

# [6th Ward E-News] Albany Common Council & Neighborhood Update, 1/2/12

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6:24 PM

Subject	<b>[6th Ward E-News] Albany Common Council &amp; Neighborhood Update, 1/2/12</b>
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To	rc6thward@aol.com
Sent	Monday, January 02, 2012 4:15 PM

## **Please Forward**

-- **NRC's 2008 Outstanding Newsletter** --

## **Common Council & Neighborhood Update from 6th Ward Council Member Richard Conti**

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**1/2/12**

## **Albany Snow Emergency Hotline 476-SNOW**

### **Holiday Tree Disposal**

Remember, holiday trees, wreaths and other greenery should be placed curbside for disposal on your regular trash collection night. Remove all ornaments and decorations and do not place in plastic bags!

### **First Friday Albany: Celebrating the Arts**

Friday, January 6, 5 to 9 PM

*for more information:*

<http://1stfridayalbany.org/>

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*+ indicates additional information available upon request*

### **1--Last Run 5K's Impact on Our Neighborhood**

Every year the City of Albany organizes a Winter "Last Run" 5k race originating at City Hall and running through Washington Park and back. This year's event was on Saturday, December 17. The race results in street closures and traffic back-ups in our neighborhood in the early evening on a peak weekend day during the holiday season. Some consider the race an

inconvenience for our neighborhood, others see it as disruptive to residents and small businesses on Lark Street during a peak customer period. I have long advocated re-routing this race away from our neighborhood; what do you think? I'd appreciate hearing your thoughts, just e-mail me.

## 2--ESP Skating Rink Re-Opens

After a long hiatus ... the Empire State Plaza skating rink has re-opened! Rink operations will be as follows: Hours are 11 AM to 8 PM every day through early March (The rink will be closed each day from 3 to 4 PM for maintenance; the cost to skate is free with skate rentals at \$3 for children under 12 and \$4 for adults; amenities include a full-service snack bar and a skate lounge with lockers for personal items. The rink is located on the State Street side of the Plaza.

## 3--Neighborhood Association Meetings

**Park South** meets Wednesday, January 11 at 7 PM at the Knox Street Community Room, 139 Knox Street (at the Corner of Dana Avenue). This will be PSNA's Annual Meeting and an opportunity to renew membership or join (\$10 individual, \$15 household, \$50 non-resident stakeholder). The agenda includes a presentation by Joe Nicola, President of Columbia Development, on a proposal for a new building at the site of the temporary parking lot at 12 New Scotland Ave ( between Stewarts and CVS). There will be a Q&A Session after the presentation. It is the intention of Columbia Development to take this proposal to the Albany Planning Board subsequent to the meeting. This will be an opportunity to voice opinions about the proposal. There will also be a public safety update by our Community Police Officers at this meeting. PSNA will collect non-perishable goods to be brought to the FOCUS Food Pantry at this meeting.

**Hudson/Park** meets Wednesday, January 18 at 7 PM at First Israel AME Church (basement), 381 Hamilton Street (between Lark and Dove).

**Center Square** meets Thursday, January 19 at 7 PM at Westminster Presbyterian Church Hall, 85 Chestnut Street (between Dove and Swan).

## 4--Board of Zoning Appeals+

The next meeting of the BZA is Wednesday, January 11 at 5:30 PM; that agenda includes a public hearing on the following application:

- **341 Madison Avenue:** The case of 5T Holdings of Albany, LLC c/o Empire Real Estate Management regarding the premises located at 341 Madison Avenue requesting an Interpretation pursuant to §375-25 and §375-90A of the City of Albany Zoning Ordinance that the subject property did not relinquish its right to use as a legally nonconforming three (3)-family dwelling due to vacancy. Should the aforementioned appeal be unsuccessful, applicant seeks a Use Variance to allow for the reestablishment of a three (3)-family dwelling in a vacant building. Three (3)-family dwellings are not a permitted use in the R-2C One- and Two-Family Row House Residential zoning district and no nonconforming use may be reestablished after it has been discontinued or vacated for a period of 180 days or more.

The following is the status of cases heard at previous BZA meetings:

- **11 New Scotland Avenue:** Conditional Review of the case of Joseph W. Zappone d/b/a Quintessence regarding the premises located at 11 New Scotland Avenue and relating to a Special Use Permit pursuant to Sections §375-27, §375-71A and §375-71C allowing for a restaurant serving alcohol with hours of operation of 10AM - 4AM, 7 days per week. The Special Use Permit was reapproved on 4/28/10 with the condition that it be subject to a review in one (1) year's time. **PENDING**
- **425 Madison Avenue:** The case of Yusuf Dincer, M.D. c/o 3T Architects regarding the premises located at 425 AKA 423 Madison Avenue requesting Area Variances pursuant to

§375-26, §375-46D, §375-71D and §375-185 of the City of Albany Zoning Ordinance to allow for the construction of a 9,300 +/- square foot, mixed-use building with ground level commercial space and six (6) residential dwelling units on a 2,600 square foot lot, 52-foot in depth, with a rear yard setback of zero (0) feet, lot coverage of 98.5% and zero (0) off-street parking spaces. The proposed tax lot is deficient the minimum required lot area of 3,200 square feet and depth of eighty (80) feet, and the proposed construction does not meet the minimum required rear yard setback of twenty (20) feet in the C-1 Neighborhood Commercial zoning district. The proposed use also does not provide the minimum eleven (11) off-street parking spaces required to support the use, although the amount of spaces required may be reduced by the Board of Zoning Appeals per the C-1 District Design Standards. **PENDING**

- **274 Washington Avenue (former YMCA):** The case of Michelle D. Joyner regarding the premises located at 274 Washington Avenue requesting a Special Use Permit pursuant to § 375-27 and §375-66C of the City of Albany Zoning Ordinance to allow for the establishment of a 4,000 +/- square foot day care center d/b/a King's Kids Early Childhood Learning Center. The proposed day care center is a special permit use in the R-2C One- and Two-Family Row House Residential zoning district. **PENDING**
- **195 Washington Avenue (Washington Avenue Armory):** The case of Albany Basketball & Sports Corporation regarding the premises located at 195 Washington Avenue requesting a Special Use Permit pursuant to §375-27 and §375-72C of the City of Albany Zoning Ordinance to allow for the establishment of a 1,285 +/- square foot sit-down restaurant. The proposed restaurant is a special permit use in the C-O Commercial Office zoning district.

**PENDING**

All meetings of the BZA are held in the Common Council Chambers at City Hall, if you would like a copy of these applications please let me know.

## **5--Common Council 2012 Budget Excerpts; Albany SNUG**

Over the next few issues of my Common Council Update I will be printing excerpts from the findings and recommendations section of the Common Council's 2012 Budget Intent Resolution. Every year, in addition to adopting a budget, the Council also adopts a separate resolution outlining its intent, findings and recommendations with regard to the budget and beyond. If you would like a copy of the full resolution please let me know. The excerpt below focuses on Albany SNUG funding.

### ***Albany SNUG***

The Common Council has been a consistent supporter of Albany SNUG. During its initial year of operation there has been a 21 percent decrease in gun incidents and a 29 percent decrease in injuries from gun violence. Initial state funding for the program, and other programs around the state, lapsed in October. We acknowledge the recent announcement of \$150,000 in new grant funding for the program by the NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) and their affirmation of the effectiveness of the program in reducing gun violence and its fidelity to the Chicago Ceasefire model. The Council is adding an additional \$150,000 under "contracted services" to meet program needs not met by the DCJS grant and to serve as a bridge to longer term financial support. It should be noted that this additional allocation is not meant to be a source of ongoing operational support but to serve as a bridge to longer term financial funding. We note that support for SNUG is not an issue limited to the City of Albany but effects several localities around the state which have similar programs. Moving forward, the state must recognize these programs as important initiatives to address gun violence and provide ongoing financial support.

It's important that any continuation of Albany SNUG maintains fidelity to the current model of a community-based violence intervention and prevention program modeled after Chicago Cease Fire and consistent with the recommendations of the Gun Violence Task Force. It's also important that this be a program that connects with the community and builds those relationships. The fact that Albany SNUG is not a creature of a law enforcement or government agency is one of the keys to its success. It is the Council's intention that the additional funding allocated in the 2012 budget support this model.

Council Member 6<sup>th</sup> Ward

## **Richard Conti**

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PS – If at anytime you wish to be removed from my e-mail list please let me know. If this message was forwarded to you and you would like to be placed directly on my list send me your name, address and e-mail. My e-mails focus on information of interest to residents of the 6<sup>th</sup> Ward neighborhoods and activities of the Albany Common Council.