithaca Voice states that findings about the effects of climate inaction from the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change inspired the strike as well. Cornell researchers, Ithaca High School faculty and other adult community members pledged their support to the youth-led movement and agree with youth that action is needed to create positive change.

<http://news.cornell.edu/stories/2019/03/search-committee-cornell-tech-dean-announced>

Cornell University announced that a committee is beginning its search for the new dean of Cornell Tech. Cornell Tech is a New York City-based graduate program specializing in

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technology, business and law. Dan Huttenlocher, the current Cornell Tech dean, is stepping down from his position in August to become the inaugural dean of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's new Schwarzman College of Computing. Members from Cornell Tech and faculty from disciplines like electrical and computer engineering, medicine, business, informational science and architecture will serve on the search committee. As reported by the Cornell Chronicle, the committee is poised to develop a position announcement immediately, and university administrators expect to name the newly hired dean prior to Huttenlocher's departure. The committee is asking faculty to submit names of potential candidates and is consulting the Cornell Tech community for its desired attributes in a new dean.

**3/22/19**

<https://cornellsun.com/2019/03/22/cornells-greed-has-got-to-go-grad-students-host-rally-for-better-mental-health-services/>

Cornell Graduate Students United hosted a rally for improved mental health services Thursday to express their grievances with the poor quality of campus services, particularly for graduate-level students. The Cornell Daily Sun states the university's mental health services have received criticism for excessive wait times, understaffing and unresponsiveness to past student petitions. Cornell Board of Trustees chairman Robert Harrison appeared at the event to listen to student testimonies, and Harrison accepted Cornell Graduate Students United's recent petition. The petition calls for an external review of psychological services, same-day appointments, expanded services and increased hiring of staff who are trained in accommodations for LGBT students and students of color. Protesters cited an email from Cornell Student and Campus Life that outlined new institutional changes as evidence that mental health services will improve.

<https://cornellsun.com/2019/03/22/cornell-english-department-drops-gre-requirement-for-ph-d-applicants/>

Cornell University's English Department announced that Ph.D. applicants will not be required to submit their Graduate Record Examination, or GRE, scores as part of their application to its graduate program going forward. The GRE is an assessment of the readiness of prospective graduate students, and it is associated with high costs for taking the test and sending scores to institutions. As reported by the Cornell Daily Sun, the university is moving away from the GRE requirements commonly found in other elite institutions and is instead following the application procedures of Harvard University and the University of Pennsylvania. Department of English staff feel that the GRE inaccurately predicts future success and poses a financial barrier to disadvantaged groups, which impedes graduate student diversity. A faculty-wide vote indicated overwhelming support for the elimination of the GRE requirement.

<http://news.cornell.edu/stories/2019/03/high-fructose-corn-syrup-promotes-tumor-growth-mice>

Cornell University published a study March 22 that found that consuming one can of soda per day led to the development of larger tumors in mice predisposed to colon cancer. The study was conducted by Weill Cornell Medicine and New York-Presbyterian researchers, according to the Cornell Chronicle. Each day during the eight-week experiment, colon cancer-prone mice received the equivalent amount of high-fructose corn syrup in one can of soda, which reflects

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the amount of added sugars consumed by half of Americans since the 1980s. This evidence suggests that sugar may fuel cancer growth, and the findings could present solutions for cancer treatment or prevention. For instance, excess tumor growth and other health concerns like obesity and metabolic syndrome may be blocked by avoiding sugary drinks.

**3/25/19**

[https://www.ithaca.com/news/ithaca/title-ix-changes-draw-local-resistance/article\\_07e934d0-4b2e-11e9-84ee-2b459e530b63.html](https://www.ithaca.com/news/ithaca/title-ix-changes-draw-local-resistance/article_07e934d0-4b2e-11e9-84ee-2b459e530b63.html)

Higher education institutions, including Ithaca College and Cornell University, are speaking out against a list of changes to Title IX's sexual assault policies proposed by the Department of Education. According to the Ithaca Times, the proposed revisions are receiving backlash due to allegations that they serve to protect the accused and discourage victims from reporting sexual assault. Such changes would require that only Title IX coordinators take action on misconduct rather than school officials, teachers or counselors. Additional concerns were raised due to vague proposals that would allow the accused to call upon any person of their choosing to cross-examine the survivor during trial. Ithaca College has responded to the proposed changes, and the Cornell University Student Assembly submitted a resolution that asks members of the student body to express their opinions. The Department of Education is required to read and respond to all comments, but the response date is to be determined.

<https://cornellsun.com/2019/03/24/climate-justice-cornell-hands-fossil-fuel-divestment-petition-to-trustee-after-rally/>

Climate Justice Cornell rallied Friday afternoon for Cornell University to divest in the fossil fuel industry and delivered a petition to a university trustee afterward. Divestment is withdrawing shares in fossil fuel corporations and re-investing those funds in more environmentally sustainable organizations. The purposes of the protest were to raise campus awareness of fossil fuel divestment and bring this issue to the attention of the Board of Trustees, which was meeting during the rally. The Cornell Daily Sun reports that divestment funds are derived from the university's tuition and endowment. This angers students who believe that Cornell will experience better financial returns on their tuition dollars if it divests. Cornell English Professor Caroline Levine argued that fossil fuel investment contradicts the university's mission and goals. After Board of Trustees Chairman Robert Harrison received a stack of over 1,000 petition signatures during the rally, he promised that the board will consider students' demands.

<https://cornellsun.com/2019/03/24/alumnus-burns-cornell-degree-to-show-that-hard-work-matters-more-than-prestige/>

2013 Cornell University graduate Ajay Kalias uploaded a YouTube video showing him burning his Cornell University degree in order to demonstrate that hard work and quality of life are more valuable than elite education. Kalias, who studied sociology and pre-med, said that despite his academic and co-curricular success, the pressure to maintain a high GPA and his sense of entitlement were damaging to his well-being. Kalias changed his approach by pursuing classes he enjoyed and engaging in meaningful experiences at a lesser known medical school. According to the Cornell Daily Sun, the video gained over 20,000 views since its posting. Kalias has received positive feedback from high school seniors and college students, who he

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encouraged to stay true to themselves and to take advantage of college resources no matter which school they attend.

3/27/19

<https://theithacan.org/news/qa-svante-myrick-discusses-his-bid-for-a-third-term/>

City of Ithaca Mayor Svante Myrick sat down with The Ithacan to discuss his candidacy for a third term, his achievements in office and his outlook for resolving issues in Ithaca. Myrick declared his re-election bid March 6, which was motivated by his love of serving the community and the experience he gained over the past seven years in this role. Myrick spoke about city accomplishments like the reconstruction of The Commons, greater local housing and lowered taxes. If re-elected, the mayor hopes to see his initiatives for a heroin injection site, improved city infrastructure, decreased housing costs and affordable childcare come to fruition. To continue stimulating the local economy and development, Myrick endorses subsidized housing, imposing taxes on tax-exempt Cornell University and eradicating crime. Myrick admits that he may consider higher office eventually, but he is focusing his efforts on earning a third term from Ithaca voters.

<https://cornellsun.com/2019/03/27/crazy-rich-asians-star-ronny-chieng-to-perform-at-statler-hall/>

Ronny Chieng, actor in the romantic comedy “Crazy Rich Asians” and comedian for “The Daily Show with Trevor Noah, will perform at Cornell University. The Cornell University Program Board will host the Malaysian actor from “Crazy Rich Asians,” which is one of the first Hollywood movies with a majority-Asian cast. The Cornell Daily Sun reports that Chieng’s comedy show is open to the public and will occur 7 p.m. April 14 at the Willard Straight Hall Resource Center.

<https://ithacavoice.com/2019/03/video-ithaca-polar-plunge-raises-over-40k-for-special-olympics/>

The sixth annual Ithaca Polar Plunge raised over forty thousand dollars to support local Special Olympics athletes. Attendees looked on as nearly 350 participants waded into the icy water during the plunge, which occurred last Saturday at Cayuga Lake. According to the Ithaca Voice, local law enforcement also participated, and New York State Police raised the most funds for the cause. Participants described the experience as chilly but exciting. Special Olympics New York expressed its gratitude to local businesses, law enforcement and community members for attending Polar Plunge. The Special Olympics recently sent two local athletes to the Special Olympics World Games in Abu Dhabi due to community support.

[https://www.ithaca.com/news/south\\_seneca/incinerator-bill-passed-by-assembly/article\\_bb165db0-4b2b-11e9-9090-978fff392cec.html](https://www.ithaca.com/news/south_seneca/incinerator-bill-passed-by-assembly/article_bb165db0-4b2b-11e9-9090-978fff392cec.html)

The New York State Assembly recently passed the Finger Lakes Community Preservation Act, which has drawn praise from local legislators. The Finger Lakes Community Preservation Act is a bill that will protect residents and businesses in the Finger Lakes region from the construction of Circular enerG Inc.’s energy-generating trash incinerator. According to the Ithaca Times, the legislation would prevent the state from allowing the incinerator proposal to reach the Article 10 process. This means that local municipalities will have the last word on zoning and construction regulations rather than larger governing bodies. The trash incinerator evoked fierce opposition

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from Finger Lakes residents, environmental activists, lawmakers and small business owners who fear pollution, greenhouse gas emissions and danger to nearby schoolchildren. Supporters of the Finger Lakes Community Preservation Act are calling upon Governor Andrew Cuomo to sign the bill into law now that it has passed the Assembly.

<http://tompkinsweekly.com/stories/neighbors-not-fans-of-proposed-dot-facility.2438?>

Residents are upset by the upcoming relocation of a Department of Transportation (DOT) maintenance facility and large salt barn from the Cayuga Waterfront to the Town of Lansing. Neighbors felt blindsided by the construction and lacked adequate opportunity to protest the plans because the DOT is in the process of purchasing land for the project. In response, townspeople have addressed community leaders at public meetings, voiced concerns about the proximity of the facility to homes and asked for compensation. Tompkins Weekly states that construction is expected to cost 13.8 million dollars, and the relocation may take place so developers can seize new opportunities on Cayuga Waterfront property. The DOT claims that the 15-acre site was chosen after a thorough evaluation, but Lansing residents fear increased noise and light pollution and traffic due to salt trucks. Construction is poised to begin this summer and last until winter, but the land purchase must go through before building can start.

**4/1/19**

<https://cornellsun.com/2019/03/28/cornell-republicans-invite-trump-campaign-advisor-stephen-moore-to-ithaca/>

Stephen Moore, economist and campaign advisor to President Trump, will speak at Cornell University at the request of Cornell Republicans. Moore will discuss his role in crafting the president's trade policies and the impact of these policies on domestic and foreign economies. Cornell Republicans' invitation to Moore comes on the heels of his March twenty-second Federal Reserve Board nomination by President Trump. The student organization is hosting Moore in hopes of informing the campus community of the nuances of the Trump administration's economic policy. According to the Cornell Daily Sun, Moore is just one of the many conservative speakers that have been invited to Ithaca by Cornell Republicans. Moore will speak on campus from 5:30 to 7 p.m. April 10 in Goldwin Smith Hall.

<https://theithacan.org/news/ic-student-begins-campaign-to-combat-catcalling-in-ithaca/>

Catcalls of Ithaca is a new social media campaign started by Ithaca College student Corinne Cooper that publicly calls out street and sexual harassment against students. In addition to its social media presence on Instagram, Catcalls of Ithaca quotes catcalls received by students in sidewalk-chalk art written on campus walkways. These quotes about sexual harassment experiences can be submitted confidentially via social media, email, or in person. Corinne Cooper drew inspiration for her campaign from Catcalls of New York City and her Women's and Gender Studies course. The Ithacan reports that Catcalls of Ithaca has garnered positive feedback from campus organizations and students who have experienced catcalling. . Cooper hopes to shed light on the underrepresented form of harassment and empower victims of catcalling to speak out for many years going forward.

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[https://www.ithaca.com/news/ithaca/possible-druggings-at-bars-lead-ithaca-police-to-issue-warning/article\\_5819317c-53e8-11e9-84ac-4b9f9dea1fe1.html](https://www.ithaca.com/news/ithaca/possible-druggings-at-bars-lead-ithaca-police-to-issue-warning/article_5819317c-53e8-11e9-84ac-4b9f9dea1fe1.html)

After receiving reports on Friday and Saturday, the Ithaca Police Department warned the public of possible druggings at local bars over the weekend. The warning states that several individuals reported that they may have been drugged at bars on the Ithaca Commons. The warning did not provide additional details about the locations of the druggings or conditions of the victims, according to the Ithaca Times. Police advise members of the public to not leave drinks unattended, only consume drinks prepared in front of you and stay aware of your surroundings. Victims and people with knowledge of these incidents can contact police hotlines, submit anonymous email tips or report on Facebook or Twitter.

**4/10/19**

<https://theithacan.org/news/vp-of-finance-discusses-future-of-dining-services-with-sgc/>

Bill Guerrero, vice president for finance and administration at Ithaca College, presented plans to move away from the college's long-standing contract with Sodexo Food and Facilities Management Company. The college will transition to a self-operating dining service system June 3rd due to unresponsiveness from Sodexo and years of criticism from students about poor food quality and business practices. According to The Ithacan, Guerrero admits that the food provider switch may pose challenges, but the benefits of in-house dining services are new hours of operation, collaboration with local vendors and decreased meal plan costs. Ithaca College will partner with Cornell University, which also uses in-house dining, to facilitate this process. The main goals of this change are cooperation with dining services employees, accessibility to fresh foods and reduced food insecurity on campus.

<https://ithacavoice.com/2019/04/finger-lakes-toy-library-seeks-to-expand/>

Since 2017, the Finger Lakes Toy Library is a membership library that provides access to toys for children to borrow, play with and return. The Ithaca Voice reports the library is looking to expand its space to accommodate over four hundred children who have used the library's toy borrowing service. To do that, the library applied for a nationwide project-based grant called "A Community Thrives," which funds building initiatives of community organizations. To be considered for the grant, the library had to raise three thousand dollars through a crowdfunding platform. The library has since received five thousand dollars in community donations, which indicates local support for the project. If the toy library receives the grant, it plans to move to a larger location, increase its toy collection and host on-site activities. The fundraising period ends April 12 and the grant winners will be announced in early June.

[https://www.ithaca.com/news/south\\_seneca/millions-visit-billions-spent-seneca-at-the-heart-of-finger/article\\_a6b3f096-5727-11e9-8c4e-37a9b6cbd16b.html](https://www.ithaca.com/news/south_seneca/millions-visit-billions-spent-seneca-at-the-heart-of-finger/article_a6b3f096-5727-11e9-8c4e-37a9b6cbd16b.html)

The Finger Lakes Tourism Alliance recently partnered with Travel Marketing Insights to conduct a study of Finger Lakes visitor habits and travel trends in 2018. Findings reveal that tourism is a driving force of revenue in the Finger Lakes region as over 5.5 million visitors generated nearly 2.4 billion dollars from this industry. The study showed that the majority of travelers were leisure visitors who tour for recreational purposes. The data also demonstrated the average travel

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distances and trip duration of tourists. An important finding from the study is that Seneca County is the most-visited Finger Lakes community due to its wide array of offerings. This is significant because officials have struggled to locate visitor information to track tourism growth in the past. According to the Ithaca Times, the research results reinforce the planning strategies used by the Seneca County Chamber and local businesses to attract visitors, and the report shows room for further growth in the hospitality sector and marketing of Seneca County.

**4/17/19**

<https://ithacavoice.com/2019/04/ultimate-re-entry-opportunity-to-host-spoken-word-event/>

According to a community announcement published by the Ithaca Voice, the Ultimate Re-entry Opportunity Initiative is hosting an event called Bars of Injustice from 6 to 8 p.m. Friday, April 19th at the Greater Ithaca Activities Center. Bars of Injustice is a spoken word, song, music and dance fundraiser to support the return of previously incarcerated citizens to Tompkins County. the Ultimate Re-entry Opportunity Initiative will recognize the contributions of Dr. James Turner, activist and former member of the Africana Center at Cornell University. The event will feature local artists and performers, and the purpose of the celebration is to engage the Ithaca community in issues related to the criminal justice system through art.

<https://ithacavoice.com/2019/04/health-department-free-rabies-vaccines-available-for-pets/>

The Tompkins County Health Department announced several clinics across the county for pets to receive rabies vaccinations in May. The Ithaca Voice reports that rabies is a local problem as there were 18 confirmed cases of rabid animals in Tompkins County in 2018. New York State law requires all dogs, cats and ferrets older than four months to have up-to-date rabies vaccinations, and pet owners seeking the vaccine must provide their pet's most recent vaccination certificate as proof of prior vaccination. The clinics will occur from 7 to 9 p.m. throughout the first two weeks of May at the Lansing and Danby fire stations, Tompkins County SPCA and the Enfield and Ithaca highway garages. Pet owners can pre-register online, and walk-ins are welcome.

<https://ithacavoice.com/2019/04/tompkins-legislators-green-light-sears-tioga-street-property-purchase/>

Tompkins County legislators approved the property purchase of a collection of parcels on North Tioga and Sears streets for \$1.8 million Tuesday. The county plans to develop the property into an office building that will house county offices and offer space for future expansion. Tompkins County Administrator Jason Molino offered various development scenarios, which include affordable housing units. Legislators recognize concerns about zoning, parking, property taxes and the impact this project may have on the preservation of the historic district. The 12-2 vote approval indicates that legislators are confident in the centralized location of the proposed county government offices. The legislature has not yet approved any development plans and intends to appoint a special committee soon.

<https://cornellsun.com/2019/04/19/open-mic-at-student-assembly-meeting-reveals-concerns-about-community-vote/>

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This week's Cornell University Student Assembly open mic meeting revealed student concerns about the community vote held on April 11th. The community vote is based on the majority opinion of non-Student Assembly members and comprises two votes in the overall vote count. According to the Cornell Daily Sun, the community vote came under fire during the vote on Resolution 36, which urges Cornell University to divest from companies that profit from human rights violations in Palestine. The two community votes worked against the passage of the resolution and reversed the Student Assembly's initial approval of the measure. Controversy arose when students vocalized their votes and I.D. information aloud to confirm their registration status at the university. The Student Assembly apologizes for the lack of anonymity and identity protection and cited the large turnout and time constraints as justification for the verbal vote.

<https://ithacavoice.com/2019/04/how-much-should-they-pay-city-reopens-discussion-on-cornells-local-contribution/>

The City of Ithaca revisited discussion about Cornell University's local contribution during Mayor Svante Myrick's (My-rick) presentation to the Community Life Commission on Monday. Cornell is the tax-exempt owner of 2.1 billion dollars of property, according to the Ithaca Voice. It currently contributes about 1.3 million dollars in voluntary payments to the city annually in lieu of property taxes. Myrick argues Cornell's contribution is not enough. However, the university maintains it bolsters the local economy by paying taxes on "Cornell-related" buildings on the Commons, generating visitor spending and funding non-profits like public schools, city government and transit. The university is also required to pay for municipal fire and water management services. At the meeting, Myrick pointed to other Ivy League schools with as examples of successful property tax structured contributions. Myrick worries that the money Cornell has offered to projects surrounding the university, such as repairs on Stewart Avenue, will make certain areas significantly nicer than others in Ithaca. The mayor hopes to engage the university in negotiation to establish a formal agreement.

<https://ithacavoice.com/2019/04/take-to-the-streets-for-14th-streets-alive/>

The spring 2019 Streets Alive! will occur from 1 to 5 p.m Sunday, April 28 in the Fall Creek Neighborhood. Streets Alive! is a Tompkins County event that promotes active transportation such as walking and biking as alternatives to motorized vehicles. Streets Alive! spans from Ithaca High School to the Greater Ithaca Activities Center and will provide space for a few thousand attendees to enjoy performances, food trucks and other activities. This will be the 14th Streets Alive! that is organized by Bike Walk Tompkins and made possible by volunteers who are stationed at street intersections. The Ithaca Voice reports that the purpose of Streets Alive! is to rethink the uses of public spaces and transportation and encourage community engagement. Coordinators are seeking more volunteers to assist with the event.