



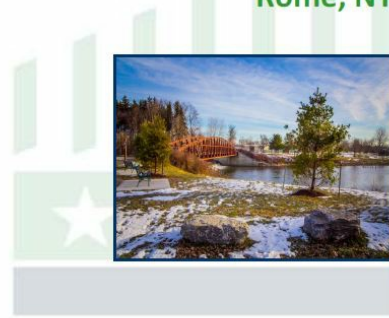
Newsletter

This month,

Rome was one of many municipalities to be selected to conduct a Community Needs Assessment (CNA). The plan was developed under the guidance of the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development and Cornell Cooperative Extension's Rust to Green. The final draft of the document was released at a press conference on April 12 at City Hall. Through the use of round-table discussions and surveys the City of Rome was able to identify the unique needs and assets in the community as well as develop a two-year Action Plan. Six goals were identified as a direct result of the round-tables: Expand Employment Opportunities; Increase Economic Activity; Raise Educational Achievement; Enhance Local Arts; Cultural and Tourism Opportunities; Improve Access to Health and Wellness Programs and Provide Enhanced Housing Opportunities.



Rome, NY



Revised April 17, 2017



CommunityNeeds Assessment Chairperson Raymond Durso stated, "This initiative will make Rome more competitive by strengthening its funding potentials and improving coordination with other resources."

The most important community development needs identified by the public through surveys include: Cleaning Contaminated Properties; Filling Vacant Buildings & Houses; Public Safety; Small Business Development; Primary Care/Physicians; Urgent

Care/Clinics; Restaurants & Cafes; and Movies & Theaters.

The City will use this document in conjunction with the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program to allocate funds in support of the data found from this assessment. To view or download the documents included in the CNA such as the Community Profile, Round-table Summary, Survey Summary, or Goals Summary visit, [City of Rome Community and Economic Development Department](#)

Brindisi Awards \$625,000 to the City of Rome



On April 24, New York State Assemblyman Anthony Brindisi held a press conference at the construction site of Rome's newest development the Navigation Center located at Bellamy Harbor Park. At the conference Brindisi announced that he was awarding \$625,000 to the City of Rome through the State and Municipal Facilities Program (SAM). The funding will be used for major improvements at Rome's Bellamy Harbor Park; for much-needed repairs and capital improvements for Rome city departments; and to replace outdated vehicles and equipment. Brindisi stated, "Rome played a vital role in the history of the Erie Canal. This year, as we celebrate the canal's 200th anniversary, it is important that Rome has facilities at its waterfront to welcome visitors, and encourage local residents to enjoy this wonderful recreational asset. This funding will allow the city to complete renovations and amenities to make Bellamy Harbor Park a destination along the canal. This funding also will allow the city to make badly needed upgrades to several public buildings, and to replace outdated equipment used by first responders and other city departments."

The following is a summary of how the funds will be utilized:

- Making major public waterfront access improvements to Bellamy Harbor Park, including completion of the Rome Navigation Center and its shower, bathrooms, laundry and pavilion; complete site lighting; a paved pedestrian walkway connecting both sides of the waterfront under the Mill Street bridge; new pedestrian trail segments along the existing promenade; parking facility improvement and bathroom facilities inside of the existing terminal building.
- The purchase of an All-Terrain Vehicle with equipment for first responders to gain access to the city's new pedestrian trail system.
- Renovations to the Rome Police Department interrogation rooms, which have not been updated since 1985.
- Updating GIS and mapping equipment for the Rome City Engineer's Office.
- Storage building for the City Water Department to house equipment.
- Replacing a 54 year old overhead door and electric openers at the Department of Public Works with an energy efficient door.

Mayor Jacqueline M. Izzo stated, "The \$625,000 secured by Assemblyman Brindisi will certainly help us to move forward with very vital capital projects throughout our city infrastructure. Again, we appreciate the Assemblyman's determined efforts to return much-needed state dollars to the City of Rome, helping to ensure we will be at the forefront of public safety and infrastructure improvements."

In the Spotlight

Rome's Premier Gaming Location



LAN Mob on North James St. is an entertainment destination like none other in Rome, offering patrons of all ages a place to gather and play video games in a social setting. The business first opened its doors in September of 2015 and is owned by Roman and RFA Alumnus Aaron Wade. Wade explained that LAN Mob's mission is, "...to create a physical space for people to come together to celebrate video game culture in a social way, while providing both an entertainment option to the city as well as a place to host competitive gaming events." The idea came to

open this type of business when Wade considered the type of place that he wished he had growing up in this area.

LANMob offers video gaming by the hour with gaming PCs, all modern consoles, and a HTC Vive VR Headset. They also host birthday parties, tournaments, and a weekly overnight event every Saturday.



Wade, a lifetime resident of Rome, is proud to make the city the home for his business as well. His favorite part of running a business in Rome? "Talking to customers who tell us we're the best thing to happen to the city in a long time. That is the goal we set out to achieve and our customers confirm that for us every day."



Yet Wade isn't complacent with this success. Indeed, LAN Mob recently began a remodeling process to add a retro room that will feature classic video games.

To learn more about this Rome business you can catch them on their blog, social media accounts, their Twitch.tv Channel, or their website- www.lanmob.com

Featured Photos: City Hall Easter Egg Hunt



May 1st
 Kick Off of the City of Rome K-4 Erie Canal Coloring Contest

May 9th
 5PM
 Mayor Izzo's State of the City Address at MVCC in Rome

May 26th
 7:30PM
 Jazz Series at Rome Art and Community Center

May 31st
 5:30PM-8:30PM
 Wednesday Night Party on The Patio at The Savoy



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