



## NEWSLETTER

February 2026 (Volume 4, Issue 2)

# SYRACUSE METS FUNDRAISER!



Join us for Dollar Thursday at the Syracuse Mets on Thursday, May 21, 2026. It's called Dollar Thursday because hot dogs are on sale for \$1 and fans can purchase beer or cider for \$3.

[Tickets are only \\$23.50](#) and \$5 of every ticket sold goes to Syracuse Urbanism Collective as long as you purchase your ticket in our section by following this [link](#) or scanning the QR Code Below.

Bonus: We all get to sit together!



## MEET SOME OF OUR LOCAL CANDIDATES



Our March 31, 2026, meeting at CNY Jazz Central is an extra special event! It is a **nonpartisan** Q & A with some of our candidates running for Onondaga County Legislator and New York State Assembly.

Dr. Jaynelle Nixon will moderate the Q & A and ask questions submitted by members. See you at 6:00 pm!

# APRIL WORKSHOP

Our April workshop will be presented by our very own banking wiz, Celeste McDonald! She is presenting a workshop on Banking Basics.

## BANKING BASICS WORKSHOP



**The basics of banking and saving in a turbulent world.**

**Presented by Celeste McDonald.**

**When: Monday, April 6, 2026**

**Time: 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm**

**Where: Betts Branch Library Community Room, 4862 S Salina St,  
Syracuse, NY 13205**

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## LEAD YOUR OWN WORKSHOP

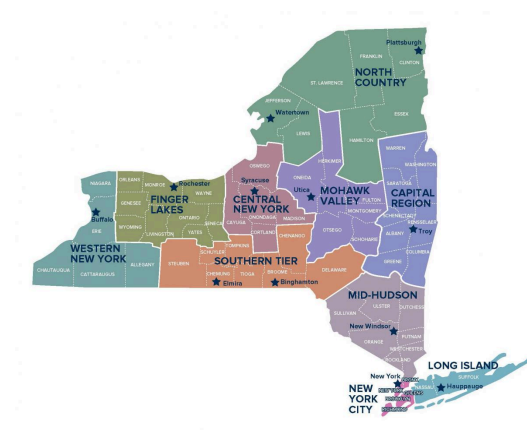
Please also consider leading your own urbanism related workshop. As long as your workshop matches our mission, we will promote it and book the space. Even if your idea is not fully formed, you can contact Jaynelle for help with it.

This is one of Jaynelle's projects (Vice President of Syracuse Urbanism Collective). She is more than willing to help you if you think you need help. Just send a direct email or write to [syracuseurbanism@gmail.com](mailto:syracuseurbanism@gmail.com) and put "workshop" or "Jaynelle" in the subject line.

Here are some reasons you may want to lead a workshop:

- Share your knowledge with the community
- Sharpen skills
- Complete professional development
- Make new friends

## CITIES, CITY GOVERNMENTS & CITY CHARTERS



This is the second installment of the new **local government** feature. It explains the different types of city governments in New York State as well as the purpose of city charters (sometimes called municipal charters). As

always, government sources are linked. If you disagree with anything, please contact the *government source* that is linked in the information.

## **What is the difference between a city and a village?**

Good question! Evidently, there are no set rules that turn a village into a city. There aren't even rules that state a city must be a village before it becomes a city. There aren't even rules regarding population size.

According to New York State: [No general law provides authority for the incorporation of cities; there is no statutory minimum size, either in population or geographical area, which must be met for an area to become a city. Furthermore, there is no concept of progression from village to city status. The primary difference between a city and a village is that the organization and powers of cities is set out in their own charters, while most villages are organized and governed pursuant to provisions of the Village Law. Also, unlike a city, a village is part of a town, and its residents pay town taxes and receive town services.](#)

## **How are New York State cities governed?**

This is another great question, and the answer is this: It depends on the city! The only commonality among all of our 62 cities is that each city has its own charter. According to New York State: [Each of New York State's 62 cities is a unique governmental entity with its own special charter. Two — New York and Albany — have charters of colonial origin, and the other 60 were chartered separately by the State Legislature.](#)

Here are the four types of city government in New York State:

- Council-manager
  - [under which an appointed, professional manager is the administrative head of the city, the council is the policymaking body and the mayor, if the position exists, is mainly a ceremonial figure. The manager usually has the power to appoint and remove department heads and to prepare the budget, but does not have a veto power over council actions](#)

- Strong mayor-council
  - [under which an elective mayor is the chief executive and administrative head of the city, and the council is the policy making body. The mayor usually has the power to appoint and remove agency heads, with or without council confirmation; to prepare the budget; and to exercise broad veto powers over council actions. This form sometimes includes a professional administrator appointed by the mayor and is then called the “mayor-administrator plan”](#)
- Weak mayor-council
  - [under which the mayor is mainly a ceremonial figure. The council is not only the policy making body, it also provides a committee form of administrative leadership. It appoints and removes agency heads and prepares budgets. There is generally no mayoral veto power](#)
- Commission
  - [under which commissioners are elected by the voters to administer the individual departments of the city government and together form the policy making body. In some cases one of the commissioners assumes the ceremonial duties of a mayor, on a rotating basis. This plan sometimes includes a professional manager or administrator](#)

Syracuse has a strong mayor-council government.

## **What is a city charter?**

According to the City of Syracuse: [A city charter, also known as a municipal charter, is the basic document that defines the organization, powers, functions and essential procedures of the city government. It is comparable to the Constitution of the United States or a state's constitution. The charter is, therefore, the most important legal document of any city.](#)

You can [read our city charter online](#) or you can download all 82 pages in a PDF from the [City of Syracuse](#) website.

## SUC Social



We have a new WhatsApp group in the Syracuse Urbanism Collective community: SUC Social. This is a purely social group. We will provide real time updates on events and coordinate meetups within this group.

Search for SUC Social from within the Syracuse Urbanism Collective WhatsApp community.

## APRIL 2026 MEETING AT UPPER ONONDAGA PARK BRICK BUILDING



Our April 28, 2026, meeting will be at Upper Onondaga Park at 6:00 pm. The address is 150 Onondaga Park Drive, Syracuse, NY 13207. FYI, if you ever want to verify where our monthly meetings are, you can simply check our [calendar](#).

## MORE SYRACUSE NEWS



## GENERAL INFORMATION

Please stay up to date on community events and infrastructure improvements throughout the city. The [Syr.Gov](#) site includes updates on the [Community Calendar](#), the [Public Meeting Calendar](#), the [Municipal Sidewalk Program](#), and [Bicycle Infrastructure](#).

## CALL FOR FEATURES



Would you like your organization, project, or event featured in the Syracuse Urbanism Collective newsletter? Please send the following to [syracuseurbanism@gmail.com](mailto:syracuseurbanism@gmail.com):

- 150-200 word description of your organization, project, or event.
- Picture or image you would like to accompany your feature.
- Deadline/special dates for projects and events.
- Contact person for any follow up questions.

- Put “Jaynelle” in the subject line.

You are receiving this newsletter because you became a member of the Syracuse Urbanism Collective. If you wish to no longer be a member of the Syracuse Urbanism Collective, please send a message to [SyracuseUrbanism@gmail.com](mailto:SyracuseUrbanism@gmail.com) with “unsubscribe” in the subject line. You will no longer receive any communication from Syracuse Urbanism Collective if you do so.