

ALBANY

State Parks unveils new ‘Explorer App’ features 100th anniversary celebration

The Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (State Parks) recently announced a new events feature and refreshed icon design for the New York State Parks Explorer app.

The New York State Parks Explorer app is a free, user-friendly resource for visitors to plan trips and stay connected to their favorite locations throughout the State’s unparalleled collection of parks, historic sites and recreation trails.

Enhancing users’ visit planning and on-site mobile experience, New York residents and visitors now have a first

look at upcoming activities, events, and educational programming at parks and historic sites.

The app’s new events calendar feature offers users the ability to filter events by selected dates; activities like biking, concerts and nature education in its “Seasonal Highlights” category; State Parks’ geographic regions; and selected park and historic site locations.

The Parks Explorer app’s recently refreshed icon artwork now features the agency’s iconic maple leaf and nods to exploration. Trail maps on the app are available online

and offline on individual park profile screens on the app, allowing visitors to view their locations in real time while on a trail and navigate trail information more easily to avoid getting lost.

Developed by a team at State Parks and the Office of Information Technology Services, the State Parks Explorer app allows users to learn more about top destinations and discover new must-see locations with rotating content curated by staff.

Users will enjoy quick access to park information, including directions, hours, amenities, fees and rates,

helpful know-before-you-go details, and the ability to receive important updates and alerts.

Visitors can also link directly to online camping reservations and easily access select State Parks’ social media channels to share their experiences within the app.

The New York State Parks Explorer app can be downloaded for free on Android devices by visiting Google Play Store and for iOS devices by visiting Apple Store.

For the remainder of 2024, New York State Parks will continue marking the 100th anniversary with a range of pro-

grams and events. Celebratory initiatives include ‘Blazing A Trail,’ an interactive timeline chronicling the agency’s history and influential figures; an exhibit in the New York State Capitol’s State Street Tunnel currently on view; the Share Your Story project, which invites people to tell their own stories relating to parks and historic sites; the Centennial Challenge, which encourages people to win prizes by participating in various activities at parks and sites; and the release of the Centennial Collection merchandise, which includes T-shirts, hoodies, mugs and more.

The New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation oversees more than 250 parks, historic sites, recreational trails, golf courses, boat launches and more, which saw a record 84 million visits in 2023.

For more information on any of these recreation areas, visit parks.ny.gov, download the free New York State Parks Explorer app or call (518) 474-0456.

For more information, visit Facebook, Instagram, X (formerly Twitter), the OPRHP Blog or via the OPRHP Newsroom.



Top left: Pictured left is Liberty ARC CEO Jennifer Saunders with Lexington ARC artists receiving the first place award for their piece, “Dutch Poor Collaboration Divider,” at Liberty ARC’s Creative Expressions Art Show.

Bottom left: Pictured is the second place winning piece for Liberty ARC’s Creative Expressions Art Show, “The Rabbit” created by April Welke, a community member.

Top right: Art Show 4: Pictured is the third place winning piece for Liberty ARC’s Creative Expressions Art Show, “Clowning Around” created by Liberty ARC’s Community Connections Day Hab Program.

Bottom right: Pictured is the winning piece of the People’s Choice Award for Liberty ARC’s Creative Expressions Art Show, “Beautiful Mountains” created by April Welke, a community member.

PHOTOS PROVIDED



AMSTERDAM

Liberty ARC hosts inclusive art show

Liberty ARC hosted its sixth Annual Creative Expressions Art Show to celebrate and recognize 157 artists from across New York State.

The juried art show held on Oct. 22 at the Century Club in Amsterdam gave artists of all abilities and ages the unique opportunity to showcase their inspiring talent in an inclusive and welcoming community setting.

Artwork from Liberty ARC’s Liberty Through the Arts program, and two other agencies that support people with intellectual and developmental disabilities,

The Arc Lexington in Gloversville and The Arc of Oneida-Lewis in Utica, were included in the show. Members of the local artistic community also entered pieces into the show, as well as Liberty ARC staff and Michael Santabarbara, son of New York State Assemblyman Angelo Santabarbara, D-Rotterdam.

For more than 15 years Liberty Through the Arts program has showcased the inspiration,

originality, and enthusiasm of artists with disabilities in Montgomery and Schenectady Counties.

Four awards were given out at the show.

**FIRST PLACE**

“Dutch Poor Collaboration Divider” created by Lexington ARC

**SECOND PLACE**

“The Rabbit” created by April Welke, a community member

**THIRD PLACE**

“Clowning Around” created by Liberty ARC’s Community Connections Day Hab Program

**PEOPLE’S CHOICE AWARD**

“Beautiful Mountains” created by April Welke, a community member

**ABOUT LIBERTY ARC**

Liberty ARC, a chapter of The Arc New York, is a not-for-profit agency that provides top-quality supports and services to people with

intellectual and developmental disabilities in Montgomery and Schenectady Counties. We are proud of our six decades of bringing these innovative and valuable programs to those most vulnerable in our community. While staying committed to our framework the agency has grown our employment, residential, day supports, family support and health-related programming throughout the

years. Our mission- Together we support people with disabilities to achieve a quality of life each person values - together with our Values make up the foundation on which our culture is framed. We are extremely proud to be a pioneering agency, which coupled with a dynamic workforce and our person-centered mission makes Liberty ARC a stand-out in our field.

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**Nov. 14 & 15**  
**THURSDAY - FRIDAY**  
**11 am - 5 pm**

**Menu:**  
Pierogies: Potato with Cheese or Cabbage \$12 doz  
Golumki (stuffed cabbage) \$5 each  
Borscht (beet soup) \$5 cup

# The Library Connection

## Amsterdam Free Library

28 Church Street, Amsterdam, NY • 842-1080

### November 2024

Phase One construction continues! The north side of the building has been waterproofed at the foundation, a French drain installed, and a new sidewalk poured. Additional foundation work and waterproofing are currently in the works for the front of the building. The main entrance, parking lot handicap entrance, and elevator are currently unavailable due to work in front of the building until further notice. Patrons can enter on the north side of the building (facing Route 5/Firehouse) through either the stairwell door or the reopened main floor handicap entrance.

Curbside services are available, including borrowing, printing, and faxing, for those who need it. Please call the front desk at 518-842-1080 to notify staff that you will need curbside assistance. Additional resources can be discussed on a patron-by-patron basis, again please contact the front desk. The Children’s Department may be unavailable due to construction in the attic and stairwell. We understand that parking is a challenge; and would like to remind patrons that there is additional parking available across the street at Riverfront Center. Additionally, we ask everyone to be careful and not to enter any of the clearly labeled, fenced construction zones. While this is inconvenient, it is our goal to remain open during construction, and your cooperation is paramount to achieving that goal. Please visit our website for regular construction updates.

Don’t forget, we expanded our weekend hours and are now open on Saturdays and Sundays from 10-3. Saturdays offer a variety of new craft programs. Every Saturday, join like-minded individuals for Fiber Arts Meet Up, a social group for anyone who works with thread or yarn. Bring your current work-in-progress, hang out, and share tips and tricks with other crafters. An Amigurumi Turkey Adult Craft Group will be held Saturday November 16 at 12 pm (registration required.) Sundays are all about busting boredom with gaming- card, board, tabletop, and video. Every Sunday from 11-2 features open video gaming in the Children’s Department. Dungeons and Dragons groups also meet on alternate weeks. Teens (ages 13+) will meet the 10th and 24th at 12:30, while Kids (ages 7-12) and Adult groups will meet the 17th and December 2nd at 11 am.

Regular programming also continues as scheduled. Wednesday afternoons is Knit and Crochet Social Group, Chess Group meets Thursday nights, Saturdays and Sundays, and a self-paced Web Development class is offered Thursday evenings. Preschool programming of MiniMakers Story Hour will take place every Thursday at 10:30, and feature stories, activities, crafts, and a STEM project or experiment. A special Holiday Story Hour will be held Monday November 25th at 10:30 am to celebrate the first Thanksgiving (from a Native American perspective.)

The Annual Basket Raffle has begun! Stop by the library or check our Facebook or website for detailed basket pictures and descriptions, and to purchase raffle tickets. Tickets are \$10 for a sheet of 26. Winners will be drawn December 16th, just in time for holiday gift giving. Special thanks to our generous donors: Amsterdam Riverfront Hardware, Anthony’s Deli and Market, Autozone Autoparts of Amsterdam, the Friends of the Amsterdam Free Library, Wolf’s Hollow Brewing Company, and the staff members and families of the Amsterdam Free Library.

The library will be OPEN Monday November 11 from 10-3. Amsterdam Kitten Adoption will be joining us for Pets for Vets, a special adoption clinic and story hour. Veterans will have adoption fees waived and receive an adoption starter kit. Even if you’re not ready for a new furry family member, you can still stop by and get your kitten fix! The Amsterdam Free Library will be closed Thursday November 28th for Thanksgiving.

As always, stop by the library to check out these great events and more, including our wide collection of materials and services, including books, audiobooks, graphic novels, magazines, movies, games, internet, computer access, printing and faxing. Using the Libby app, you can also access a collection of free online e-materials right from your phone or other smart device.

Questions, program ideas, or just looking for more information?  
Call us (518-842-1080) or check out our website (amsterdamlibrary.com)

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