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## **YOU CAN'T SAY THERE'S NOTHING TO DO**

*A column by Mayor Harry Tutunjian*

Summer has finally decided to visit the Capital Region, take off its winter coat and stay for a while. That means it is time for barbeques, swimming, and outdoors events. In Troy, we are taking full advantage of this respite from winter with many opportunities to get out and "Enjoy Troy".

This weekend's events are another excellent opportunity to visit downtown and support our local businesses and independent entrepreneurs. Every year on June 14<sup>th</sup> our country celebrates Flag Day commemorating the adoption by the Second Continental Congress of the nation's flag. As such, we have a host of specially scheduled and regularly hosted events for you to enjoy.

Starting with Saturday, we have our regularly scheduled Market Saturdays. In partnership with the Troy Downtown Collaborative, local farmers and growers will feature their goods from 9am-1pm at the Troy Waterfront Farmer's Market in Riverfront Park.

I also urge you to make your way on over to the Tight Knit Handmade Market in Monument Square across from City Hall. From 10am to 2pm, you can browse the unique handmade crafts created by artists and crafters from Troy and the Greater Capital Region. As you make your way from one location to the other, be sure to stop into any one of our many antique shops, galleries, retail stores, and restaurants.

As those events begin to wind down, we have another exciting event gearing up. Join me as we continue our weekend celebration with the Old Glory on Broadway Block Party. Organized by local pub Holmes & Watson, this family friendly event takes place on Broadway between Fourth Street and Fifth Ave from 1pm-7pm. There will be music, vendors, food, kids activities and more. You'll even have a chance to meet members of Troy's own all-female roller derby team, the Hellions of Troy.

On Sunday, Troy continues a tradition that is unmatched anywhere in the country and is the most anticipated event of the weekend. The Troy Flag Day Parade is in its 42<sup>nd</sup> continuous year and is widely regarded as the largest parade in the nation in honor of the American flag. Beginning in South Troy at the intersection of 4<sup>th</sup> and Main Streets, the parade kicks off at 1pm and ends at Federal Street.

Finally, I would ask that you find a place to display an American flag for at the least the week after Flag Day, if not longer. If it weren't for the freedoms symbolized by our colors and upheld by the men and women of our armed forces, we might not be able to have a Flag Day weekend otherwise.

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