

AMSTERDAM

# Liberty ARC appoints Canale as new Human Resources Director



PHOTO PROVIDED

Pictured is Jane Canale who was recently named Liberty ARC's Director of Human Resources.

Liberty ARC, the Montgomery County Chapter of The Arc New York, is pleased to announce the appointment of Jane Canale as their new Director of Human Resources.

Canale is the current Associate Executive Director for Human Resources and Support Services at Schenectady ARC, and will be continuing that role until unification, and then will be the Human Resources Director for the unified company going forward.

In this position, Canale will be responsible for the overall strategic direction of the agency's human resources initiatives, and will oversee employment, talent acquisition, legal compliance, employee relations, compensation, and other HR functions.

"We are extremely fortunate to have Jane Canale in this role," said Liberty ARC CEO Jennifer Saunders in a news release. "Jane has a wealth of HR knowledge and experience and will be an asset to Liberty ARC going forward. She is highly respected among our colleagues and brings with

her a strong commitment, and heart for our mission."

Canale received her Bachelor's degree from the College of Saint Rose in Albany, New York, two weeks before coming to work for Schenectady ARC.

Over the last 30-plus years, Canale has held a number of positions at the agency including the first Director of Human Resources.

Throughout the time, Canale's favorite part of her job has been to help other employees develop their careers and celebrate the success of both employees and the individuals supported by Schenectady ARC.

In addition to her duties at Schenectady ARC, Canale served on the Capital Region JSEC planning committee and as Co-Chair for the Schenectady Area Employer Resource Network. Canale is a graduate of the ARC New York's Leadership Institute and a graduate of the American Heart Association's Better U program and a recipient of the American Heart Association's Heart 2 Heart Award.

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# Grow Amsterdam's fifth annual Pumpkin Smash at Veterans Park

The Pumpkin Smash turns five on Nov. 4. This signature event for Compost Works, the food scrap composting initiative of Grow Amsterdam NY has been a smashing success, collecting more than 8,000 pounds of pumpkins, corn stalks and straw bales.

Grow Amsterdam's Smash has inspired other pumpkin smash events in the capital region including Schenectady and the Town of Bethlehem.

Residents took the slogan "Don't Trash it Smash it!" to heart and have done their part to keep pumpkins and other organics out of the landfill.

They've had a great time in the process. This year's Pumpkin Smash is supported by Target.

There will be four smashing stations and a variety of implements to choose from, including wooden mauls and handheld dead blow hammers for younger participants.

It's also fun to impale pumpkins on targets with 12-inch spikes. Smashing pumpkins can lead to pumpkin fever. Extra pumpkins will be available to smash for a small donation to Grow Amsterdam NY.

"You cannot, not have fun" said Tom Twente from Grow Amsterdam NY in a news release. "It's not just for kids, adults have a blast too."

- ◆ Participants can:
- ◆ Smash your pumpkin or
- ◆ Impale it on a spiked target
- ◆ Enjoy cider and donuts
- ◆ Get your face painted
- ◆ Try pumpkin bowling and other games
- ◆ Take a selfie

Residents who don't want to smash pumpkins can drop them off beginning at 9 a.m. in the parking lot at the upper end of Locust Ave.

Full-on smashing occurs from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 4 in Veterans Park.

In the event of foul weather, it will

be a drop-off only event.

For up-to-date details go to Grow Amsterdam NY on Facebook.

According to the USDA in 2020, 975 million pounds, or 65% of pumpkins grown in the United States wind up in landfills.

Pumpkins and other food scraps represent over 24% of all material thrown away.

Organic matter including yard trimmings account for approximately 50% of all material dumped in a landfill, and are the third largest source of greenhouse gases.

Pumpkins, food scraps and other organics are a valuable resource that can be used to feed people, livestock, make compost, or produce energy.

This year pumpkins will be diverted and feed pigs at Tylutki Family Farms, and jack o' lanterns and other organic Halloween decorations will be composted by Compost Works and be used in the 78 Wall St. and Kimball community gardens to build healthy soils.

"Feeding animals is a higher value use of wasted food and we're excited to have found a farmer who will take pumpkins" said Bernadette Twente from Grow Amsterdam NY, in the release.

Compost Works accepts food scraps from residents who are not composting at home.

Since 2019, more than 31,000 pounds of food scraps have been dropped off by your neighbors and turned into compost. Compost Works also provides assistance to those that want to establish a home composting system.

Join Compost Works and find out more about Grow Amsterdam NY at [www.growamsterdamny.org/food-scrap-connection](http://www.growamsterdamny.org/food-scrap-connection).

For the latest up to date information find Grow Amsterdam NY on Facebook, and like us.



Grow Amsterdam NY will host its fifth annual Pumpkin Smash at Veterans Park on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

PHOTOS PROVIDED

FORT HUNTER

# Take A Hike Day scheduled for Nov. 17 at Schoharie Crossing

Schoharie Crossing State Historic Site will host a five-mile hike to recognize National Take a Hike Day on Friday, Nov. 17 starting at 10 a.m. from their Visitor Center at 129 Schoharie St., Fort Hunter, NY 12069.

Participants will "Take a Hike" on the old Erie Canal Towpath from the Visitor Center to the Southside of Amsterdam.

The route will follow the old towpath from Fort Hunter to Yankee Hill and connect with the Friends of Schoharie Crossing's Eagle Trail along the Mohawk River before ending in Port Jackson, the southside of Amsterdam.

The trek is about 5-miles along grass and dirt trails with slightly uneven terrain.

Dressing for the weather and wearing proper footwear is strongly encouraged.

This is a point 'A' to point 'B' hike, and so we suggest staging a vehicle at the end point and/or carpooling.

The end point will be the Empire State Trail trailhead off Bridge Street on the Southside of Amsterdam.

The American Hiking Society says of National Take a Hike Day, "Yes, the days are getting shorter and cooler, and getting outside isn't always easy during the week,

but getting outside is rewarding.

On National Take a Hike Day, we like to remind folks hiking can be simple—no heavy pack or rugged mountain required. You can enjoy the mental and physical health benefits of hiking right in your neighborhood."

This hike will include two short rest stops at Yankee Hill Lock and near Dam 7 across from Lock Ell approaching Amsterdam.

For more information about programs at Schoharie Crossing,

please contact the Visitor Center at (518) 829-7516, email [Schoharie-Crossing@parks.ny.gov](mailto:Schoharie-Crossing@parks.ny.gov), or visit our NYS Parks webpage.

The Schoharie Crossing State Historic Site Visitor Center is located at 129 Schoharie Street, Fort Hunter, NY 12069.

The New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation oversees more than 250 individual state parks, historic sites, golf courses, boat launches and recreational trails, which are visited

by 78 million people annually. For more information on any of these recreation areas, call 518-474-0456

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FCHS is located at 237 Kingsboro Ave., Gloversville.

These programs are made possible by the NYS Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature.