

the **Stand** south side news

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Syracuse, NY

FEBRUARY 2014 Issue 32 FREE

WATCH AND LEARN

Citizen Review Board
listens to community,
makes positive change

Business corridor plan
South Salina Street slated for storefront makeovers

**top of
class**

Six Corcoran High
School seniors plan
successful futures

**Going
shopping**
Thrift stores adopt look
of department retailers

CELEBRATE BLACK HISTORY



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PHOTOGRAPHERS**STUDENTS AT THE
S.I. NEWHOUSE SCHOOL OF
PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS**SPECIAL THANKS**DEAN LORRAINE BRANHAM, AMY
FALKNER, VANIA MYERS, KARL
JACOB, ARINA SHNAIDER**CONTACT US**SOUTH SIDE NEWSPAPER PROJECT
(315) 882-1054
ASHLEY@MYSOUTHSIDESTAND.COMTHE STAND IS BASED OUT OF THE
SOUTH SIDE COMMUNICATION CENTER
2331 SOUTH SALINA STREET
SYRACUSE, NY 13205**DISCLAIMER**THE VIEWS EXPRESSED IN THE STAND ARE NOT
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IN KEEPING WITH COMMUNITY STANDARDS.**FEATURES** | Meet Romana Lavalas, a prosecutor who is known for her reputation as a role model in the community.**COMMUNITY** | Learn all about the vision that Common Councilor Khalid Bey and other city officials have to turn South Salina Street into a hub for small businesses.**COMMUNITY** | Check out all the ways you can celebrate Black History Month — see the listing of events being held at Beauchamp Branch Library.**SCHOOL AND YOUTH** | Six seniors at Corcoran High School share the highlights of their high school years, their plans for college and even their favorite movies.**COMMUNITY** | Read about how the city's Citizen Review Board works and how residents, board members and others are measuring its accountability.**BUSINESS** | The Rescue Mission's Thrifty Shopper stores are receiving makeovers so they look more like department retailers.

■ Cover photography of Timothy "Noble" Jennings-Bey by Ashley Kang

CALENDAR | FEBRUARY

What: Valentine's Ball & Play**When:** 6 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 8**Where:** Payton Memorial Temple, 1816 Midland Ave.**Cost:** Tickets are \$45 for couples, \$25 for singles and group rates are also available**For tickets:** Email Ejoh500716@aol.com or call (315) 935-6820**More Info.:** The annual Valentine's Ball dinner will this year be accompanied by a live stage play. Cordero Production will present "Poor Girl 'Rich Girl.'" Semi-formal attire required.**What:** Dennis Dowdell Scholarship Reception**When:** 6 to 9 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 6**Where:** Milton J. Rubenstein Museum of Science and Technology, 500 S. Franklin St.**Cost:** \$25**More Info.:** Scholarship fundraiser is presented by Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc., Chi Pi Chapter**Contact:** Call Anthony at (315) 569-8669, Alton at (315) 427-6706 or Nate at (315) 876-4907**What:** Getting Health Coverage Through Obamacare**When/Where:** 10 a.m. to Noon Feb. 8, at Bethany Baptist Church, 149 Beattie St.; 2 to 4 p.m. Feb. 15, at Hopps Memorial CME Church, 1110 S. State St.; and 3 to 5 p.m. Feb. 21, at Onondaga Community College, Whitney Applied Center, Room 101, 4585 W. Seneca Turnpike**Cost:** Free to attend**More Info.:** Provided by 100 Black Men of Syracuse Inc., these workshops are intended to allow attendees the opportunity to hear local representatives from the health insurance companies participating in N.Y. State of Health, the state's health insurance marketplace, explain the details and costs for the plans and allow attendees to ask questions to Navigators, the non-profit organizations certified to help the uninsured obtain coverage. Also, information about the benefits available through the federal Affordable Care Act, as well as New York's expansion of the Medicaid program, will be provided.**Contact:** Call (315) 443-8749 or visit <http://tinyurl.com/k95p6d6>

Tajuana “Tae” Cerutti

Tae grew up on the South Side of Syracuse, graduating from Corcoran High School. At 18, she left to attend the University of Buffalo for her undergraduate degree and then Buffalo State for graduate school to study public relations management.

Now, eight years later, she has returned for an administrative internship with Onondaga County; she works with minority- and women-owned businesses.

She first learned about The Stand through her interest in rediscovering her community and learning more about what has been happening in her hometown. She found The Stand to bring balance to other news coverage of the South Side.

Tae decided to become a board member because she appreciates the opportunity it offers for community stories to be heard.

“The Stand actually reaches out to real people and hears their voices,” she said. “It has good potential to raise awareness about what positive things are going on, not just the negatives.”

She believes she will bring young and fresh perspective to The Stand’s board of directors because she can look at the city in a different light after being away for so long. As a board member, she is excited to help expand The Stand’s brand and readership.

Tae loves to read novels and write. “I think the written word is powerful.”



Nate Brown

A native of Syracuse, Nate has lived on the South Side for 44 years. He attended Corcoran High School and graduated from Buffalo State in 1993 with a bachelor’s degree in sociology. He currently works for the Juvenile Justice section of the Onondaga County Probation Department.

His love for helping others came from his first job — teaching special education classes. He became hooked on helping those who feel that they have no hope.

He says his favorite part about Syracuse is that it’s a lot like the show “Cheers.”

“You want to go to a place where everyone knows your name,” he said, “and everyone is glad you came.”

Nate decided to join The Stand’s board of directors because he wanted to become a part of something that was new on the South Side and that has the potential to become a focal point for the community.

One of his ideas is to develop an annual awards ceremony put on by The Stand in which members of the community are recognized for their hard work and efforts toward making the South Side a better place.

“If someone recognizes all the hard work that you’re doing ... people really appreciate that,” he said. “It’s easy for your family to appreciate you, but when you have outside people appreciate you, it makes a big difference.”

Nate enjoys spending time with his wife and four children, and also playing the drums in the Brownskin band.



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

I am all for advancement for the South Side of Syracuse. I am tired of my side of town being known as a war zone and a drug market.

I had concerns about a chess/amphitheater park being built adjacent to my house. So far those in charge of the park have assured me that they are doing the best they can to make sure the park doesn’t become an open-air drug market, hangout spot and/or shooting gallery. Sadly, it’s still hard for me to not believe this park will not cause harm to the neighborhood.

The real issues (crime, poverty, trespassing) have not been addressed on the South Side. I have elderly people tell me they fear walking their dogs around the block. It’s sad to see the South Side deteriorate. I just don’t want the park to fail and later be told, “Sorry crime has increased next door, but it was due to mismanagement of the park, an unforeseen circumstance.”

I’m tired of hearing excuses on why projects fail on the South Side. With so many budget cuts, how can we be sure there will be continuous funding for the park? Again, I want the South Side to be restored so I can be proud of my neighborhood. I just don’t think having a park right next to my house, based on the terrible conditions of the South Side, is in the best interest of the homeowners, elderly and, of course, the children.

Nonetheless, I am still optimistic that those who are behind the development of the park will now take under consideration the concerns of those who it will affect the most.

Sincerely,

Diamond Breland, the representative of the only house adjacent to the proposed chess/amphitheater park (behind Beauchamp Branch Library)

LAVALAS PERSISTENT

Prosecutor and community role model strives to achieve her dreams



> Romana Lavalas, left, chats with patrons at Biscotti's Cafe & Gelateria. | Photo Provided

By | Joey Cosco
Urban Affairs reporter

Despite two unsuccessful campaigns for city judge, Romana Lavalas remains determined

After she graduated from Syracuse University's College of Law in 1999, Romana Lavalas decided to enter the real world. She said she didn't care to go back to her parents' home in Rockland County. But she didn't have family members in Syracuse to hold her to the city, either.

What kept Lavalas here was a job offer from the local district attorney's office. That allowed her to stay close to her newfound church family at the Mt. Carmel Seventh-Day Adventist Church at 140 Furman St.

Now more than a decade later, she's 39, and is still serving the public as a prosecutor. She's also more involved in her community than ever.

"I have to give her kudos," said South Side event organizer Mary Nelson. "I can't believe the commitment she had to her community." Nelson, who started the South Side's annual Youth Day Barbeque, also coordinated an anti-violence rally, called "Get Your Kids," last October, where Lavalas spoke. Her neighborhood is down the street from the South Side. Nelson said Lavalas

is a natural because she's such a people person.

Lavalas is a great role model to everyone, Nelson said. Lavalas shows that with an education and a good role model, anything is possible for any young Syracuse resident, Nelson added. "You've got to have those people around you. She's a role model for all races."

Lavalas has run as a candidate for City Court judge twice — in 2011 and last November — coming up short despite tenacious campaigning. She said she has wanted to be a judge since she was 7 years old and possessed a strong sense of right and wrong. She took the role of a judge in a play, and wearing those robes made her realize that's what she wanted to do.

"I was always the child to say 'That's not fair!' And that never left me. I wanted to be the person in the robe settling disputes," Lavalas said.

During her first campaign, Lavalas gained a lot of experience and knowledge about Syracuse. She met Nelson and many other community members during her campaign. She ran without any party affiliation. She said she never considered it to be important to her to be a part of one party and preferred to vote as an independent, explaining that being a prosecutor is all about looking for the best possible outcome.

In her second campaign, Lavalas ran on the Repub-

lican ticket. She received some party backing, but in a mainly Democratic city, she had to get voters' attention in different ways.

Nick Decirce, an adviser at MD Financial and Lavalas' campaign manager, explained how difficult it is to run as a Republican in Syracuse. "You're pretty much outnumbered, three to one," he said. "We had to get out there and knock on doors. 'Here's Romana. Here's why she's a good candidate.'"

Lavalas, who took just two weeks off from her full-time job to prepare for the election, describes the campaigning experience. "It's hard work. It's a full-time job," she said. Yet campaigning comes with built-in rewards, she said, such as meeting people throughout Syracuse and hearing about the issues that are important to each part of the community. "From crime to deer to sidewalks," she said.

But that was partly the other challenge with running a campaign for a judicial seat. There are rules against talking about certain positions. A judge is supposed to be fair and balanced, one of the reasons Lavalas likes the title so much. Decirce said it posed a challenge to avoid speaking so much about policy and ideas while on the campaign.

Decirce decided to work with Lavalas because of what he considered to be her good character. He believes that shone through on their tours of the South Side, West Side, Near West Side, Valley and almost every other area of Syracuse. And while he projected Lavalas would get about 2,500 votes, she ended up with 4,671, losing to Democrat Mary Anne Doherty, who garnered 10,425 votes. To Decirce, this was a sign Lavalas should keep going.

Lavalas said she is considering running in the future, perhaps for a position on the County Court. She acknowledged that she feels tired from two back-to-back campaigns, and what she wants most right now is to continue the work she's doing in the DA's office.

And, Lavalas loves her church community from the South Side. She wants to help the people she calls her church family — the ones she met during law school and the ones she knows now. She said whenever she hears of a local child dreaming of law school, she hands over her cellphone number to keep in touch.

Running for office in a city with so many lifelong residents, Lavalas initially felt like an outsider in the election. But she adapted.

"Living here and growing up here, you have support built in. I've had to amass people who have seen me as family."

Romana ★★



Lavalas

For Syracuse City Court Judge

> Campaign poster for Romana Lavalas. | Photo Provided

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To find out what Say Yes to Education means for you and your family, go to sayyessyracuse.org, or call **315-443-4260**.



BARREL BEAUTY

Residents are invited to participate in the **Save The Rain's** rain barrel painting contest.

There are **four steps** to enter:

1. Submit a design
2. If your design is selected, you will receive a rain barrel to decorate
3. Paint the rain barrel with the winning design
4. The rain barrel will be picked up for exhibition and auction at the Rain Barrel Art Gala

Deadline for initial design submissions is Feb. 10

Send submissions to:

Amy Samuels
Onondaga Environmental
Institute
102 W. Division St.,
3rd Floor, Syracuse, NY
13204

Questions?

Contact Amy Samuels by
calling (315) 443-1757
or emailing
asamuels@oei2.org

BACKING BUSINESS

South Salina Street is being rebuilt as South Side's financial hub



> Work will be focused on storefronts like this one, in the 2300 block of South Salina Street. | Ashley Kang, Staff Photo

By | Bryan Rubin
Urban Affairs reporter

A \$1 million state grant is being used to revitalize businesses on South Salina Street

City officials, including Common Councilor Khalid Bey, want to see Syracuse develop a business corridor on South Salina Street. Bey, who represents the council's 4th District, said he believes that the growth of small businesses along the street would boost Syracuse's tax base, as South Side residents spend their dollars locally. Armed with a \$1 million state grant to improve such business districts, city workers already have begun improvements to the street to make it more attractive.

"The South Salina Street corridor can potentially be one of the most viable corridors in the entire city, if not the county," Bey said. "We finally could have movement on South Salina Street that some of us haven't seen in our entire lives."

The grant money for the corridor's enhancement is funneled through State Sen. David Valesky's office. The money comes from the Main Street Program, a state program designed to help jump start new projects in cities aspiring to become economic engines again.

"We are happy to say that we have finally been able to successfully assist in pushing this project along, which has been on the city's docket for the past several years," said Joseph Bryant, Southside Community Coalition

president.

"The money, which was sitting in limbo since 2009, was slated for an area like South Salina Street that had received zero attention in over 30 years, the type of attention people have been calling for," Bey said. "Fortunately, we had a representative in the state Senate who thought it would be smart to make the investment."

The city has spent half the grant on street and sod improvements, specifically the re-landscaping of the 2020 and 2500 blocks of South Salina Street. Officials have allocated the remaining money for street improvements next to South Presbyterian Church, for a pocket park behind Beauchamp Branch Library, and for the business corridor in the Salina Street trade area.

The business corridor that Bey envisions would be bounded on the north by Taylor Street, on the south by Brighton Avenue, on the east by I-81, and on the west by Midland Avenue.

Bey believes the corridor could be profitable. In a 2005 study done by Syracuse University's Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, city officials discovered that the people who lived in that area had a greater concentrated buying power in retail, on average, than other Syracuse and Onondaga County citizens.

While there is potential for South Siders to spend their dollars locally, Bey believes residents currently spend their money outside of the area because the retail

they are looking for does not exist on the South Salina Street corridor.

When Bey and city officials looked at other areas with strong business corridors, such as James Street and Westcott Street, they noticed that in addition to a history of business survival, these areas also experienced a strong level of participation and support from the community.

Private investors and members of the community had put money toward these areas and opened small businesses there. These people were rewarded with tax breaks, and Bey hopes for the same on South Salina Street.

However, some residents have voiced concern that occasional violence in the neighborhood would harm the area's business prospects.

"Every week it seems like there is a killing, or a shooting, or a stabbing and our community lives that the rest of their lives," said Geneva Hayden, a South Side resident. "There are a lot of unnecessary things going on in our community right now, and it's hard to get behind these big projects when the streets aren't even safe for our children."

But Bey says the neighborhood cannot be rebuilt without first rebuilding the neighborhood's business district. This, he said, starts with turning South Salina Street into an attractive corridor.

Before work began, many lots along South Salina Street seemed either barren or littered.

"Looked like a big eyesore," Bey said of the lot next to South Presbyterian Church at 112 W. Colvin St. "It is just not attractive to have a lot sitting there with cars parked on the grass," he said. "It's also not something you want potential patrons to see when they are coming to your area to spend money."

Grant money already has been spent to landscape the lot next to the church as well as to pave the lot across from Blue Brothers Barber Shop at 2036 S. Salina St.

While city officials are determined to continue to improve the aesthetics of the business corridor, they noted that people have a misconception that government does development, which is not true.

"You hear a lot of people talking about the fact that there is development happening around the city and why is (the city) spending money here and why is (the city) spending money there," Bey said.

While the state money from Valesky was always there to improve the area, there was no movement on South Salina Street until community members started making investments, Bey said.

Now that the project is underway, and people are seeing Bey's vision come to fruition, there has been a palpable sense of pride among community leaders who are longing for an economic turnaround on the South Side.

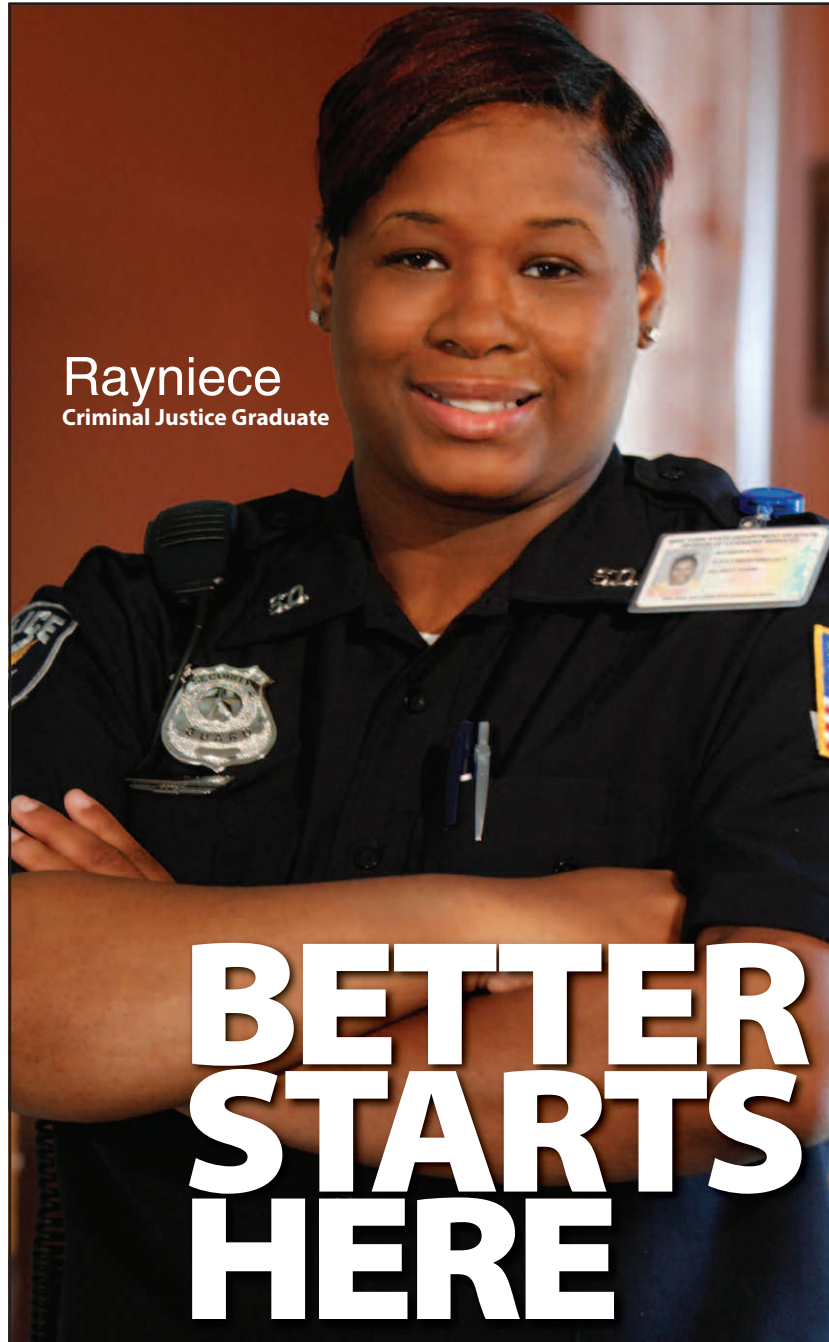
"My mother always taught me that no matter where you live, you take care of where you live," said Baye Muhammad, Syracuse Parks and Recreation commissioner. "It is about caring for your community and it's something that we had lost. This project shows we are committed to getting it back."



> Common Councilor Khalid Bey said South Salina Street could be "one of the most viable corridors in the entire city." | Ethan Backer, Staff Photo

Rayniece

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GET INVOLVED

World Interfaith Harmony Week points out that mutual understanding and interreligious dialogue constitute important dimensions of a culture of peace, and establishes World Interfaith Harmony Week as a way to promote harmony between all people regardless of their faith.

What: The World Interfaith Harmony Assembly

When: Sunday, Feb. 9
3 to 5 p.m.

Where: Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, 4889 Bear Road, Liverpool

Cost: Free and open to the public

More info.: www.wtb.org

CREEK PARTNERS

All are welcome as the **Partnership for Onondaga Creek** works for environmental, social and economic justice in Syracuse.

What: Partnership for Onondaga Creek meeting

When: Tuesday, Feb. 4
6 p.m.

Where: Brady Faith Center, 404 South Ave.

Cost: Free to attend

More info.: www.onondagacreek.org

CELEBRATE THE PAST

Beauchamp Library offers a variety of Black History Month events

Precious Cargo: An Artistic Exploration of Black History Reception

Saturday, Feb. 1
1 p.m.

Presenter: Art Brangman

Brangman will utilize his artwork to provide a historical exploration of African-American heritage, and urges everyone to begin the process of closure so that healing can begin. His thought-provoking artwork will be on display throughout the month.

What is Black History Month in 2014?

Saturday, Feb. 1
3 - 4:30 p.m.

Facilitator: Syracuse University's Pan African Graduate Students

Come celebrate the beginning of Black History Month as we explore the meaning of Black History Month. A Poem by Sa'Quota Reaves will powerfully explore the month's meaning both past and present. Also PACCNY's president, Dr. Hdayatu Salawu, will discuss the importance of cardiovascular health to kick off a month-long focus on health and wellness.



> Local youth work on a project last year at Beauchamp Branch Library during Black History Month. | Photo Provided

Family Movie

Tuesday, Feb. 4

5 p.m.

Presenter: Beauchamp Library Staff

"Sounder," based on the book by William H. Armstrong (87minutes).

African-American Read-In

Thursday, Feb. 6, 13 and 20

3 - 5 p.m.

Facilitator: Geneva Hayden, Community Educator

Bring your toddler, preschooler and enjoy books, songs, dance and fun to celebrate Black History Month.

Children's books by African-American authors will be shared.

Stop & Frisk

Saturday, Feb. 8

3 - 4:30 p.m.

Facilitator: Syracuse University's Pan African Graduate Students

Screening of the short film "Invisible" directed by Carlton Daniel. It explores the policy of stop and frisk and the issue of police harassment. Following the film screening, a panel will discuss police harassment and stop and frisk as it impacts the black community.

Family Movie

Thursday, Feb. 13

5 p.m.

Presenter: Beauchamp Library Staff

"Gifted Hands," a movie that follows the life of Dr. Benjamin S. Carson, who overcame obstacles in life to become a world renowned neurosurgeon (88 minutes).

How Are You A Part of Black History?

Saturday, Feb. 15

3 - 4:30 p.m.

Facilitator: Syracuse University's Pan African Graduate Students

Show your talents and share how you are a part of Black history. Poets, singers, dancers, and artists are welcome to show off their skills and share how they are making Black history.



> Last year, Beauchamp Branch Library held special events in celebration of Black History Month. | Photo Provided

Sun Soy all-natural candle-making

Tuesday, Feb. 18

4:30 - 7 p.m.

Facilitator: DreamTeam1

Learn candle making and design candles using sun soy. Create your own fragrance. See the community working together in harmony. For ages 10 and above. Please call for registration at (315) 435-3395.

Keeping Up with the Dance

Friday, Feb. 21

3 - 4:30 p.m.

Presenter: Dance Theater of Syracuse

Come and enjoy the thrills by the premiere dance conservatory in Central New York with a growing national reputation for excellence in performance.

Children's Books by African-American Authors

Saturday, Feb. 22

11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Sponsor: Lit' for Life

Celebrate Black History Month with a read-in for children and parents. Guest readers, special arts and crafts and a book give away for children through 11 years old and their parents or guardians.

Black History Jeopardy

Saturday, Feb. 22

3 - 4:30 p.m.

Facilitator: Syracuse University's Pan African Graduate Students

Test your knowledge of black history with a game of Black History Jeopardy. Make sure you've been attending the other Black History Month events to get your study guides for the game. We'll test your knowledge of prominent figures and important events in black history. Prizes for winners!

African Trade Bead Necklace and Bracelet Craft

Monday, Feb. 24

3:30 p.m.

Facilitator: Christine Richie, Beauchamp Branch

Create your own jewelry to celebrate Black History Month. Open to children of all ages.

Blood Pressure Screening and Raffle Draws

Saturday, March 1

3 - 4:30 p.m.

Facilitator: Dr. Hdayatu Salawu

Come and join us for free blood pressure screening.

SMOOTH JAZZ

The **Donna Alford JaSSBand** will perform at Al's Wine & Whiskey Lounge, 321 S. Clinton St., Armory Square, in honor of Black History Month on Feb. 16.

The show will start at 9 p.m. and entry is free. It is for people age 21 and over.

For more information, call Reggie at (315) 479-9620 or email reggie@softspokenband.com

MORE EVENTS

The Stand's website is updated regularly with community events. Check mysouthsidestand.com for new events celebrating Black History Month.

If you have an event to promote, contact ashley@mysouthsidestand.com.



B-BALL SHOOT-OFF

Fundraiser for Syracuse/ Onondaga NAACP ACT-SO Basketball Shoot-Off

When: Noon to 8 p.m. Feb. 21 & 22 and 2 to 3 p.m. Feb. 23

Where: Destiny USA — The Canyon

Donation: \$2
To qualify for grand prize, contestant must make as many foul shots as possible in 30 seconds

Grand Prize: \$500
Destiny USA Gift Certificate (*Must be 18 and over to qualify*)

Rules: The Top 2 scorers will be contacted after 8:30 p.m. Feb. 22 to come to Destiny USA Feb. 23 at 2 p.m. to compete for the grand prize. There will only be one winner. If you are unable to attend, the next high scorer will be notified to participate in the final shoot-off

For individuals 17 and younger, there will be three prizes

1st place — Gift certificate to Pole Position Raceway

2nd place — Gift Certificate to Dick's Sporting Goods to be used at Destiny USA

3rd place — Gift Certificate to Dave & Buster's

Notified youth winners must be accompanied by parent/legal guardian to receive prize.

FINISHING ON TOP

Corcoran High School seniors reflect on a successful four years

Graduation is only a semester away, and these six Corcoran High School students are on their way to graduating at the top of their class with full International Baccalaureate diplomas. They talk about what has inspired them during high school, and share their plans for the future.



ABDINOOR MOHAMED

Age: 18
GPA: 3.3

Interests: Volunteer work and soccer

Extracurricular activities: Four-year varsity soccer player (captain his senior year). Also will be participating in this year's spring musical "Bye Bye Birdie" because they needed more males. He volunteers at the Rescue Mission and is a member of the Seeds for Peace program.

Favorite subject: Psychology

Motivation: "My mom has motivated me because she has always been there for me. She has been both the mother and father figure for me. She wants me to have the best education because she didn't have the opportunity, so she wants that for me so I can be successful."

Goals for the future: Top choice is Syracuse University. He has also applied to Nazareth College and State University of New York at Oswego. He is undecided about a major. He would really like to play for the SU soccer team and is very interested in joining the Peace Corps.

Favorite high school moment: "When our team made it to sectionals for soccer my junior year because my sophomore year we had a losing season. We went from losing all of our games to making it to sectionals."

Favorite movie: "Coach Carter"



MYA EDWARDS-KLEIST

Valedictorian
Age: 17
GPA: 4.0

Interests: Science, music, singing, musical theater, tennis, reading vampire books and listening to music.

Extracurricular activities: Involved with musical theater since sixth grade (currently working on "Bye Bye Birdie").

Favorite subject: Chemistry. "I love the opportunity that science presents. There is always more science to be discovered, and I want to be the one who discovers it. I want to find cures and get into medicine."

Motivation: "The concept of success has motivated me. It gives me good feelings to get a paper back that says 100 and to know that I am doing something with myself and that I am going to be doing something with myself in the future. My mom has also always pushed me to do better. She has pushed me to greatness and always provides emotional support when it gets too stressful."

Goals for the future: "I really hope to get into Cornell University. It is my dream school. I want to double major in chemical engineering and biomedical engineering with a minor in psychology. I want to eventually go to med school and become a pharmaceutical engineer."

Favorite high school moment: Every time they put up the rankings and I am still the school valedictorian.

Favorite movie: "Titanic"



DESTANY FINNEY

Age: 17
GPA: 4.0

Interests: Acting, dance, singing, tennis and art (especially painting)

Extracurricular activities: Corcoran tennis, Corcoran fall and spring theater (past performances include "Once on This Island," "Curtains," "Rumors," "Steal Magnolias" and currently working on "Bye Bye Birdie").

Favorite subject: Spanish (has been taking Spanish since the sixth grade and wants to be fluent). She is going to Spain in July as a graduation present from her parents.

Motivation: "My mom always pushed me to be the very best that I can be. It's also second nature to me to always do the best that I can do. I have to be able to get scholarships, and I just wanted to be able to go to college."

Goals for the future: "I applied early decision for Syracuse University and have already gotten accepted. I am going to be studying at SU and majoring in TRF (Television Radio Film) in (S.I.) Newhouse (School of Public Communications)."

Favorite high school moment: "When my vice principal called my mom and told her that I had been chosen to go see the president when he came. My mom called me in tears to tell me that I would get to meet him."

Favorite movie: "The Notebook"



EMILY STREISSGUTH

Age: 17
GPA: 4.0

Interests: Running and music. "I like running because it provides an outlet for me. The IB program is stressful, so it is nice to get out all the stress with my friends who are also in the program and can complain with me about it. I don't really do it to win; I do it for myself."

Extracurricular activities: Three-season athlete in cross country, indoor track and outdoor track. Also a member of concert band (plays the tenor saxophone). Winter is her favorite season because she loves to ski. Her favorite skiing spot is Song Mountain Resort.

Favorite subject: English "because I understand it, and I like the books we read in class."

Motivation: "The IB program is a really big motivator because it looks really good on a college application and it definitely prepares you for college. My parents have always been really supportive of everything I do. They are English/communications college professors at Le Moyne College."

Goals for the future: First choice is Princeton University. She also has applied to the University of Virginia and has been accepted at Fordham University. She wants to enter undergraduate undecided so that she can explore her options and see what major suits her best.

Favorite high school moment: "Any moments that have involved my friends and having a good time with them. My friends are definitely what I am going to miss the most about high school."

Favorite movie: "The Secret Life of Walter Mitty"



JUSTIN HARLOW

Age: 17
GPA: 3.3

Interests: Lacrosse, running, music, the Buffalo Bills, Buffalo Sabres and Tottenham Hotspur Football Club

Extracurricular activities: Three-season athlete in varsity lacrosse, varsity indoor track and varsity cross-country

Favorite subject: History

Motivation: "I get great support from all my teachers and my family. They encourage me all the time, and with support like that, I find it easy to come in every day and work the hardest that I can. My father is a big inspiration for me because he has been through a lot and he has a lot of experience, which he passes on to me and I really appreciate it."

Goals for the future: Applied to colleges such as Syracuse University, University of Buffalo and (State University of New York at) Cortland. "Syracuse is my top choice. I want to play club lacrosse. I also want to double major in sports management (finance or marketing) and exercise science and eventually work in the sports business."

Favorite high school moment: "All the friends I've made and being able to compete in league and sectional championships with my sports teams. I like competing and getting up there with the best of them. Last year, we made it to the sectional playoffs for lacrosse."

Favorite movie: "Rudy"



MORGAN DOYLE

Salutatorian
Age: 17
GPA: 4.0

Interests: Soccer, lacrosse and snowboarding

Extracurricular activities: Four-year varsity lacrosse and soccer player; works at Green Hills Farms grocery store

Favorite subject: Math

Motivation: "I have always wanted to get into the best college that I can. I wanted to be able to say no to colleges, not them say no to me. Also my sisters have been successful in college, and I see that and want to be like them. My sisters inspire me most, both academically and in sports. My parents also push me."

Goals for the future: "I want to major in mechanical engineering. I want to see how I like engineering and see where that takes me. I have applied to seven colleges, and right now, my top choices are Clarkson University and University of Rochester. I am talking to the coaches about playing for their lacrosse teams."

Favorite high school moment: "When all five high schools in the Syracuse (City) School District created one lacrosse and soccer team due to budget cuts. I have become best friends with the girls at all the different schools even though we used to all be rivals. I originally thought I was going to lose my spot on the teams but a lot of the older girls were really encouraging and helped me. I miss them now that we're not in season."

Favorite movie: "The Da Vinci Code"

STUDENT WORKSHOP

The **Canary Project** will start a series of workshops Feb. 8 designed for high school and college-age students. The theme is sustainability.

These six Saturday workshops cover topics ranging from building bike-powered phone chargers to basic web design, but the centerpiece is building a 14-foot geodesic dome greenhouse for the Southwest Community Farm (SWCF).

Location

Workshops will be held at the 601 Tully education center on Syracuse's West Side and at the SWCF, located at the corner of Midland and Bellevue avenues on the South Side.

Participants are welcome.

Interested?

Contact The Canary Project Workshops program director, Ethany Uttech, at eautech@gmail.com or (917) 502-8530

To learn more, visit <http://canary-project.org/>

All photos and spotlights by Shannon Rosenberg

CITIZEN WATCHDOG

The Citizen Review Board was established to ensure an open, citizen-controlled process for reviewing grievances involving members of the Syracuse Police Department (SPD).

The CRB works to:

- Provide public accountability over the powers exercised by members of the SPD.
- Preserve integrity of the SPD.
- Provide a forum for citizen complaints regarding the SPD to be heard and reviewed fairly and impartially.

CONTACT THE CRB

Office: 201 E. Washington St., Suite 705

Phone: (315) 448-8750

Online: Visit www.syracuse.ny.us/CRB.aspx

PEOPLE COME FIRST

Citizen Review Board undergoes changes after years of ineffectiveness



> Citizen Review Board members, from left to right, Joseph Masella, board chair; CRB Administrator Joseph Lipari; Raheem Mack; and William (Bill) Barber. They are shown during a December 2013 meeting. | Madina Toure, Staff Photo

By | Ashley Kang
Staff writer

Revamped CRB helps residents address misconduct, brutality within police department

Did you know the police department has a “customer satisfaction survey?” This questionnaire takes an unconventional approach by asking those who have been arrested to assess their experience with police officers. Police Chief Frank Fowler says it provides insight on how his department can become better.

“Any findings are helpful,” he believes.

An outside contractor that Fowler wished not to name has administered the survey since 2011 with significant input from the police chief on the design. Fowler says he receives periodic updates and the results have been helpful in designing training.

The survey was introduced at a time when Syracuse police were fighting to earn back the public’s confidence after allegations of police misconduct resulted in federal court verdicts totaling \$1.1 million against the department and also while the city’s Citizen Review Board was in limbo, according to a Sept. 13, 2011 Post-Standard article. A panel to relaunch the CRB was established in a

further effort to boost accountability.

Joseph Lipari, 35, took over as administrator of the CRB in May of 2012, and believes he’s made great strides in achieving the CRB’s original mission. He said in a recent interview that he did not know about the department’s survey, but said he sees it as a fantastic idea.

“If the questionnaire is used to get a good feel of outside perceptions,” he said, “it couldn’t be anything but helpful. The more perspectives, the better.”

REVAMPED WATCHDOG

Lipari is fervent that the CRB do just that, hear various perspectives. The main mission of the CRB is to review citizens’ complaints about the Syracuse Police Department.

The revamped CRB was established under Local Law 1 of 2012 and drafted by a legislative advisory committee appointed by Councilor Pamela Hunter. Trust in the CRB appears to be rapidly building under Lipari and the newly reconstituted board. Before Lipari took the helm, the watchdog group suffered with a track record of 17 years of ineffectiveness.

In Lipari’s first year the reconstituted CRB held 15 hearings and closed 52 cases. In 2013, there were 35 hearings and a total of 110 cases closed.

"Twenty to 30 percent of complaints end up going through to a hearing," Lipari said.

Once a hearing is called, the complainant and witnesses appear before Lipari and three members of the 11-member board. The panel then deliberates in private whether to sustain the complaint or exonerate the police.

The citizen receives a letter from the board, which develops a disciplinary recommendation for the chief when the ruling favors the complainant. The CRB is a creation of the Common Council, but Lipari says "we report to the public. Neither the mayor nor the council

IF YOU COULD GIVE THE CURRENT CRB A GRADE, WHAT WOULD THAT BE AND WHY?



B+/A-

"After a long period of being dormant, we came together and have a strong internal process in place. There is still room for improvement with our relationship with the police department and with getting processes outside of our control stronger."

— Joseph Lipari
Citizen Review Board administrator

can intervene in our internal process, so we are independent in that sense." CRB funds come out of the general city fund, making it a taxpayer supported entity like all other city departments. Lipari earns a salary of \$57,000.

POWER IN NUMBERS

But there is no procedure in place to follow-up on whether the board's recommendations were adopted by the department.

The power in the CRB's recommendations, Lipari believes, comes from making them public and allowing residents, politicians and police officers to see them.

Numbers are key, says activist and United as One Coalition (UAO) member Bruce Peak.

In response to instances of brutality at the justice center, a diverse group of community organizations united in August 2010 to form the UAO. These groups, ranging from supporters of disability, race and civil rights, banded together to bring greater awareness through sheer numbers. UAO additionally works to organize demonstrations, public forums and speak-outs. The most recent was a speak-out against police brutality Aug. 21, 2013, at the Southwest Community Center.

"This was a closed event to media and police in an effort to make residents feel free to voice their concerns without fear of retaliation," Peak said.

But the event had low turnout.

"The more people that speak up," he said, "the greater the chance we'll be heard."

Voicing concerns is the first step, he says, adding, "No one should say it was a cop and there's nothing I can do about it."

He acknowledged the CRB can only make recommendations to Fowler.

"At the end of the day, they turn in their report and nothing comes of it," he said.

"We need a Citizen Review Board that makes demands, rather than just suggestions."

Lipari notes that his job is to "keep pressure on decision-makers to adopt these recommendations," which he says requires public support to elevate pressure.

"Silence," Peak continued, "is the worst enemy."

Khalid Bey, Common Councilor from the Fourth District, said he's guided two people to file complaints.

"Citizens have to feel like they have an outlet," he said, adding that the CRB makes people feel heard. "One [man] I directed to the CRB, later instead of expressing further frustration in the system, expressed gratitude."

Lipari agrees.

"We give a much more personal approach," he said. "The complainant gets assurance that their concerns are valid and that we are not going to allow them to languish."

REDUNDANT OR REQUIRED

But Fowler describes the CRB's role as excessive.

"Having a CRB is redundant. What we have in place is sufficient," he said in reference to the department's Office of Professional Standards (OPS). He continued, "Then if issues rise to a higher level, they can go to the DA and then grand jury."

The CRB and OPS do not work together to investigate, but do share reports and evidence. After completing their investigations, each reaches an independent finding.

Barrie Gewanter, Central New York Chapter direc-



No grade

"Honestly, I'm not sure, but it wouldn't be a bad grade. I can't qualify their performance."

— Khalid Bey
Syracuse Common
Councilor Fourth District

FINDINGS EXPLAINED

Unfounded — When the investigation indicates the alleged action did not occur.

Exonerated — When the investigation indicates the act occurred but was justified, lawful and proper.

Inconclusive — When the investigation discloses insufficient evidence to clearly disprove the allegations.

Sustained — When the investigation discloses the alleged act did occur and constitutes misconduct or improper job performance.

GET EDUCATED

For Educational Presentations on Police Encounters:

- To contact Chief of Police Frank Fowler for "The Police and You" presentation, call the chief's office at (315) 442-5250 or contact the chief's secretary, Ms. Hodges, at phodges@syracusepolice.org.
- To contact the CNY Chapter of the NYCLU for a "What to Know When Interacting with the Police" presentation by the chapter director Barrie Gewanter, email bgewanter@nyclu.org or call (315) 471-2821.

REDRAFT MEMBERS

Following are the people that Councilor Pamela Hunter appointed to the Legislative Advisory Committee to draft new law for establishing the CRB.

- Pamela Hunter — councilor at large
- Nancy Rhodes — police accountability advocate and drafter of original CRB legislation, now working as a freelance arts journalist
- Barrie Gewanter — NYCLU
- Bill Ryan — mayor's office
- Alan Rosenthal — attorney & CCA
- Jose Perez — attorney & Latino community leader
- Wayne Dunham — NAACP
- Linda Ervin — county legislator whose district includes parts of the city as well as Jamesville/Dewitt; African-American community leader
- The Rev. Kevin Agee — pastor, Hopps Memorial CME Church
- Monica Williams — county legislator whose district includes core of the city; African-American community leader
- Ed O'Rourke — teachers union officer (STA)
- Frank Fowler — SPD chief

tor for the New York Civil Liberties Union, served as a scribe in drafting the reconstituted CRB ordinance. She's also a member of UAO. She says cases evaluated by the reconstituted CRB have brought out things that would not have been heard if such work was left solely to the police department.

"The truth can't only be that which is put out by the police officers and the department's commanders," she said. "The CRB is an impetus to accountability."

IF YOU COULD GIVE THE CURRENT CRB A GRADE, WHAT WOULD THAT BE AND WHY?



C
"It's new and there is room for improvement, but they still get a passing grade."

— Frank Fowler
Syracuse Police Chief

Peak, 65, who said he had personal run-ins with police in his youth, added, "We'll investigate ourselves makes no sense to me. Syracuse needs a strong CRB to present the other side."

Civil Rights Law 50-a requires the board to maintain the confidentiality of any and all personnel records received, and because of this, the CRB cannot release any disciplinary findings, so the public is not informed on what actions may have been taken by the police chief.

Additionally, the CRB is informed of the chief's disciplinary decisions in each case, but neither the CRB nor Fowler can reveal to the public (including the individual complainant) the specific discipline that an officer receives (or even if the discipline was administered at all).

"What we can do is report to the public how often the chief imposes discipline when the CRB recommends it," Lipari said. "That's what we call our 'rate of agreement' or 'disciplinary action rate.' It is reported in the form of a percentage."

This allows the public some insight into how often the chief and the CRB agree on discipline, but not the specific discipline in each case.

"For example, during the second quarter of 2013, we had a disciplinary action rate of 43% (up from about 20% in the previous quarters)," Lipari said. "Meaning the chief imposed discipline in 43% of the cases where the CRB sustained some kind of misconduct."

Withholding of details concerns Mikiel Anderson, 30, city resident and regular CRB meeting attendee. He has attended every CRB meeting since the beginning of 2012 in an effort to be a watchdog of the watchdog.

"I want to make sure not only that the CRB is doing its job but also that the issue of police misconduct is being regularly evaluated," he said.

He would like to see more specifics shared with residents in regards to complaints and the process taken without giving away specific details, which the current law does not allow to be released. What is released in the annual report are recommendations on police policy and procedure based on what complaints were received that year. These recommendations are sent on to the Mayor's office, the Common Council and the Chief of Police "in an effort to spur constructive dialogue about how to address particular concerns of the CRB," as stated in the group's 2012 annual report.

"As we hear various complaints," Lipari said, "concerns may be heard repeatedly or as we pursue our investigation, we may notice a policy or procedure was not followed correctly or could be rewritten to better address current situations. So from what emerges, we make as recommendations because we feel they warrant the Syracuse Police Department's attention."

Anderson became interested in keeping an eye on the CRB after media coverage of the firing of the former CRB administrator Felicia Davis. Davis, the only administrator for 17 years since the creation of the CRB, was fired by Mayor Stephanie Minor Feb. 4, 2011 for ineffective oversight and numerous deficiencies in the CRB's operation.

"City residents should attend CRB meetings because they would have an opportunity to let their thoughts be known on the performance of the CRB, be able to ask questions and raise concerns on both the actions of the CRB and the Syracuse Police Department," he said.

Written into the new ordinance is a mandate that the CRB release quarterly reports listing statistics on complaints and the board's recommendations. Once a year, the CRB is tasked with combing through for patterns, in an effort to make recommendations to the department.



A++

"Because of the dedication of Joey first and foremost, and secondly because of the dedicated board that cares about the Syracuse

community. In terms of the board members, it is hard to find that level of dedication minus the pay."

— Timothy "Noble" Jennings-Bey
CRB board member

It shares those with the police chief, politicians and the public. These are released in an annual report.

Lipari explained that in the annual report, “findings” are the hearing panels’ decisions on whether to sustain the allegation or not. “Recommendations” can refer to both the CRB’s specific disciplinary recommendations in an individual case or the policy and training recommendations.

In its 2012 annual report, the CRB made three recommendations to the police chief: Following a forced entry, a property must be properly secured; in instances when cash is recovered, a property receipt must be provided; and that a non retaliation/intimidation clause should be added to the current SPD policy for accepting complaints against police officers.

Although 2013’s annual report has yet to be released, Lipari said one recommendation is likely going to be on ensuring proper protocols are followed during high-risk traffic stops in regards to use of force.

OUTREACH EFFORTS

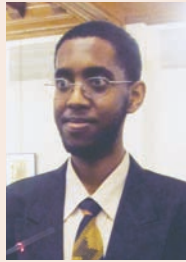
“Historically the relationship between the community and police has been tense,” said CRB board member Timothy ‘Noble’ Jennings-Bey. “I see the CRB as a vehicle to restructure that relationship.”

Jennings-Bey, appointed to the CRB by the mayor in 2012, serves on the board’s community outreach committee and is the director of the Trauma Response Team at the United Way of Central New York. He’s a member of the South Side community.

Together Lipari and Jennings-Bey presented to youth at the Aug. 21 speak-out, discussing how to prop-

erly engage police officers.

Gewanter trains community leaders on a similar presentation called “What to Know When Interacting with the Police.” She notes that as a middle-class white



B

“They have done well because of their willingness to be above reproach, but they have also been slow to get out quarterly reports.”

— Mikiel Anderson
City resident and regular CRB meeting attendee

woman, there are many groups who will not relate to her delivery. This is why she is eager to train community leaders to share the presentation’s valuable message with their respective communities.

“It is much more effective as a peer-to-peer presentation,” she said. “Noble can reach people and youth in particular that I cannot effectively.”

She refers to this as a “train the trainer approach,” and says if there are community leaders interested in adopting her presentation, she will gladly train and partner with them.

“This means black leaders giving the presentation and sharing their own or similar experiences with the



> CRB members, from left to right, Donna Oppedisano, Carole Horan and Timothy “Noble” Jennings-Bey, listen in during the 2013 December meeting. The CRB discussed concerns with the city’s Notice of Claim policy. | Madina Toure, Staff Photo

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Future scheduled CRB board meetings are open to the public.

5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Thursdays in the Common Council Chambers at City Hall, 233 E. Washington St. (unless otherwise noted)

Board meetings will recess at 6:30 p.m. for public comment.

Feb. 6

March 6

April 3

To be held at the White Branch Library, 763 Butternut St.

May 1

To be held at the Huntington Family Center, 405 Gifford St.

June 5

To be held at the Cecile Community Center, 174 W. Seneca Turnpike

July 10

Aug. 7

Sept. 4

To be held at the Beauchamp Branch Library, 2111 S. Salina St.

Oct. 2

To be held at the Soule Branch Library, 101 Springfield Road

Nov. 6

Dec. 4

COMPLAINT HOW-TO

You can visit the CRB office or mail your complaint:

CRB Office
Citizen Review Board
201 E. Washington St.,
Suite 705
Syracuse, NY 13202

Or go online:

http://www.syrgov.net/CRB_Complaint_Form.aspx



> Joseph Lipari, administrator of the CRB, works to achieve the board’s original mission. | Ashley Kang, Staff Photo

black community, Latinos to other Latinos, Vietnamese to other Vietnamese, and so on,” she said, explaining people have a greater takeaway if they hear from someone with a similar background and life experience.

Lipari and Jennings-Bey agree. Lipari sees youth much more engaged when they hear from Jennings-Bey and plans to develop a guided presentation he can present to youth at the Southwest Community Center and throughout the city with Jennings-Bey’s help.

“Joey is not scared,” Jennings-Bey said about Lipari’s outreach plans. “He will go anywhere, into any neighborhood without fear because he believes so strongly in what he is doing.”

Fowler stressed that “what you see on TV is not reality.” “Police are trained to respond and there is nothing glamorous about it, despite what you may see on TV. If a person commits a violent act,” Fowler explained, “police are allowed use of force. Force means violence.”

Jennings-Bey says their presentation serves as a guide on how youth should engage with officers. “We discuss a code of conduct,” Jennings-Bey said. “We talk about how initial interactions with police can elevate a situation or allow it to run smoothly.”

One example he shared was cultural.

“We [African-Americans] speak with our hands,” he said as he demonstrated by waving and cutting his hands

IF YOU COULD GIVE THE CURRENT CRB A GRADE, WHAT WOULD THAT BE AND WHY?



No grade

“It’s not up to me to give a grade but up to the public to judge. I will say that the CRB is functioning now how it was intended to 20 years ago.”

— **Barrie Gewanter**
Central New York Chapter director for the New York Civil Liberties Union



Pass

“Because they’re new, it’s hard to say an actual grade. They do the best they can, but they are toothless as far as getting something done because they can only make recommendations, which go ignored by the chief time and time again.”

— **Bruce Peak**
Local activist with United as One Coalition

through the air. “If we come in contact with a police officer and respond with ‘Hey man, I wasn’t doin’ nothin’ ...,’ with our arms waving, then this can be seen and taken as a potential threat.

“We want youth to walk away from an interaction with an officer feeling whole,” Jennings-Bey added.

PLANS IN THE MAKING

The CRB can work, Lipari says, “but we have to have the process work on all cylinders.”

Improvement, in his view, depends on advancing the CRB’s relationship with the police department. For this, the CRB ordinance requires formation of a police liaison committee, which would pair three officers with a three-member committee already in place by the CRB. Lipari views this committee as another way to provide valuable insight.

“I think anything that can give the board any perspective on officers’ day-to-day interactions is great,” Lipari said. “We need to understand every perspective.”

The ordinance charges Police Chief Fowler with coordinating this liaison committee, but finding volunteers, Fowler said, can be a challenge. Currently, the committee has yet to be formed.

The CRB will also hold future CRB meetings — held monthly, May through October — in various city neighborhoods, making it easier for residents to attend.

“Come out and voice your concerns,” Lipari said. “Make us your CRB.” Lipari hopes to even offer his own survey.

“Down the road I hope to do a survey for complainants to fill out who have been through the process,” he said. “They can give us a grade and feedback.”



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HELPING OTHERS

Revenue from the Rescue Mission's thrift stores help its other programs around Central New York:

- It helps the emergency food and shelter services at the Rescue Mission's Near Westside campus, where about 140 men and 700-800 meals are served each day.
- The Rescue Mission's 436 W. Seneca Turnpike campus hosts a free clothing program, where men, women and children get a certain number of free clothes twice a month.
- The Rescue Mission also supports a transitional housing program for families in Auburn and men in Binghamton and Ithaca.

FEELING YOUNG AGAIN

The Rescue Mission redesigns the floor plans of its secondhand stores



> 3fifteen in Marshall Square Mall is successful for its better-than-average items and trendy model. | Enaam Al Ali, Staff Photo

By | Nicki Gorny
Staff reporter

Success of thrift store 3fifteen helps fund, inspire Rescue Mission’s other services

The Rescue Mission is updating its Thrifty Shopper stores in Central New York, replacing tight aisles and overstuffed racks with floor layouts similar to department stores.

Thrifty Shopper stores in Auburn, Cicero, East Syracuse and North Syracuse already sport the new look, said Charles Chappell, the Rescue Mission’s chief commercial officer. The floor of the Valley Thrifty Shopper at 436 W. Seneca Turnpike was updated last year.

“There’s a lot of features we add to the store to make it more fun to shop,” he said, adding that customers have responded positively to the stores’ new look.

The simple, low-budget updates — a few coats of paint on the walls and the rearrangement of the sales floor over the course of a few days — are expected to improve shoppers’ experience with a relatively small investment, Chappell said.

The changes reflect the success of the department store-style model at 3fifteen, the latest thrift store whose profits benefit the Rescue Mission.

“3fifteen is the Thrifty Shoppers’ younger, trendier sister,” Chappell said. The store opened in Marshall Square Mall on the Syracuse University campus in fall 2012. Rescue Mission volunteers at the Donation Redistribution Center in Liverpool, where items left for donation are organized and divided among the Rescue Mission’s stores, choose high-quality items that are vintage or targeted toward a younger clientele for 3fifteen’s sales floor.

Since 3fifteen opened, said Brent Piech, the Rescue Mission’s sales manager, it has boasted the highest sales per square foot of any Rescue Mission thrift store.

While it doesn’t approach the sales figures of the Rescue Mission’s biggest and most profitable Thrifty Shopper locations in East Syracuse, Binghamton, Westvale and Cortland, he said, 3fifteen usually falls in the middle of the \$10,000 to \$20,000 range that stores individually bring in on any given week. He added that 3fifteen ranks as the smallest Rescue Mission thrift store.

“We see people from all walks of life,” said Amanda Rockwell, communications specialist for the Rescue Mission, speaking of the homeless and those who might be struggling financially — even with two jobs.

With a mixed atmosphere of thrift shop and department store, 3fifteen offers a better-than-average thrift-store experience, said Alycia Maurer, a sophomore at

SU from Liverpool. She added that the price tags on the clothes are the biggest indication that 3fifteen is not a traditional department store. She prefers 3fifteen to her local Thrifty Shopper because 3fifteen caters to a younger audience, she said.

Reactions like Maurer's lead Chappell to believe the 3fifteen model is working. "I think there's some markets where this concept would work," he said. "We could have maybe one or two more 3fifteens in the next three or four years."

Piech said he credits Chappell for many of the common elements that make 3fifteen and the major Thrifty Shopper stores successful, including organization and product distribution. Chappell has been influential in the Thrifty Shopper renovations, he said, showing store managers how to use their space more effectively. In some cases, redesigned stores display more clothing than they previously had in their warehouse-like layouts.

Displaying clothing effectively is important because stores make the most money from clothing sales, Piech said, adding, "Now two people can shop around racks and not even bump into each other."

The thrift stores have also been improving their sorting system for donated items in the past six to 10 months, he said, which helps to boost stores' sales by getting the right product to the right location. While volunteers at the Donation Redistribution Center do not handpick items for individual Thrifty Shopper stores to the same extent that they do for 3fifteen, he said, they do track



> 3fifteen sells eclectic items. | Enaam Al Ali, Staff Photo

what items sell particularly well at individual locations and then allocate similar items to that store.

"It's been a work in progress," he said.

MONEY MATTERS

Where the Rescue Mission gets its money:

- **60 percent** of the Rescue Mission's budget comes from its 13 Thrifty Shopper locations and 3fifteen. Within this percentage is its bottle-and-can redemption business.
- **30 percent** of the Rescue Mission's budget comes from development and donations.
- The government funds less than **10 percent**.

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HENDRICKS CHAPEL
Syracuse University

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3606 W. Genesee St. • Fairmount	701-4483	1547 State St. • Watertown	786-3998
160 S. Second St. • Fulton	598-1755	222 N. Massey St. • Watertown	779-2266
100 Grand Ave. • Syracuse	476-9855	1502 Genesee St. • Utica	732-0758
489 James St. • Syracuse	472-9435	13 River St. • Cortland	607-758-7830
408 Oswego Rd. • Liverpool	457-2413	16 E. Main St. • Trumansburg	607-387-4021
8440 Oswego Rd. • Clay	622-4469	120 E. 4th St. • Watkins Glen	607-535-5534
105 W. Seneca St. • Manlius	682-0785	138 N. Exchange St. • Geneva	781-0901
500 N. Main St. • North Syracuse	458-7658	8313 US Route 11 • Cicero	
5864 Thompson Rd. • DeWitt	449-4326	502 Lenox Ave. • Oneida	363-0345
330 Costello Parkway • Minoa	656-3321	3 Henderson St. • NY Mills	736-5075
☘ 1601 W. Genesee St. • Syracuse	471-7472	8007 Rt. 31 • Bridgeport	633-2063
100 Matty Ave. • Mattydale	455-1938	180 E. Main St. • Gouverneur	287-9577
1805 South Ave. • Syracuse	472-6577	59 Central Ave. • Ilion	894-2737
3901 S. Salina St. • Syracuse	378-0016	416 Velasko Rd. • Western Lights	475-0864

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