



Gary R. McCarthy
Mayor

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

CITY OF SCHENECTADY
NEW YORK

City Hall, 105 Jay Street, Rm 111
Schenectady, N.Y. 12305-1938
Office: (518) 382-5000
Cell: (518) 424-0483
gmccarthy@schenectadyny.gov

For Immediate Release:

December 5, 2022

PRESS RELEASE

City of Schenectady and Catholic Charities to Announce New ‘Schenectady Social Club’ Senior Program

City partnering with Catholic Charities to provide meals and programs in Bellevue, Goose Hill, and Hamilton Hill neighborhoods

SCHENECTADY – Mayor Gary McCarthy announced the Schenectady Social Club, a new partnership between the City of Schenectady and Catholic Charities of Schenectady Senior & Caregiver Support Services. The program will provide meals and activities for seniors at sites in the Bellevue, Goose Hill, and Hamilton Hill neighborhoods.

The Schenectady Social Club program will run on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, to complement the existing senior meal program at the Ancient Order of Hibernians in the Woodlawn Neighborhood – which runs on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Schenectady’s seniors will now have access to meals and social interaction five days a week.

- Mondays at Hillside Crossing, 736 Albany St., from 11am – 1pm
- Wednesdays at the Steinmetz Park Community Center, 2114 Lenox Road, 11am – 1pm
- Fridays at the Bellevue Cafe, 2630 Broadway, from 10am – 12pm

“We are proud to partner with Catholic Charities of Schenectady to launch this exciting new program for Schenectady’s seniors,” **Mayor Gary McCarthy said**. “In addition to the benefits of providing access to low-cost meals, these programs provide important opportunities for seniors to socialize, which has been shown to have significant lasting benefits for long term health and wellness.”

"At Catholic Charities, we see first-hand just how valuable social connection is to the older adults we serve, **said Marlene Hildenbrandt, Catholic Charities of Schenectady Senior & Caregiver Support Services**. “A sense of community and belonging can make all the difference for someone who lives alone. They see better health outcomes long-term and experience an overall better quality of life. I am confident that through the Schenectady Social Club we will better the lives of older adults in Schenectady, and I am grateful to Mayor McCarthy and the City of Schenectady for prioritizing the health of older adults in this way."

The program which is open to all city residents ages 55 or older, includes a prepared lunch or brunch, with a cost of \$5 per participant. The program is also supported through \$45,000 in

funding, which was included in the city's 2022 and 2023 operating budgets for three new neighborhood senior centers.

To participate in the Schenectady Social Club, please call **518-382-5007** to make a reservation.

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About Catholic Senior & Caregiver Support Services

Catholic Charities Senior & Caregiver Support Services is an agency of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Albany. The Agency's mission is to foster independence by providing services which support the lives of older adults and caregivers in the community. Catholic Charities is one of the largest, private social services organizations in the region. Serving 14 counties around the Capital District across some 10,000 square miles, Catholic Charities serves and empowers all persons in need, regardless of race, creed, religion, or lifestyle, as well as advocates for a just society and collaborates with women and men of good will. Last fiscal year, over 69,000 people turned to Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Albany for ongoing program assistance. An additional 34,000 individuals were served at our mass food distribution sites through our CC MOVE initiative. Through the generous support of donors and the community, we are able to assist the poor and vulnerable with housing, food, emergency assistance, disabilities services, senior services, and much more.

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