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BUSINESS

'A NICE CANVAS'



KEVIN RIVOLI, THE CITIZEN


Pat Scutari, chief operating officer at Washington St. Partners, is pictured in the soon-to-be Department of Motor Vehicles office at Dill St. Commons in Auburn June 24.

First tenant opens at redeveloped Citizen building

DAVID WILCOX
david.wilcox@lee.net

AUBURN — Dill St. Commons, the former Citizen building being redeveloped, recently saw its first tenant open — but far from its last.

The Finger Lakes Hearing Center will be joined later this year by the Cayuga County Department of Motor Vehicles, restaurants

 **VIEW:** For more photos and videos from Dill St. Commons, point your smartphone camera at the QR code and tap the link.

NEWSVU

Poundtown Burger Bar and Margarita's Mexican Cantina, insurance company Aversa Agency and

the local office of Aflac — and that will still leave over 4,000 square feet for additional tenants, said Pat Scutari, chief operating officer of new building owner Washington St. Partners.

Scutari told The Citizen that reconfiguring the former

Please see **FILL**, Page A2

EDUCATION

Filings: Wells spent \$8M while closed

ROBERT HARDING
robert.harding@lee.net

In the first year after it closed, Wells College spent nearly \$8.5 million and reported a net loss of over \$5 million, according to its latest tax filing.

Wells College's Form 990, which covers July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025, shows the institution reported revenue totaling \$3,142,887 and \$8,496,336 in expenses. The college had a net loss of \$5,353,449 in its 2024-25 fiscal year.

As expected, Wells' revenue and expenses decreased in the first academic year since its closure. Before it closed, the college's revenues were more than \$30 million and expenses were nearly \$38 million in 2023-24.

Although Wells is not bringing in money like it once did, it still has some significant expenses.

The tax filing shows Wells College President Susan Henking received \$267,928 in total compensation. Henking was named president in July 2024 after the college parted ways with Jonathan Gibraltar, who served as president for nine years.

Despite not serving as president during the 2024-25 academic year, Gibraltar was still paid by Wells. He received \$220,589 in total compensation, according to the 990, making him the college's second-highest paid employee during that period.

Other executives who were listed on the tax document include Robert Cree, vice president and chief financial officer, who was paid \$210,224 in 2024-25. Pamela Sheridan, the former vice president for advancement, was paid \$90,423.

Aside from the executive pay, the college reported other salaries and wages totaling \$1,681,368.

Please see **FILING**, Page A2

GOVERNMENT

Skaneateles residents pan 76% tax hike


KATY MCCUMBER
katy.mccumber@lee.net

SKANEATELES — The Skaneateles Village Board saw a packed house at its Thursday meeting after passing a 76% tax increase that many residents find shocking and unjust.

Mayor Mary Sennett acknowledged the turnout when beginning the meeting.

"Normally nobody shows up for these meetings, but we know why you're here," she said. "We'll stay as long as we need to to hear everyone out."

They did just that, with the board of five and village officials staying an hour and a half past the meeting's ending time of 8 p.m. to address several aspects of the \$6,239,296 2026-27 budget that contains the tax increase. It will see the average

 **VIEW:** For videos from the meeting, point your smartphone camera at the QR code and tap the link.

NEWSVU

village household pay \$1,000 more in taxes, and some of the wealthiest residents of the lakeside community pay \$10,000 more, beginning July 1.

"We can do it, but there's people here that can't," resident Frank Mosey told the board during the meeting's public comment portion. "We're already accused of being an elite community."

Skaneateles is one of the richest areas in Central New York, with a median income that's 60% higher than the average in Onondaga County, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

Please see **TAX**, Page A2



KATY MCCUMBER, THE CITIZEN

Skaneateles Mayor Mary Sennett and the village's board of trustees greet a full house of residents for a board meeting on June 25 to address a passed budget that will increase taxes by 76%.

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Opinion A4
Lake Life A5
Obituaries A6

Weather A10
Sports B1
Restaurant inspections B8

