

Hudson River Community Credit Union to open new branch in Greenwich

GREENWICH – Hudson River Community Credit Union (HRCCU) recently held a groundbreaking ceremony celebrating the upcoming construction of a new full-service branch in Greenwich, NY. According to the company, the branch is expected to be completed in early 2026 and will expand HRCCU's reach in Washington County, offering a variety of financial services to local residents and businesses.

The new Greenwich location will provide a full range of banking services, including auto and personal loans, checking and savings accounts, mortgage and home equity lending, and "Live Teller" machines.

"Our mission is to improve the well-being of our members and the communities we serve," said HRCCU Board President Charles Pasquarell. "Expanding into Green-

wich allows us to better support individuals and families in this growing region by offering financial products and services that are designed with their needs in mind."

HRCCU is considered a not-for-profit financial cooperative, meaning it differs from traditional banks in that its members are part-owners and share in the success of the organization. Members also have access to lower loan rates, higher savings returns, and fewer fees. Decisions are made locally by people who understand and support the community, HRCCU explained.

"This new branch is more than bricks and mortar. It's a symbol of our commitment to being a true partner in the Greenwich community and surrounding areas. We



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An official groundbreaking ceremony took place Friday, July 11.



WARREN COUNTY RECERTIFIES AS 'CLIMATE SMART COMMUNITY'

WARREN COUNTY – Warren County was one of six state communities recently recognized for its efforts to address climate change by becoming re-certified as part of New York State's Climate Smart Communities (CSC) Certification program.

"I applaud the commitment and accomplishments of the newest six certified Climate Smart Communities as they work to inspire others across the state to take action to mitigate and adapt to climate change at the local level," said NYS DEC Commissioner Amanda Lefton. "New York's more than 160 certified Climate Smart Communities are essential partners in reducing greenhouse gas emissions, improving air quality, and helping

boost resilience as our state faces more and more extreme weather and the costly climate impacts amidst proposals to slash environmental protections at the federal level."

Communities certified as part of the state's Climate Smart program accumulate points for planning and implementing actions that help to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve community preparedness. According to the DEC, the first step to becoming a certified Climate Smart Community is to register by pledging to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to climate change. Depending on the number and types of steps taken, communities earn bronze, silver, or gold status under the CSC program. Warren County successfully met the criteria

for bronze, joining approximately 150 other certified bronze communities.

Participation in the program can also open the municipality up to grant opportunities. Additional details about the program and its criteria can be found on the Climate Smart Communities website: <https://climatesmart.ny.gov>.

The CSC program is led by the DEC with support from the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA), Department of Health (DOH), Department of State (DOS), Department of Transportation (DOT), Department of Public Service (DPS), Division of Homes and Community Renewal (HCR), and New York Power Authority (NYPA).

Solomon Northup sculpture unveiled

The traveling statue will be on view until Oct. 7

SARATOGA SPRINGS – A bronze sculpture depicting Solomon Northup, the former Saratoga Springs resident, author of the best-selling memoir "Twelve Years A Slave," and subject of the 2013 Academy Award-winning film, was unveiled July 10 during a ceremony at Saratoga Spa State Park. The 13-foot-tall "Hope Out of Darkness" traveling statue will be on view in front of the Lincoln Bathhouse until October 7, 2025, the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) announced.

In the press release announcing the unveiling, OPRHP Commissioner Pro Tempore Randy Simons said, "New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation is honored to host a sculpture celebrating Solomon Northup and his incredible story. Northup's courage during his enslavement, his captivating written work, and his fight to hold his enslavers accountable make him one of Saratoga Springs' most treasured residents. It is therefore fitting to display a statue of Northup at Saratoga Spa State Park so current generations can better honor and understand his legacy."

When Northup was born in Minerva, NY, in 1808, he was a free American. He later lived in Saratoga Springs with his wife and children for about seven years before he was tricked into joining a traveling circus. While with the circus, Northup was kidnapped in Washington, D.C. in April 1841 and sold into slavery. In 1852, while enslaved in Louisiana, Northup met Canadian carpenter and abolitionist Samuel Bass, who helped get word to Northup's family and friends in the North about his condition and status. Those communications helped spread the news, and eventually got New York Gov. Washington Hunt involved, helping Northup to be emancipated and reunited with his family in upstate New York in January 1853. Northup's ordeal became national news and his best-selling memoir "Twelve Years A Slave" was published in July 1853.

With the publishing of his memoir, Northup put a spotlight on the illegal domestic slave trade in the U.S.; he later joined the abolitionist movement. Historians believe Northup died in 1863 or 1864.

"The life of Solomon Northup offers a powerful lens into an often-omitted chapter of New York's history," said OPRHP Interpreter of African American History Lavada Nahon. "His story underscores how the legacy of enslavement in the Empire State did not end

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