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HOME & GARDEN, 5B

WEEKEND
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Dispensaries could be able to open on Sundays



Josh Canfield, owner of Union Chill, is in favor of the Corning City Council allowing the city cannabis dispensaries to be open on Sunday. PHOTOS BY JEFF SMITH/CORNING LEADER

Corning weighs allowing cannabis sales 7 day a week

Jeff Smith
Corning Leader | USA TODAY NETWORK

Should Corning's cannabis businesses be allowed to operate on Sundays?

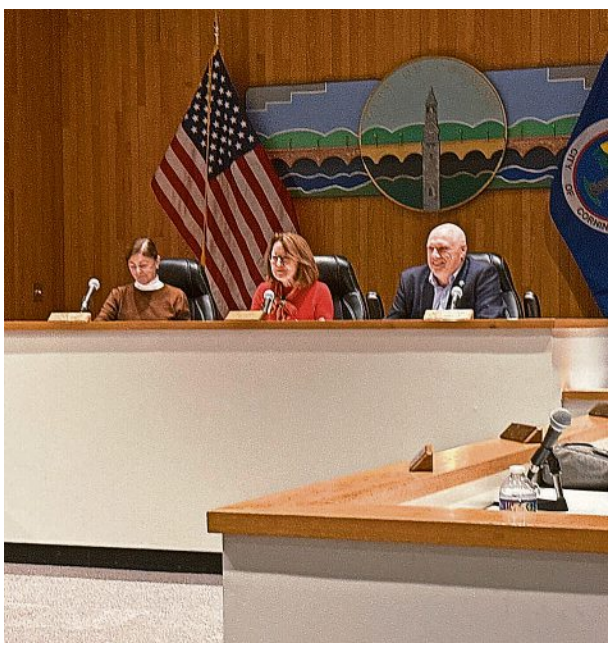
The Corning City Council plans to vote Dec. 7 on whether to allow Union Chill Cannabis Dispensary, on Pulteney Street, and Culture Canna Co., on Market Street, to be open a full seven days a week.

The council voted 4-3 to opt-in on New York state's new cannabis laws in December 2021, allowing cannabis dispensaries in the city to be open Monday through Saturday.

Corning City Mayor Pam Walker said the City Council will hold a public hearing on allowing the two legal cannabis dispensaries in the city to now be open on Sunday and then vote on the extension.

"The cannabis dispensaries being open has turned into not a big deal," Walker said. "I think when they first opened up some feared they would attract a lot of traffic and maybe some disruptive behavior. That has not happened, they have been quiet and professional. There is no reason for them not to have the same conditions as every other business."

See DISPENSARIES, Page 2A



The Corning City Council plans to vote Dec. 7 on whether to allow Union Chill Cannabis Dispensary and Culture Canna Co. to be open a full seven days a week.

Ithaca startup's new technology could bring jobs to the Southern Tier

Chris Potter
Elmira Star-Gazette | USA TODAY NETWORK

A new Ithaca company with partners in Elmira, Binghamton and Jamestown is making waves in the Finger Lakes and beyond.

Quantera Analytical recently introduced the Curio HS, an innovative product that promises to dramatically accelerate the pace of trace level testing in the wine, food and fragrance industries.

The core technology was developed at Cornell University and licensed exclusively to Quantera, which is partnering with manufacturers across the Southern Tier and New York state as it commercializes the product.

The company is also planning to take a big step forward in 2027 with the establishment of its own production facility in the Cortland or Groton area, one that will create additional manufacturing jobs.

Here's what to know about the effort.

What is Quantera's Curio product?

Quantera founder and CEO Terry Bates was working on his PhD in 2020 when California vineyards were decimated by wildfires. Grapes exposed to wildfire smoke often require testing for crop insurance claims or commercial contracts, but growers struggled to find enough labs to meet the sudden demand.

"Everybody was so overloaded due to all the bottlenecks in the process. No one could do the testing," Bates recalled. "I thought this is a horrible way to be doing this. A slight increase in sample number and no one can keep up. That signaled there's a problem. That's when I saw the work being done in Gavin Sacks' lab (at Cornell). I said, 'We're going to figure out a way to do this faster.'"

The Curio is Quantera's solution to the problem. The company licensed the Cornell patent portfolio covering the extraction geometry and workflow, and has filed its own patent applications on the Curio platform and cartridge design.

The Curio tests for trace levels of contaminants in items like grapes, apples or finished food products. It can read a sample in seconds. The Curio can also prepare dozens of samples at once, rather than testing the harvest-readiness of items like grapes one by one.

Bates likens the Curio to a machine that can pull needles from haystacks more efficiently, removing the bottleneck from a variety of industries.

"That is the step that is generally super expensive and constrained to really high tech labs," Bates said. "That creates a lack of accessibility for growers and producers to be able to do this testing. It's slow and expensive. We put the pulling the needles out of the haystack into the hands of people who are not trained chemists, so we can make the testing more accessible and cheaper."

See STARTUP, Page 2A



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