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Stacia Perrotto

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Last operating US prison ship set to close

A grim vestige of mass incarceration for NYC

Jake Offenhartz
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — Kenneth Williams spent his whole life in Brooklyn, but it wasn't until a night in 2018 when he crossed a narrow footbridge in shackles, that he learned about New York City's last floating jail. He remembers the murky East River water below him, the stench of mold, and a sinking feeling that soon turned literal.

"Every once in a while you could feel the boat dropping into the muck," Williams, 62, said. "It was a stark reminder that this place wasn't meant for human confinement."

Docked in the shallows off an industrial edge of the South Bronx, the Vernon C. Bain Correctional Center is a five-story jail barge that stretches the length of two football fields, resembling a container ship stacked with cargo.

It arrived in 1992 as a temporary measure to ease overcrowding on Rikers Island, the city's main jail complex for detainees awaiting trial. Three decades later, the 800-bed lockup — the last operating prison ship in the United States — is finally closing down.

The ship will be fully vacated by the end of this week, officials said, as part of a broader plan to replace the city's long-troubled correctional system with a network of smaller jails. For now, most of the roughly 500 people incarcerated on the ship will be transferred to Rikers Island, according to the Department of Correction, though the jails there are eventually supposed to close down, too.

Detainees and advocates have long regarded the boat as a grim vestige of mass incarceration, an enduring symbol of the city's failures to reform dangerous jails that exist on the periphery of New York, largely out of sight of most residents and tourists.

In recent years, the unusual nautical jail has drawn attention primarily for its failures: Last September, a 44-year-old man, Gregory Acevedo, jumped from the top of the ship to his death. The year before that, Stephan Khadu, 24, died after contracting a form of treatable meningitis while in custody.

Darren Mack, co-director of the advocacy group Freedom Agenda, described the ship as a "modern day slave ship" used by the department to warehouse detainees, mostly Black and Latinx, with minimal oversight.



The Vernon C. Bain Correctional Center in the Bronx borough of New York is a five-story jail barge that stretches the length of two football fields. SETH WENIG/AP

While noting the closure was long overdue, he added, "shifting people to the same hellish conditions on Rikers is not the answer."

The last of an armada of floating jails used by New York City in the late 1980s and early 1990s, the Vernon C. Bain sits across the river from Rikers Island, between a wastewater treatment plant and a wholesale fish market.

Detainees are afforded a daily hour of recreation on a caged upper deck, where they were recently seen playing basketball on a sunny morning. Otherwise, their only natural light beams through the ship's tiny portholes.

Those who've spent time on board say the boat rocks in the river's current. Its fading blue and white exterior — a far cry from the freshly-painted surfaces visible in the 1993 film "Carlito's Way" — is known to leak in the rain, occasionally short-circuiting the electrical system.

Inside, rust cracks off the walls and detainees say they are packed into dormitories that grow suffocatingly hot in the summer, with cots that sit just a few inches from each other. "If you faced the person in the bed next to you, your knees would touch," said Williams, who was incarcerated there for a few months and has since been released. "If they snored, you could smell their breath."

The use of maritime jails in the United States has long been controversial, dating back to the earliest days of the Revolutionary War, when thousands of Americans died aboard British ships parked in the New York Harbor.

Since then, the concept has been put

to use sparingly — during the gold rush in California, most notably — often drawing allegations of cruelty and neglect, according to a recent study.

In the 1960s, a proposal by New York's correction commissioner to house inmates on repurposed ships was sunk by other local officials, who said the boats would give visitors the wrong image of the city. That sentiment began to change in the late 1980s and early 1990s, as drug arrests during the crack epidemic brought the population of Rikers Island to historic highs.

By the time the Vernon C. Bain boat arrived in the South Bronx, the city had already deployed four other floating jails — including two converted city ferries and a former trooper ship with the dissonant nickname, the "Love Boat" — as low-cost, temporary facilities.

Mayor Edward Koch, an early champion of the idea, assured reporters that seasick inmates would be given Dramamine and dismissed questions about the boats' viability, describing them as "better accommodations" than Rikers Island.

Decades later, Stephan Khadu may have reached a similar conclusion as he awaited trial at Rikers Island for a gang conspiracy case. With the city's main jail complex gripped by both the coronavirus pandemic and rising violence in

May 2020, Khadu volunteered to transfer to the Vernon C. Bain, where he waited nearly two years for a trial that never came.

By the following summer, family members said, Khadu talked about the boat's stifling heat, and the presence of mold and rodents that chewed through his food containers. He suffered a seizure in July 2021. Two months later, he had a second seizure. He died on the way to the hospital, a few days short of his 24th birthday.

The cause of death was later revealed to be a complication of lymphocytic meningitis, a rodent-borne viral disease that, if properly treated, is not typically fatal.

His mom, Lezandre Khadu, blames the boat's "disgusting conditions."

"How can they expect me to believe they care about these people when they treat them like cargo?" she said. "No human should have to live in this place."

The New York State Attorney General investigated Stephan Khadu's death, but said they could not confirm allegations of improper care. He had been awaiting trial for nearly two years.

When the boat empties out, it won't be the first time. It also closed in the mid-1990s, as the population of Rikers Island began to fall. But unlike the other shuttered floating jails, the Vernon C. Bain reopened — initially as a juvenile justice center under Mayor Rudy Giuliani, and later transitioning into a standard adult jail.

A spokesperson for the Department of Correction, Latima Johnson, declined to say what the city plans to do with the boat going forward. It will remain, for now, within the custody of the Department of Correction.

"The reason for this move is to centralize operations on the island to more efficiently manage people in custody and deploy staff and resources," Johnson said in an email.

Once the move is complete, Lezandre Khadu is planning a trip to see the boat where her son spent the final year of his life. She intends to celebrate its long-delayed closure.

"I'm walking over that bridge with a bucket of mimosas and I'm going to have the biggest party ever," she said. "I want to see for myself that there will never be another soul on that boat."

Public Notice

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Ex-teacher pleads guilty in porn case

Ex-Brighton educator admits to having images

Gary Craig
Rochester Democrat and Chronicle
USA TODAY NETWORK

A former Brighton High School physics teacher has admitted in federal court that he had hundreds of images of child pornography, some showing the molestation of very young children.

Earlier this month Louis Carusone,

45, of Webster, pleaded guilty in federal court to possession of child pornography involving prepubescent minors.

According to court papers, an investigation into Carusone's activities showed:

- That in October 2022, while a teacher at Brighton High, he shared child pornography online via a peer-to-peer file sharing network. An undercover police officer discovered the postings and found others from Carusone.
- That Carusone "surreptitiously recorded and photographed children in

public, to include minor female students in his Brighton classroom, and a water park, where he recorded children in bathing suits."

- That "a forensic analysis (of Carusone's devices) recovered more than 2,000 images and videos of child pornography, some of which depicted children as young as 5-years-old, and children being subjected to violence and sexual abuse."

In an October 2022 interview with law enforcement Carusone said that he had a "porn issue" and had tried to stop

but kept returning to it. "Carusone acknowledged knowing that child pornography is illegal and described his child pornography activity as going down a 'rabbit hole,' according to court papers.

Under federal sentencing guidelines, which are advisory for judges, Carusone faces a sentence under the plea of 78 to 97 months.

His attorneys can advocate for a lesser sentence.

Carusone is scheduled to be sentenced by U.S. District Judge Elizabeth Wolford on Feb. 24.

Wegmans employee who stole \$580K to serve one year in prison

Gary Craig
Rochester Democrat and Chronicle
USA TODAY NETWORK

A former employee at the Wegmans Food Market in Webster has been sentenced to a year in prison for her theft from the supermarket of nearly \$580,000.

The former employee, Alicia Torres, admitted in federal court earlier this year to creating fraudulent pharmacy refunds and then pocketing the money. Her crimes extended over a nine-year period, until she was caught in February. She stole nearly \$570,000 through the fraud.

Between 2014 and February she processed about 350 credit card refund requests that she had fraudulently created through a pharmacy system used to fill prescriptions. She convinced the on-duty pharmacists to approve the transactions, then processed the refunds to her personal credit card.

- Torres had worked at the Wegmans as a pharmacy technician since 2008.

- She also fraudulently used Wegmans gift cards for nearly another \$11,000 in theft.

- Torres must pay about \$580,000 in restitution to Wegmans.

Torres' attorney said in court papers



A former employee of the Webster Wegmans admitted in federal court earlier this year to creating fraudulent pharmacy refunds and then pocketing the money. TINA MACINTYRE-YEE/ROCHESTER DEMOCRAT AND CHRONICLE

that she was in dire need of money because of a young son who faced serious health issues.

"Alicia told both Wegmans and the FBI that she began stealing funds from the pharmacy after her son was born to help pay for his medical bills and living expenses," say the court papers from her attorney. "She filed bankruptcy in 2014 with the hope that would solve her financial instability. It did not."

Fitness chain closing its pools at four gyms in Rochester area

Marcia Greenwood
Rochester Democrat and Chronicle
USA TODAY NETWORK

All four Esporta Fitness facilities in Monroe County are permanently closing their pools and spas on Nov. 30.

Signs that just went up at the locations — 1600 East Ridge Road, Irondequoit; 100 Marketplace Drive, Henrietta; 929 Holt Road, Webster; and 1867 West Ridge Road, Greece — cite low use and operating costs as the reasons.

An Irondequoit Esporta operations manager who confirmed the news said saunas will remain open.

Esporta is considering offering third parties (such as schools) use of the pools, she said, but those plans are still being formulated.

Fees charged to Esporta members will not change after the pools and spas close, she said.

Two options are listed online: \$39.99 a month with an annual fee of \$54 but no initiation fee or \$29.99 a month with an annual fee of \$54 and an initiation fee of \$99.

The four area Esporta locations originally were branded LA Fitness, but starting in early 2020, Fitness International began rebranding them as Esporta to compete with high-volume, lower-priced gyms such as Planet Fitness.

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Cortland seeks ways to fight homelessness

Population has grown to 30 to 40, mayor says

Lily Byrne
Cortland Standard

Jordan Price finished his lunch — ravioli in sauce, a slice of white bread — and considered his options.

The temperature outside was in the mid-30s, and the night would drop to near freezing. The forecast called for mixed precipitation and winds gusting to 30 mph. That's a bit much for the thin walls of the tent he normally calls home.

He considered, and considered some more. His options are as thin as the walls of his tent.

"I'll be right here," he said. "Here" was the Salvation Army, which offered a hot lunch by day.

By night it's a Cortland County warming shelter, where people without housing can grab a warm bed in a dry place when the temperature is below freezing.

Winter's coming. The nights are getting cold. His tent won't be much good. He'll be looking. "Mostly, some place warm to be," Price said. "It doesn't matter where, really. It could be the library."

Or maybe Grace and Holy Spirit Episcopal Church on Court Street, which has a daytime warming shelter. Or the Salvation Army. "Mostly I'm in a tent in the woods."

Warming centers

The number of people experiencing homelessness in the city of Cortland has grown from about 12 to 15 seven years ago, to 30 to 40 now, said Mayor Scott Steve.

As the weather gets colder, some people experiencing homelessness in Cortland turn to the only local resource that gives them a place to stay — the two warming centers.

These warming centers, at 13 Court St. and 138 Main St., provide a warm place to sleep on a clean bed, a shower and laundry services, counseling referrals and a hot meal.

During the first three days of the warming center's opening this year, 35 people came in, said Salvation Army Maj. Corinne Hayes.

"That's the largest start we've ever seen, which is not surprising because of the homelessness problem and how it's grown," Hayes said.

"It is a good option for homeless people to have the ability to interact with



Salvation Army Maj. Corinne Hayes sits at the end of a row of beds at the Salvation Army's warming center on Main Street in Cortland. As the nights grow colder, the options for people without homes to stay warm and dry run thin.

TODD R. MCADAM/CORTLAND STANDARD

others," Steve said. "During these interactions, other agencies will be able to assist as their needs change."

"Typically, the reception is pretty good," said Hilary Dwyer, chair of the Salvation Army advisory board. "Most of them are extremely appreciative and behave themselves. They are very grateful for a place to sleep; they come and stay consecutively for long periods of time, which is good."

A needed resource

Last year, warming centers saw 2,035 visits during daytime, and 1,673 during the night, Hayes said. "It's needed," Hayes said. "It's a huge program."

The centers run until the spring, whenever the temperature rises, Dwyer said. The Cortland County Department of Social Services opened a temporary warming center from Oct. 30 to Nov. 3, because the temperatures dropped below freezing earlier than expected.

"With nowhere to stay except the streets, people experiencing homelessness have a much higher risk than the general population of developing exposure-related conditions such as hypothermia and frostbite," the National Coalition for the Homeless says. "Increased homeless services, especially additional shelter availability, are necessary to accommodate the amplified need in the winter."

The only issue, Dwyer said, is that clients sometimes break the rules, which include no drug use, respecting employees and following quiet hours. Those caught using drugs in warming centers get permanently banned.

"What's sad is I don't know if there's much else out there, as far as resources," Dwyer said. "I don't know what the solution is, either."

Factors

Price largely blames himself for the four years he's spent wandering from tent to warming shelter. "Most of that is my own doing," he said. "Most of that was me getting high and running the streets."

But whatever the cause, he's without a home right now. The causes vary, Hayes said. Some people, like Price, deal with drug addiction. Others, experts say, have mental health problems, or chronic difficulty keeping a job.

Earning a living wage — and enough to pay rent — is virtually impossible for any single parent with more than one child, data show. If one doesn't have a well-developed safety net, the options grow thin. Housing prices are going up, too, and the supply of housing affordable to people in Price's situation is dwindling.

"Something's got to be done, because rents aren't going to come down," Hayes said. "It's not sustainable."

The root issue

The two warming centers give people a safe, warm place to stay. Other resources are also available. Loaves & Fishes, at 13 Court St., offers free hot meals six days a week, and other food programs, like the Salvation Army, provide food.

However, the city of Cortland does not have enough low-income housing, said Tim Lockwood, executive director of Catholic Charities of Cortland.

"Housing is probably the No. 1 issue," Lockwood said. "If we can't find a place for them to stay, nothing else is really going to stick. They have to have a place to stay first, and then we can work on the other things they might need, such as with connections to services, resources, employment, income, or life skill development; but it all starts with housing, which is going to be the biggest challenge."

Recently, a grant for \$5 million over five years was awarded to Cortland County for emergency housing, Steve

said. Catholic Charities doesn't yet have a specific plan to spend the money, but a five-person team has been assigned the task, Lockwood said.

"There's been a lot of conversation about what to do about the homeless population, and the reality is something's got to give, because people can't afford these rents," Hayes said.

Hayes and her board are working with landlords to get unused properties into conditions suitable for families, she said.

"Homelessness is a housing problem," said Jen Graney, director of the Cortland Free Library, whose facility provides a safe place for people without housing to get out of the elements — at least when it's open. "Also, getting away from the model of thinking about the issue as individual failings, and connecting with people on a more human level. It would help some of the tensions and things. No one chooses homelessness."

Resources city needs

The city lacks other resources, particularly with its rural population, Hayes said.

"One of the biggest issues that falls through the cracks is transportation," she said. "Sometimes, there's issues getting people places; to resources, like food. That's getting worse over time."

While Graney is grateful for the warming centers, they are only open November to April. She said the city could benefit from something more permanent, like a homeless shelter. It could also use more resources to help people with substance abuse disorder.

"The weather definitely plays a huge part," Graney said. "Any extreme weather drives people inside, even if it's raining, or it's really hot and people need to get out of the sun."

On average, about half of people treated for hypothermia in New York are unhoused, a 2018 study published in the National Library of Medicine reports. Unhoused people taking psychiatric medication can have a greater chance of being exposed to hypothermia due to the medicine impairing thermoregulation.

Managing Editor Todd R. McAdam contributed to this report.

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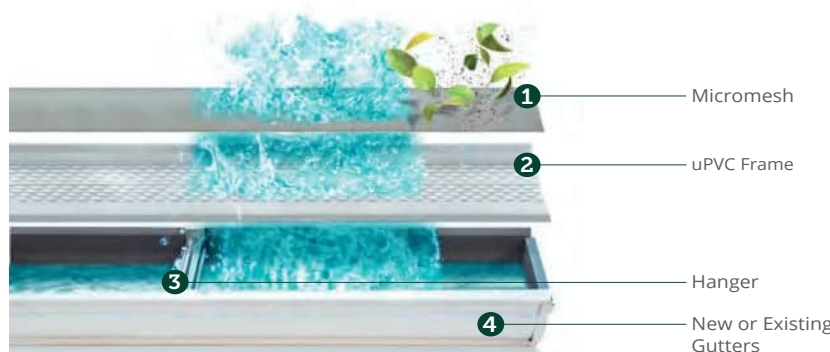
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Back in town for the holidays?

14 new, returning places for food, drink

Tracy Schuhmacher and Marcia Greenwood

Rochester Democrat and Chronicle
USA TODAY NETWORK

You're home for the holidays or soon will be. Welcome back, Rochester natives.

If you haven't been back to the area for awhile, you'll find a slew of new places to visit, as well as the return of some names that may be a soft spot in your heart.

Here are 14 options, in no particular order:

Unwine'd

260 E. Broad St., Rochester; (585) 413-1714; unwinedroc.com: Jim Muir and Paula Miceli were vacationing in the Cayman Islands in 2019 when they happened upon a wine bar that had a system that allowed guests to help themselves. The couple brought the concept to Rochester, opening the cozy wine bar Unwine'd in a modern, new five-story building that abuts South Clinton Avenue downtown. Its system offers 40 wines, available for purchase in 2-, 4- or 6-ounce increments. An adjacent retail shop sells the wines by the bottle as well as some local spirits. The food selection is limited — artichoke dip and build-your-own cheese and charcuterie boards. If you're hungry for dinner, Branca Midtown is right across the courtyard.

Umair Revolving Sushi

2833 Monroe Ave., Brighton; (585) 448-0051; umairoc.com: There are more than two dozen sushi restaurants in and around Rochester. But one that opened late last year in Brighton offers something different: sushi delivered to your table by conveyor belt. And not just sushi, but sashimi, tempura, teriyaki dishes and other Asian specialties. At Umair Revolving Sushi, owned by longtime friends Sean Zeng and Phil Nguyen, small plates of food covered with clear plastic lids rotate continuously on a lower track. People can grab whatever looks good to them and are charged by the plate. The upper track delivers made-to-order dishes directly from the kitchen to customers who place orders on iPads at every table. Said Zeng, "For me, I like to bring out the new concepts. And I think, for Rochester, we need a concept like this."

Public Provisions

45 Public Market, Rochester; (585) 504-4617; public-provisions.com. If you've ever paid a visit to the Rochester Public Market, you may have stood in line for the fantastic breads and croissants at Flour City Bread Company. Over the summer, Keith Myers, the owner of the bakery, along with chef Cassidy Broman, opened Public Provisions in the Rochester Public Market. It has a coffee shop vibe by day and is an intimate Spanish-inspired restaurant by night. (Get the calamari.) The bakery will eventually move into the Public Provisions space and there's talk of a rooftop patio next year.

Casa Campo

1586 E. Main St., Rochester; (585) 270-4448; Facebook. With Rochester's large Puerto Rican population, there are more and more destinations for great Puerto Rican food. A newcomer worth visiting is Casa Campo. At lunchtime, it's the destination for a steady stream of customers, who grab a quick lunch from its hot bar with many traditional Puerto Rican dishes: arroz con gandules, pernil, baked chicken, bacalao, boiled bananas, empanadillas and more. But you may also order from an a la carte menu of attractively plated dishes including a large selection of seafood. Its bar specializes in tropical drinks.

Black Button Distilling

1344 University Ave., Rochester; (585) 730-4512; blackbuttondistilling.com. In 2013, when Black Button Distilling became the first craft distillery to open in Monroe County since Prohibition, its entire footprint totaled 5,000 square feet. This year, it opened a new, 28,000-square-foot location, more than quadruple the size of its original space on Railroad Street. It serves its own spirits (do try its best-selling bourbon cream) as well as beers, ciders and wines from local producers. It also of-



Umair Revolving Sushi, 2833 Monroe Ave., Brighton, is the area's first conveyor-belt sushi restaurant. MARILI VACA/ROCHESTER DEMOCRAT AND CHRONICLE



Crispy Calamari with pickled peppers and smoked paprika at Public Provisions in the Rochester Public Market. SHAWN DOWD/ROCHESTER DEMOCRAT AND CHRONICLE

fers spirits blending and cocktail classics. Food service is limited to Sunday; food destinations within walking distance are Mullers Cider House, The Revelry and Tony D's.

Cotoletta

440 Elmridge Center Dr. in Penfield; (585) 563-6007; cotolettaroc.com. If you've lived in Rochester over the past 14 years or so, you've likely visited the uber popular Tony D's (speaking of which, it moved to a larger space this year and is as hopping as ever). This year, chef/owner Jay Speranza opened a new Italian-American concept in Greece. Called Cotoletta — the Italian word for "cutlet" — the menu highlights unwieldy sandwiches based on large chicken cutlets as well as thick square pizzas. There's also a full bar. The atmosphere is casual, loud and fun.

Halal N Out

740 East Ridge Road, Irondequoit; (407) 664-3851; halalnoutroc.com. Iconic New York City dishes are the highlight at the fast-casual Halal N Out, in the Ridge Hudson Plaza in Irondequoit. It is the fourth location for the New York City-based chain. Among its best sellers: chopped cheese, which originated in New York City delis, and a halal cart-style chicken over rice, drizzled with owner Naz Mayans' grandmother's tangy white sauce. The fare is served fast casual style, so you can add vegetables and toppings to your heart's content.

BJ's Restaurant and Brewhouse

760 Jefferson Road, Henrietta; (585) 537-1444; bjsrestaurants.com: A Huntington Beach, California-based chain, BJ's Restaurant and Brewhouse opened its first western New York restaurant in September in Henrietta in a new building where Romano's Macaroni Grill once stood. With 100-plus items ranging from prime rib to chicken wings, the menu takes a something-for-everyone approach. BJ's has its own line of craft beers on tap, hence Brewhouse being part of the name. The restaurant's signature dessert is the Pizooki, an oversized oven-baked cookie served warm and topped with ice cream.

Martine

647 South Ave., Rochester: From prolific local restaurateur Chuck Cerankosky, also founder and director of the Rochester Cocktail Revival, comes Martine. The bar opened in October in a two-level space formerly occupied by Solera Wine Bar & Lounge and speak-



Kimberly Moctezuma serves up pork shoulder on a bed of yellow rice during the lunch hour at Casa Campo on East Main Street in Rochester on Aug. 1.

SHAWN DOWD/ROCHESTER DEMOCRAT AND CHRONICLE



The Chicken NYC Halal Platter at the new Halal N Out. SHAWN DOWD/ROCHESTER DEMOCRAT AND CHRONICLE

easy-style cocktail spot Cheshire, but Martine has a distinctly different vibe from its predecessors. Inspired by everything from vintage advertisements to international travels, much of the dark wall color has been painted over green, and a mix of light wood, rattan and industrial accents have been added. What really makes Martine unusual, however, is its bar program, featuring mixed drinks served on tap. Also on the menu: a variety of snack foods and DJ music.

Rising Storm Brewing Company

1880 Blossom Road; (585) 310-7105; risingstormbrewing.com. Rising Storm Brewing Company opened on the site of the historic Daisy Flour Mill in Penfield.

The landmark restaurant in Ellison Park was a restaurant from the early 1980s until it closed in 2004, but had been shuttered in recent years. The Livingston County-based brewery transformed roughly 6,000 square feet into a new taproom with two floors of seating. The former ballroom was transformed into a state-of-the-art brewhouse. Most days you'll find pan pizzas, hearty sandwiches and casual fare; be sure to get a sweet-and-salty OG cookie.

Dice Versa

280 E. Broad St. (Tower280), Rochester; diceversagames.com: Dice Versa, a new board game lounge, opens at noon Saturday, Nov. 18, on the ground floor of downtown's Tower280 in the former Original Grain spot. The café is stocked with hundreds of board games, from classics like Monopoly to such newer titles as Junk Art. For a \$10 fee, guests can play as many as want. (There is a three-hour playing limit on Fridays and Saturdays.) Dice Versa also has a food menu of appetizers and small and sharable plates, and its full bar serves cocktails and canned, bottled and non-alcoholic drinks. Unlike games played on screens, with board games, "You get to talk while you're playing," said owner Riley Dethier, an Irondequoit native and Rochester resident. "You get to have friendly banter and be with your friends. Like, me personally, I could spend hours playing board games with friends."

See FOOD AND DRINK, Page 9A

Public Notice

RG&E has filed tariff revisions October 27, 2023 with the New York State Public Service Commission (PSC) for new electricity and natural gas delivery rates to become effective November 1, 2023. These tariff revisions cover the first annual delivery rate increase under the terms of a three-year rate plan approved by the PSC in October 2023 and they include a \$51.0 million increase in electricity revenue and a \$18.2 million increase in natural gas revenue. These tariff revisions also recover revenue shortfalls for each Company for the period May 1, 2023 to November 1, 2023.

A residential electricity customer with an average use of 600 kilowatt-hours/month can expect an average monthly bill increase of \$6.47. A residential natural gas heating customer using 100 therms/month can expect an average monthly bill increase of \$5.29.

Customers may see some charges prorated on your November or December bill to take into account energy delivered before and after the new electricity and natural gas delivery rates went into effect.

RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMERS

Regular Residential Customers: The electricity energy charge for delivery increased by 1.083 cents per kilowatt-hour. Increases to the natural gas block rates are: 4 to 100 therms: 3.333 cents per therm; 101 to 500: 3.739 cents; 501 to 1,000: 3.483 cents; 1,001 to 30,000: 2.047 cents. The electric customer charge will increase by \$1.00, and the natural gas customer charge will increase by \$2.00.

Residential Time-of-Use Customers: The electricity energy charge for delivery for Service Classification 4 (Schedule I) increased by 0.650 cents per kilowatt-hour and Service Classification 4 (Schedule II) increased by 0.781 cents per kilowatt-hour. The Service Class 4 (Schedule I) customer charge will increase by \$0.90, and the Service Class 4 (Schedule II) customer charge will increase by \$1.30.

Additional information about changes in residential electricity and natural gas delivery charges is available at rge.com (click on the Account tab and select "Pricing" in the "Understand Your Bill" column).

NONRESIDENTIAL CUSTOMERS

Information about changes in nonresidential electricity customer charges, electricity demand and energy charges (where applicable), natural gas minimum charges and natural gas therm charges is available at rge.com.

Changes are also in effect for standby, street lighting and economic development rates. Please check page 2 of your bill for messages and rge.com for detailed information.

Regarding energy supply: If you purchase energy supply from RG&E, your price will continue to be based on market prices; if you purchase your energy supply from a supplier other than RG&E (also known as an energy services company or ESCO), your energy supply price depends on your agreement with your ESCO.