

MARCH NEWSLETTER 2025



109 N. MAIN STREET
ONEIDA, NEW YORK

CITY OF ONEIDA

Nestled in the heart of Central New York, the City of Oneida is a charming place to call home, blending small-town warmth with modern amenities. Our city's vibrant community spirit is reflected in its local events, recreational opportunities, and active civic engagement.

Whether you're exploring the historic downtown district, enjoying the scenic beauty of the nearby countryside, or participating in the many cultural and recreational programs available, Oneida truly has something for everyone. It's a place where families can grow, neighbors become friends, and residents take pride in their community.





MARCH MEETINGS

BE ACTIVE IN YOUR COMMUNITY!

04
MAR

COMMON COUNCIL MEETING

🕒 6:30 PM

📍 COUNCIL CHAMBERS

11
MAR

WATER BOARD

🕒 3:30-WATER

📍 WATER DEPARTMENT

18
MAR

COMMON COUNCIL MEETING

🕒 6:30 PM

📍 COUNCIL CHAMBERS

26
MAR

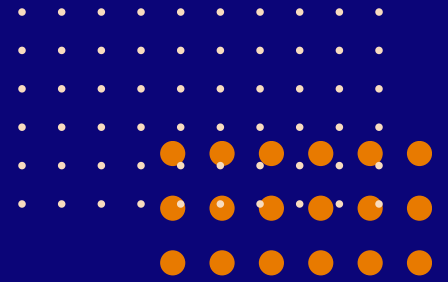
RECREATION COMMISSION

🕒 6:30 PM

📍 RECREATION CENTER

www.oneidacityny.gov/meetings





WE ARE HIRING

LOOKING FOR :

- Comptroller
- Police Officers-
including lateral
transfers
- Water Superintendent

APPLY NOW

SEND YOUR CV TO:
jkaiser@oneidacityny.gov



315-363-2022, Ext. 133t

Upcoming Civil Service Exams:

Click [HERE](#)





Engaging actively in your community fosters success by creating a shared sense of purpose. When individuals invest their time and resources into the places they call home, they help drive growth, prosperity, and a stronger social fabric, benefiting everyone involved.

Thank you Mayor and
Nicole Rossi for all you do
for our community!

KYLE LOVELL
CITY MANAGER

klovell@oneidacityny.gov



CITY OF ONEIDA

Monthly Update

As we move into spring, I want to take a moment to recognize the hard work and dedication of so many within our City. Our negotiations with the Oneida Professional Fire Fighters Association (OPFFA) are progressing well, and I am optimistic that we will have a tentative agreement finalized soon. This is an important step forward, and I appreciate the collaborative efforts of all involved.

Recent weeks have seen several devastating fires in communities across Upstate New York, including Ovid, Baldwinsville, and Massena. These incidents serve as a stark reminder of how critical our fire service is. I want to express my deep gratitude and appreciation for the professionalism and dedication of our Oneida Fire Department. Their unwavering commitment to protecting lives and property keeps our community safe every day, and we are fortunate to have such an exceptional team.

Additionally, I'm pleased to share that our Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI) is getting back on track. After discussions with our partners in Albany, we are working directly with individual developers to ensure these transformative projects gain momentum. This renewed focus will help bring new life and economic opportunity to our downtown, and I look forward to seeing these efforts take shape in the months ahead.

I also want to recognize the incredible efforts of our Department of Public Works. Our "Road Warriors" have been working tirelessly to keep our streets safe and well-maintained, especially now during the winter months. Their dedication ensures that residents can travel safely, no matter the conditions, and their hard work does not go unnoticed.

As always, I remain committed to ensuring Oneida continues to move forward, and I appreciate the support and collaboration of our residents, businesses, and city employees. There is much to be excited about in the months ahead, and I look forward to sharing more updates soon!

Best regards,

Kyle

This year, on February 27th, the City of Oneida will bid farewell to one of its most dedicated and valued employees, as Scott Hoffmeister retires. Scott began his career with the City in December 1994 and will be retiring after more than 30 years of remarkable service. His hard work, dedication, and commitment to the City have left a lasting impact. Scott will be greatly missed, and we sincerely thank him for his years of service.



SCOTT HOFFMEISTER

Supervisor, Department of Public Works

1994–2025

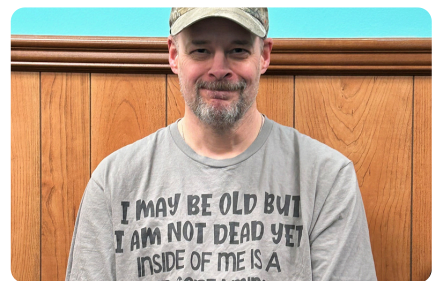
BUILDING MAINTENANCE

Under the direction of City Engineer Jeff Rowe, Building Maintenance Mechanic Scott Babcock and Custodian Kevin Staple work tirelessly each day to ensure City Hall and the Justice Center remain clean and well-maintained. From lawn mowing, to shoveling, painting, general repairs, and cleaning bathrooms-these hard-working men do it all. Added to that, Scott also is responsible for the Kallet and making sure the phones, IT lines, and HVAC systems are working properly at all locations.

They are among the most dedicated and hardworking employees the City is fortunate to have. Thank you both for your commitment and effort in keeping everything running smoothly!

Scott has been with the City since 2016 and is the son-in-law of former City Clerk, Sue Pulverenti. He loves to travel, go fishing and attend car shows/racing with his family. His son Zach is an avid and accomplished racer!

Hired by former Mayor, Army Carinci, Kevin has been with the City for 34 years. He is always the first to donate to any cause and his love of graphic T-Shirts brings smiles each day!



WELCOME TO THE TEAM



**OFFICER
ZACHARY BITZ**

Officer Bitz developed an interest in law enforcement while attending VVS High School, where he participated in the Criminal Justice program at Madison-Oneida BOCES. He continued his studies at Utica University, earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice. Following college, Officer Bitz joined the Village of Canastota Police Department in June 2021. In February 2025, he lateraled to the City of Oneida Police Department. As both a resident and an officer, he is excited to further his career and serve the community he calls home.

CITY OF ONEIDA
POLICE DEPARTMENT

CONTACT US
315.363.9111



WELCOME TO THE TEAM

Officer Leibl is proudly from Canastota and graduated from Canastota High School in 2020. After high school, he attended Mohawk Valley Community College and Utica University. In 2022, Michael began his career in law enforcement as a correction officer at the Madison County Sheriff's Office.

In 2023, he enrolled in Phase 1 at the SUNY Morrisville Police Academy to further his career. After graduating, Michael started working as a police officer with the Cazenovia Police Department in April 2024. Shortly after, in October 2024, he also joined the Village of Vernon Police Department. Michael is dedicated to serving his community and advancing in his career in law enforcement.



MICHAEL LEIBL
POLICE OFFICER



HOTEL ONEIDA UPDATE



With the completion of the Parking amendment in January's City meeting to our previous Site Plan and special Use Permit approvals, we are now in a position to move forward with the project, finalize financing and execute the DRI with the State. I anticipate that we will be beginning demolition work within the next 2 to 3 months and follow with renovation construction thereafter. We are shooting for a opening of the project in mid 2026.

Ed Riley, Brine Wells Development LLC

THE ONEIDA *Hotel*

HOTEL ONEIDA PROJECT MOVES FORWARD WITH SITE PLAN MODIFICATION APPROVAL

The highly anticipated Hotel Oneida Project, funded by the New York State Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI), has reached a significant milestone. The project sponsors, The Oneida Group, LLC, who have officially named the project "The Oneida," have successfully satisfied the parking plan condition that was set at the Site Plan Approval from the July 11, 2023, PCZBA meeting. This approval ensures sufficient parking capacity to support the project.

This approval marks a major step forward in the revitalization of downtown Oneida, reinforcing the city's commitment to economic development, tourism, and community enhancement. The Oneida is set to become a key destination, offering modern residential accommodations and a new downtown Shaughnessy's Irish Pub that will serve both residents and visitors alike.

"The Oneida represents a transformative investment in our downtown district," said Kyle Lovell, the Oneida City Manager. "This milestone underscores our dedication to fostering growth and making Oneida a vibrant place to live, work, and visit."

The project, made possible through the New York State Downtown Revitalization Initiative, is expected to generate economic benefits by attracting tourism, creating jobs, and enhancing the overall downtown experience. With the site plan modification approval in place, the sponsors can now advance toward the next phases of development, bringing the vision for The Oneida closer to reality.

Further details on construction timelines and project updates will be shared as progress continues.

FREE TAX PREPARATION FOR SENIORS

The Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) program, offered through Cornell Cooperative Extension of Madison County, is providing free tax preparation services for seniors aged 60 and older, as well as individuals with disabilities. Our certified volunteers are dedicated to helping seniors navigate the tax preparation process with ease.

PROGRAM DETAILS

- Operating Dates: January 27 to April 15, 2025

HOW TO SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT

- For Oneida: Call (315) 750-2204
- For Canastota and Chittenango: Call (315) 750-2638
- For Cazenovia, Hamilton, and Morrisville: Call (315) 630-0884

OTHER OPTIONS

In addition to the above staffed sites, the CCE Madison Business Center in Morrisville will offer facilitated self-assistance. Seniors can complete their own returns using IRS software on CCE Madison's computers at no cost. The Center will be open on Mondays from noon to 3 p.m. starting February 3 through April 14, 2025, and on the following Saturdays from 9 a.m. to noon: February 8, March 8, and April 12, 2025. During these hours, a certified volunteer will be available to assist and answer questions. No appointments are required for this option. Individuals can also file taxes for free at IRS Direct File or IRS Free File.

For additional questions, please contact Sarah Steele, TCE coordinator, at (315) 684-3001 ext. 101 or sgs65@cornell.edu.

GET INVOLVED

This program is offered by Cornell Cooperative Extension of Madison County in partnership with the IRS and our dedicated group of certified volunteers. To become a certified volunteer in future tax seasons, please email madison@cornell.edu

Cornell Cooperative Extension is an employer and educator recognized for valuing AA/EEO, Protected Veterans, and Individuals with Disabilities and provides equal program and employment opportunities.



Building a smarter, stronger energy future to better
serve your community

In-Line Inspection, Oneida NY

Fact Sheet | December 2024

Dear Neighbor,

National Grid's commitment to our customers and communities begins with providing safe, reliable energy. We're building a more resilient energy network that will positively impact our communities today and for generations to come. Beginning in April 2025, National Grid will mobilize a temporary workspace in Oneida, NY, for a regularly scheduled in-line inspection of our infrastructure.

What is an In-Line Inspection?

An in-line inspection is a periodic review of National Grid natural gas infrastructure to monitor the real-time condition of our assets and ensure safe, reliable energy delivery for Central New York. The in-line inspection process involves sending an inspection tool through the line to capture data about the condition of the pipe. Once the in-line inspection has been completed, the pipeline will be safely returned to normal service. This work is part of National Grid's federal and state-mandated pipeline Integrity Management Program, and it is essential to maintaining safe and reliable delivery of energy to our customers.

What work is occurring?

This project will require a temporary flaring operation to be set up near the National Grid facility at 1265 Union St, Oneida, NY. The flaring operation will involve burning natural gas in a controlled manner while the in-line inspection is taking place. Neighbors may notice associated noise and visible controlled burning during the flaring operation.

What are the next steps?

During the next few months, you may see National Grid approved contractors and employees conducting preliminary investigations near the work zone. Approved contractors work to the highest professional and safety standards and are required to carry company photo identification.

As the project progresses, you will receive communications from National Grid updating you on project status. We look forward to your understanding as we move forward with this important infrastructure improvement project. If you have any questions, please contact us at 315-293-2393.

Sincerely,

Amy Rood

Project Engagement National Grid

Questions?



Call 315.293.2393



Amy.Rood@nationalgrid.com

Smell Gas. Act Fast.

Indoors or outdoors – know what to do. From a safe location away from the smell, call 1-800-892-2345 or 911. Planning to do any excavation? Help us protect our underground infrastructure by calling UDig New York at 811 at least 2 full days before you start working.





988
LIFELINE

English ▼

If you need to talk, the 988 Lifeline is here.

At the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline, we understand that life's challenges can sometimes be difficult. Whether you're facing mental health struggles, emotional distress, alcohol or drug use concerns, or just need someone to talk to, our caring counselors are here for you. You are not alone.



Call



Text



Chat





PUBLIC NOTICE

In New York State, it is illegal to drive over an unprotected fire hose laid down by fire departments for emergency use. This law exists to prevent damage to the hose, which could cut off the water supply to firefighters and endanger lives. The specific law is covered under the New York State Vehicle and Traffic Law (VTL) Section 1219, which states:

“No person shall drive any vehicle over any unprotected hose of a fire department without the consent of the fire department official in command.”

Key Points:

- Unprotected hose means any hose that is not covered by a bridge or other structure.
- Consent required: Only with express permission from the fire official can a vehicle cross.
- Reason for the law: Driving over a fire hose can burst or rupture the hose, causing loss of water pressure and jeopardizing firefighting efforts.

Violating this law could result in fines and other penalties, depending on the circumstances.

The poster features a dark brown wooden plank background. At the top, a string of warm white lights is draped across the frame, with several yellow and red maple leaves scattered around it. A central wooden sign with a dark border and four silver screws holds the main text. Below the sign, the event details are written in white serif font. A yellow brushstroke banner contains the tagline in red serif font. The location and contact information are at the bottom in white serif font, with the phone number in yellow. The bottom of the poster is decorated with a dense layer of yellow and red maple leaves.

FALL FESTIVAL

October 4, 2025

11:00am-5:00pm
CITY OF ONEIDA

FOOD. CRAFTS. TOUCH A
TRUCK. FAMILY FUN!

Mott Street-Oneida

For more information: 315.363.7378



CITY OF ONEIDA COMMUNITY GARDENS

Gardeners needed! We have 12 beds left for the 2025 season. This year, we will be open April-October.

- ✓ \$20 per bed
- ✓ Must be willing to participate in season opening and closing
- ✓ On site water available



2025 Gardener's Agreement

Call Us
315.363.7378



For More Information
slapera@oneidacityny.gov



2025

ELECTION NEWS

Polling Sites for the 2025 Election Year:

- WARD 1-1 St. Paul's United Methodist Church
- WARD 2-1 St. Paul's United Methodist Church
- WARD 3-1 Kallet Civic Center
- WARD 4-1 Kallet Civic Center
- WARD 5-1 Kallet Civic Center
- WARD 6-1 Kallet Civic Center

St. Paul's United Methodist Church
551 Sayles St., Oneida

Kallet Civic Center
159 Main Street, Oneida

WARD STREET DIRECTORY: [HERE](#)
WARD MAP DIRECTORY: [HERE](#)



READ MORE AT: [MADISONCOUNTY.NY.GOV](https://www.madisoncounty.ny.gov)



DID YOU KNOW?

You can find information for Madison County properties online for free! Visit Image Mate Online and select "Click here for Public Access." It is easy to use and has several options for information including taxes, improvements, assessments, zoning, comps and more!!

IMAGE MATE ONLINE



Deadline: May 7, 2025

New York residents will need a REAL ID or Enhanced Driver's License (EDL) to board domestic flights and access certain federal facilities starting May 7, 2025. The EDL also allows entry to Canada without a passport.

What is a REAL ID or EDL?

- **REAL ID**

A state-issued driver's license or ID card that meets minimum security standards set by the REAL ID Act. A REAL ID has a star in the upper right corner.

- **EDL**

An enhanced driver's license that includes a Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) chip and a Machine-Readable Zone (MRZ) or barcode. An EDL has a U.S. flag on the bottom right of the license.

How to apply for a REAL ID or EDL?

- You can apply in person at any New York State Department of Motor Vehicles office.
- You can use the DMV's online REAL ID document guide to determine what documents you need to bring.
- You must provide original documents or certified copies of certain documents.
- You must provide two proofs of New York State residency.

What else do I need to travel?

- You can also use a U.S. passport card for land and sea border travel.
- You must bring your original Social Security card or W-2 with full SSN.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

NYS Department of Motor Vehicles:

<https://dmv.ny.gov/driver-license/enhanced-or-real-id>

US Department of Homeland Security:

<https://www.dhs.gov/real-id/are-you-real-id-ready>

Madison County DMV:

<https://www.madisoncounty.ny.gov/423/Department-of-Motor-Vehicles>



MADISON COUNTY Department Motor Vehicle

• PO BOX 668 • WAMPSVILLE • NY • 13163

Michael T. Keville II, County Clerk
Diana Wilson, Deputy Clerk
Motor Vehicles Division
(315) 366-2251

For Immediate Release:

October 28, 2022

Contact: Samantha Field, PIO

samantha.field@madisoncounty.ny.gov

315-366-2822

Madison County Clerk Encourages New Yorkers to Get their REAL ID

Wampsville, NY – Madison County Clerk Michael Keville joined New York State DMV Commissioner Mark Schroeder on Wednesday at Syracuse Hancock International Airport to bring attention to the

upcoming REAL ID deadline in 2023. They were joined by Matthew Szwejbka, Marketing and Communications Specialist for Syracuse Airport, Federal Security Director for NYS Bart Johnson, Assemblyman and Transportation Committee Chairman Bill



Magnarelli, Assemblywoman Pamela Hunter, and Oswego County Clerk Terry M. Wilbur.

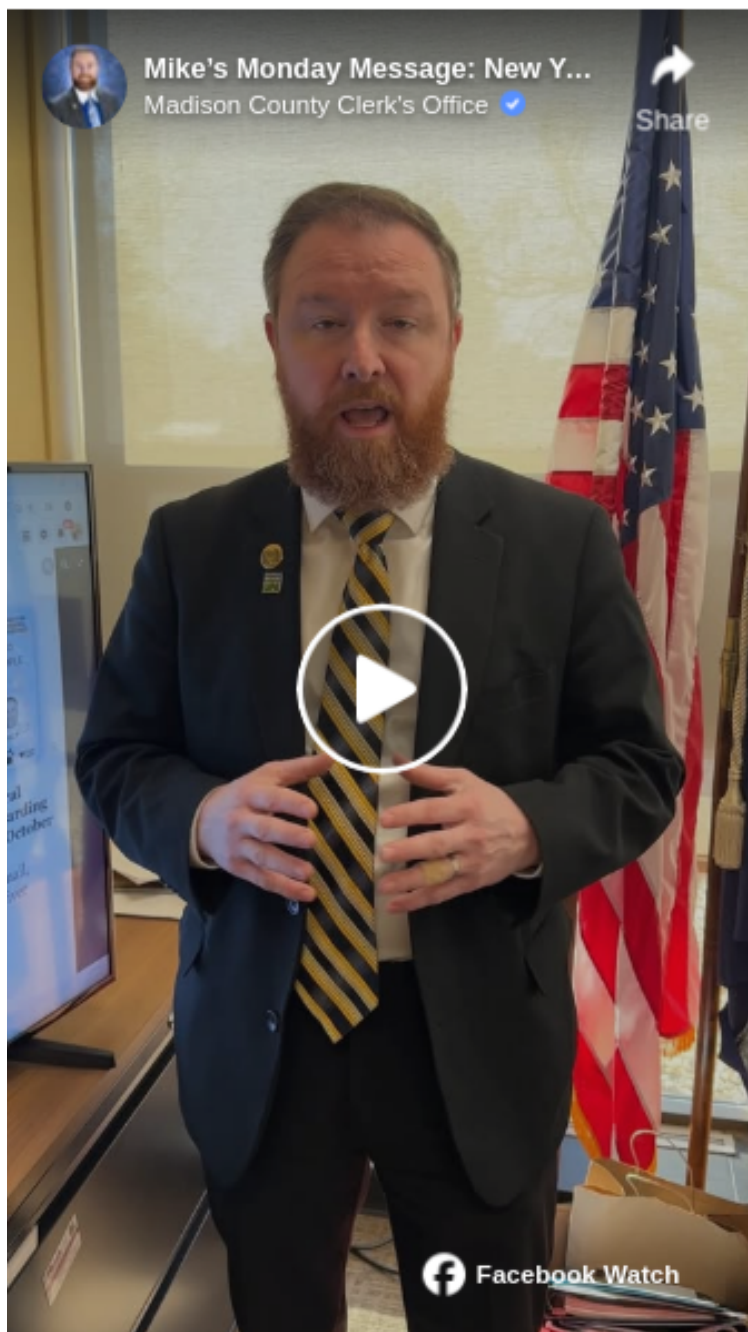
The message was simple, get your REAL ID. Effective May 3, 2023, a Standard New York State Driver's license or ID will no longer be accepted by any federal agency as a proof of identification for anyone over the age of 18, for any purpose. Leaders warned that the lack of a federally approved identification document such as REAL ID or Enhanced DL will prohibit access through TSA check points at airports, as well as access through security points at military bases or federal buildings, to name a few.

All New Yorkers are encouraged to acquire the REAL ID compliant driver's license at their favorite DMV location. Keville said that the clerks at the Wampsville DMV are trained and eager to provide the services necessary to help all New Yorkers come into compliance with the federal law.

“This deadline is not going away,” said Keville. “People need to take it seriously. To take it seriously means to start the process now so that you give yourself the buffer if you have to make a second trip.”

For more information regarding exactly what documents are required to upgrade a driver’s license or non-driver ID, please visit the Madison County website <https://www.madisoncounty.ny.gov/423/Department-of-Motor-Vehicles> or [Madison County Clerk’s Facebook page](#).

To watch the video, visit the Facebook link above or the QR Code!



Come & Join Us!

WINTER BREAK

February 17-21

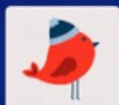
O.P.R.'s Winter Break



Upcoming Events

February

17th-21st!



Tot Fun-N-Run
Monday-Friday (9:00 AM-Noon)

FEB

17

- **Open Gym (1:00 PM - 4:00 PM)**

FEB

18

- **Oneida Dance Team Clinic (1-2)**
- **Open Gym (3:00 PM - 5:00 PM)**

FEB

19

- **Upscale Exotics Day! (Noon-1)**
- **Open Gym (2:00 PM - 5:00 PM)**
- **Jump & Jam Fest at the KALLET! (4-7)**

FEB

20

- **Speed & Agility Clinic (1-2)**
- **Bball Skills & Drills (2:30-3:30)**
- **Open Gym (3:30-5:30)**

FEB

21

- **Field Hockey Clinic (1:00-3:00)**
- **Open Gym (3:30 PM - 5:00 PM)**



-REGISTER-
CITYOFONEIDA.RECDESK.COM

Oneida Parks & Rec



FEBRUARY BREAK



18

February

LIVE ACTION
SORRY

11am-12:30pm
Ages 7-12

19

February

LIVE ACTION
BATTLESHIP

1pm-2pm
Ages 8-17

20

February

**MAKE YOUR OWN STUFFED ANIMAL*
AND FLUFY FRIEND SLEEPOVER****

***REGISTRATION REQUIRED**
****ONLY FLUFFY FRIENDS MADE HERE WILL SLEEPOVER**

1pm-2pm
Ages 4-9

21

February

LIVE ACTION
HUNGRY HUNGRY HIPPOS

10-11am / 11am-12pm
Ages 6-10 / Ages 11-17

Visit the Parks and Recreations Department and the Oneida Public Library during Winter Break!

ST. PATRICK'S SCHOOL

The 31st Annual St. Patrick's School Basket Bonanza fundraiser will be held on May 17, 2025 at The Cannery. Business support is crucial for the event's success and the school's continued community impact.

Are you a business owner?

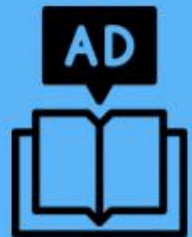
Would you like to have your business reach a wider audience while also helping a great cause?

WAYS TO DONATE

Goods or services
(ie. basket, gift
certificate, etc)



Advertisement in
our event's
program



Want to know more? >>



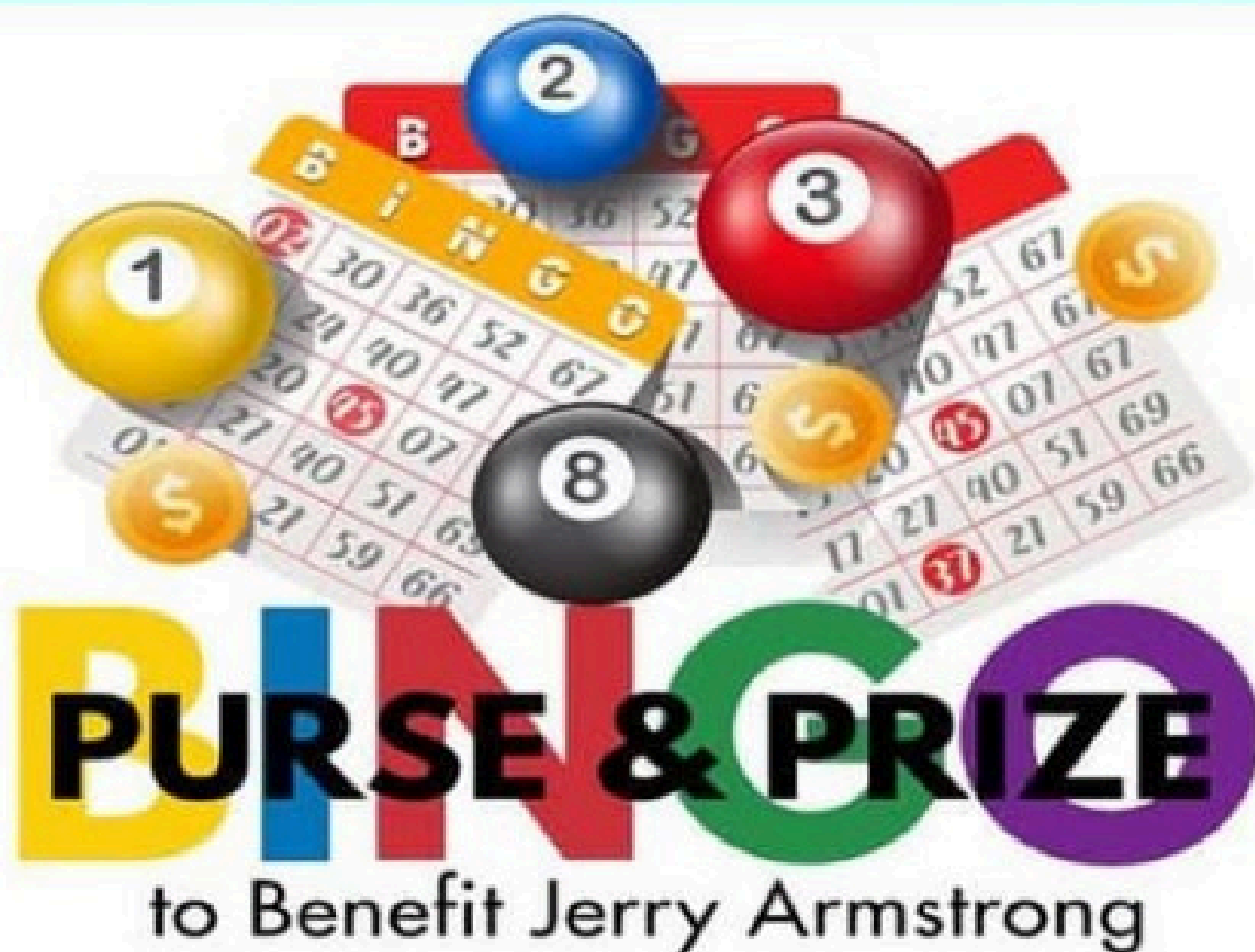
rbarbano@syrdiocese.org

BASKET BONANZA

315.363.3620



As many of you know Jerry Armstrong(15) of Oneida was diagnosed last year (2024) with bone cancer. He had surgery, chemo treatments and the cancer was thought to be gone. Recently he developed an infection requiring a second surgery. Then the devastating news that the cancer has spread to his lungs. Jerry is currently at the hospital in NYC. He is a fighter. This has been very hard emotionally and financially for his family. He needs a miracle and all the help he can get during this very difficult time. Every little bit helps.— Sweet Family



APRIL 17th • Doors Open: 5pm
Bingo Starts: 6:30pm

VERNON DOWNS HOTEL
4229 STUHLMAN RD. VERNON, NY

\$30 PER PERSON

INCLUDES:

14 BINGO GAMES - ADDITIONAL GAMES CAN BE PURCHASED
RAFFLE BASKETS, 50/50
CASH BAR & SNACKS AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE

TO PURCHASE TICKETS OR RESERVE A TABLE OF 10
PLEASE CONTACT: BAMBI @ 315-527-0515

MUST BE 18+ Per NYS Law

March Observed Annually As Red Cross Month



American Red Cross

Madison Oneida Chapter, 134 Vanderbilt Ave.

Oneida, NY 13421

315-363-2900

