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Top Story > Midtown Albany College's Expansion Raises Questions About Future Planning



College of St. Rose's expansion raises questions regarding strategic planning of Albany's midtown neighborhoods

BY LEDGER STAFF, Newsroom Reports - ALBANY
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As the debate over higher education construction has been focused on the University at Albany's expansions with CNSE and with its athletic facilities, Albany's other major institution of higher learning, the College of St. Rose, has been steadily acquiring, renovating, and building new properties – something that poses future planning concerns for the Pine Hills neighborhood in midtown Albany.

St. Rose is currently building a 224-bed dorm facility along Madison Avenue, the latest in a series of construction projects over the last decade that have included the Massry Center for the Arts, the Thelma Lally School of Education, and the renovated Athletics Center.

The facility has been designed by EYP Architecture and Engineering, the same firm that disclosed photographs of a nanotech facility speculated to be Albany's (note: EYP Architecture is headquartered at the Albany Nanotech campus).

“More and more, students are seeking on-campus apartment-type residences. Centennial Hall will provide students with the tangible amenities they want and the College with one big intangible gift: hundreds of students who can actively take part in college life days, nights and weekends, then cross the street and be home,” said Dr. R. Mark Sullivan, the College of St. Rose's president (who will be retiring this year) in a release. “In a relatively short time, Saint Rose will celebrate its 100th anniversary.

Centennial Hall will stand as a representation of the permanence of the institution, our respect for and allegiance to the history and vision that created The College of Saint Rose, and our legacy as a comprehensive, residential institution of higher learning.”

However, the College of St. Rose has also been a fairly prodigious buyer of area homes that are adjacent to its properties, including several houses along Partridge Street, Western Avenue, and Madison Avenue – which competes with public-private partnership programs such as the Midtown Homeownership Zone.

With student unrest highlighted due to this past year's Kegs and Eggs riots, absentee landlords, lack of code enforcement, and overused housing stock, both the College of St. Rose and now the University at Albany are looking more into purchasing these homes in midtown Albany to provide off-campus housing outside of institutional-run facilities on campus.

Due to their “power of the purse,” these institutions could outbid potential families who may want to move to Pine Hills, especially in light of the rise of the Quail Street corridor with the openings of the Albany Sunspot Cafe, All Good Bakers, and the Hudson River Coffee House.

Such concentration of student housing poses a number of benefits (isolation of college-age population, therefore police power can be centralized), but some downsides (segregation of a population into a “Lord of the Flies” situation). Time will tell if the “education district” becomes either an example of policy success or another band-aid on an ongoing issue in Albany. • KL

FEATURED IN THIS ISSUE

- Cheer Up Albany** – Neighborhoods Come First
- Capital District Perspective** – Who does CNSE answer to?
- Your Choice** – I'm Back: Clinton returns to Albany
- Business** – HP hires Meg Whitman as CEO
- Sports** – Devils defeat Rangers, 2-1 in overtime
- Exclusive** – SMALLBANY



Submitted by Dan A. - By Dana S. Owens
For more SMALLBANY cartoons from Dana Owens, visit KnickLedger.com for exclusive, digital content.

Your Choice > Empire State Economy I'm Back: Bill Clinton returns to Albany



BY LEDGER STAFF, Newsroom Reports - ALBANY
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Apparently, he just loves Albany that much.

President Bill Clinton will be making a visit to Albany on September 27 to the Empire State Plaza Convention Center to keynote Governor Andrew M. Cuomo's statewide regional economic council conference.

Clinton had most recently visited Albany for UAlbany's World Within Reach Speaker Series back in March, a visit that cost the UAlbany Student Association \$200,000.

Cuomo had set up ten regional economic development councils that are competing for up to \$40 million in state funding, which is being spearheaded by Lieutenant Governor Robert Duffy.

The Capital Region Regional Economic Council is co-chaired by RPI president Shirley Ann Jackson and SEFCU CEO Michael Castellana (who previously contributed to Cuomo's 2010 campaign). Cuomo had been HUD Secretary during Clinton's second term from 1997 to 2001, succeeding Henry Cisneros. • KL

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Lifestyle > Cheer Up Albany
Neighborhoods Come First, Get Involved



BY **JUDD KRASHER, Lifestyle Columnist - ALBANY**
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Instead of doing my usual Albany cheerleading, I want to encourage my fellow Albanians to do something: get involved with your neighborhood association.

Albany's best quality, hands down, is its eclectic neighborhoods and the diverse people who live in them. Pine Hills, Arbor Hill, Center Square, Delaware Avenue, Park South, Buckingham Pond and Melrose are just some of Albany's dozens of neighborhoods and corresponding associations. All of them have their own unique bits of charm and rich histories. See? I can't keep away from my pom-poms.

To paraphrase Arnold Schwarzenegger, 'What is a neighborhood association and what does it do?' It's simple! A neighborhood association is a group of your neighbors who get together, discuss problems facing the neighborhood and ways to address those problems. The impact they have is huge - making our city a better place to live.

Ralph Nader said it best, "When strangers start acting like neighbors...communities are reinvigorated." To add to Mr. Nader's wisdom, we, as individuals, simply do not live in bubbles. What happens in our communities and to our neighbors has a direct impact on us.

When we start to look out for one another and take an interest in each other's well-being, then a whole lot of good flows. For example, take the example of someone on your block whose home was burglarized. We could, incorrectly, say that this has no bearing on me. Not my house, not my problem. Or, we could be smarter about the situation. We could realize that my neighbor's issue is a sign of a potential problem in the neighborhood. And, if it is not addressed, it could happen to us, too. So, we take productive action, together.

Thankfully, we have a robust system of neighborhood groups that do just that. To those who are involved, thank you! To those who are on the sidelines right now, get off!

Your neighborhood needs you. • **KL**

News > Albany
Light the Candles, Kill the Darkness, Rebuild the American Dream, says Progressive Community



BY **SAMANTHA BUNN, City Editor - ALBANY**
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Union leaders, elected officials, activists, and supporters gathered outside West Capitol Park in Albany Sunday evening for the "Vigil for the Middle Class," an event organized by the RFK Democratic Club.

"This is just the beginning," said Matthew T. Peter, co-chair of the RFK Democratic Club, to the crowd of just over 100 assembled on the last weekend summer evening of the year.

Speakers included U.S. Representative Paul D. Tonko, State Senator Neil D. Breslin, City Treasurer Katherine M. Sheehan, City Auditor Leif Engstrom, Common Council President Carolyn McLaughlin, CDALF President Mary E. Sullivan, Save Our SUNY representative Stephen Pampinella, and several others.

"The time has come, the middle class has paid the burden," said Tonko, who capped the evening's speakers' list.

Sunday's rally came as President Obama has pushed through the America Invests Act as well as plan to create jobs, but will most likely find resistance among GOP ranks. • **KL**

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Opinion > Capital District Perspective
Who Does CNSE Answer To?



BY **SEAN COLLINS, Political Director - ALBANY**
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It's important to open this column with the fact that I'm not against the UAlbany's College of Nanoscale Science and Engineering, or "the NanoCollege" in local vernacular, in theory. I am all about the collaboration of the smartest minds, especially in science, and see the potential benefits in such ventures. I understand why SUNY Central wishes to expand this venture and continue to create a nanotech hub in the area.

My issue is, like so many of my issues with the upper echelons of SUNY Central, is in its approach and methodology. SUNY, a public institution, funded—though ever decreasingly—by taxpayer dollars always seems to fail to inform its financiers of what they are doing and then seem befuddled when the aforementioned taxpayers start asking questions. Look no further than the onslaught of news concerning its latest, two-phase expansion at the junction of Washington Avenue and Fuller Road, as it expands across Washington to an 11-acre parcel of state-owned property between Interstate 90 and Washington. There was no formal groundbreaking, as the Times Union points out, which to me seems out of character for an institution that likes to pride itself as being an engine for economic development for the region and never hesitates in bragging about that. Where is the parade of state, local, and SUNY officials all patting each other on the back that would usually come with such expansion?

The Times Union reports that this new expansion will be some sort of solar energy facility and other green energy/nanotechnology things that I'm not versed enough on to describe in detail, but know that it will be federally funded and possibly reinforced by state and local entities. As a proponent of solar energy expansion, that's fine by me. My concern is where is the oversight and why can't we, the taxpayers, be in the know of what kind of money being invested in this? Such questions have been greeted with what can only be described as condescension: "Is there something going on out there?" Yes, Steve Janack, CNSE spokesman, there is something going on out there—you clearly know. Enlighten the residents of this city and this community who are entitled an answer. Here is a cause I want to support—an expansion in research and development into alternative, green energy that could move us a way from environmentally harmful fossil fuels—but because of all the intrigue the individuals behind it are putting forth, I'm forced to be skeptical.

And though Albany County officials are insisting that the northward movement of the Washington Ave/Fuller Rd intersection is unrelated to CNSE's expansion, as one peruses the renderings of the new expansion, it does seem awfully convenient. In the renderings, where Washington Ave formerly was, now it will be replaced with a parking lot and some greenery. Meanwhile, the new Washington Ave seems to follow the border of the parcel of land where the new construction is taking place. The new Fuller/Washington junction would feature a roundabout, which would ease traffic through the area, is something I could support but I'm concerned with what I see as the county bending to the will of CNSE. They get what they want and our local elected officials look the other way—and then, seemingly, lie to their constituents. Or at the very least, not be completely honest with us.

It speaks volumes when the local newspaper discovers what the scope of CNSE's expansion will be by finding the renderings from other sources that are not the NanoCollege. Enough is enough. CNSE, now matter how large of an economic engine, answers to someone. Those people need to start holding their ground and demand CNSE just enlighten us on what exactly they are doing and at what cost to the taxpayers. • **KL**



Sports > NHL

Albany NHL preseason game draws nearly 10,000 as Devils defeat Rangers 2-1 in OT



BY **ANDREA MICHELICIC, Contributor - ALBANY**
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It has been nine years since two NHL teams had paid a visit to play in Albany and a record breaking crowd was in attendance to welcome the National Hockey League's New Jersey Devils and New York Rangers at Times Union Center. 9,420 fans from the Capital Region and beyond packed the rafters to see the two teams faceoff in their preseason opening game on Wednesday, Sept. 21.

With a 2-1 win over the Rangers in overtime, the Devils took an early lead in the first period. The first goal of the evening went to, New Jersey center, Petr Sykora, as a heads-up pass slid through the posts of seasoned Rangers goaltender, Henrik Lundqvist at 11:43. In a display of superiority of his position, Lundqvist put a plug in the Devils offensive flood, stopping 17 of 18 shots on goal between the first and second periods. Superb goal tending and multiple turn overs held the Devils at a one goal lead through the second and into the third period. The Devils would outshoot the Rangers 43-21 overall.

Not being a team to lay down without a fight, Ranger right wing, Dale Weise scored the tying goal with 4:21 remaining in the third period forcing sudden death overtime. Secondary goaltender Cam Talbot replaced Lundqvist in the third period and over time, making 22 saves before Devils left wing Patrik Elias scored the game winning goal. When asked if the Rangers performance in the evening's game was to be an indication of the caliber of the upcoming season, Lundqvist replied with "It's too early to tell. We are a team with a lot of young players and still becoming accustomed to playing side by side."

The Devils will host the Rangers again on Friday September 23rd at the Prudential Center in Newark, N.J. • **KL**

Business > Technology

HP fires CEO, hires former eBay chief Meg Whitman



BY **LEDGER NEWSROOM, Newsroom Reports - ALBANY**
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Former eBay chief executive and 2010 California Republican gubernatorial nominee Meg Whitman has become the next chief executive of the world's largest computer builder Hewlett-Packard.

Whitman succeeds Leo Apotheker, who has led HP since last fall. The former CEO of SAP has led HP under a road very similar to IBM with a focus on enterprise sales and most recently, killed WebOS, one of the highlighted prospects from the Palo Alto, Calif.-based company. Whitman led eBay from startup to Fortune 500 success during her near ten years in charge.

HP waited until after the bell to make the actual announcement. Shares went up 1.2%.

Business > Technology

Net and Flix: Netflix splits into two services as shareholder dissent rises

BY **LEDGER NEWSROOM, Newsroom Reports - ALBANY**
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Internet-based DVD-and-streaming company Netflix announced it would split its DVD-mail and streaming services into two distinct brands, according to Netflix chief Reed Hastings in a blog post published Sunday evening.

Netflix had recently changed its business model to now have separate plans for both DVDs-by-mail and streaming services - both of which were offered under one package previously. Netflix is potentially seen as in danger as competitors such as Redbox start chipping away at market share. It was only a few years ago when Netflix essentially wiped out the brick-and-mortar video rental stores such as Blockbuster and Hollywood Video.

"There are no pricing changes (we're done with that!). Members who subscribe to both services will have two entries on their credit card statements, one for Qwikster and one for Netflix. The total will be the same as the current charges."

It's unclear how investors will react to the change as Netflix shares tumbled Thursday and Friday by nearly 26%, trading at just above \$155 a share. It was only a matter of months ago when the company was trading above \$300 a share. Most attribute the losses due to the pricing model change, which cost the company nearly one million customers. • **KL**