



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
Hon. Harry J. Tutunjian
mayorsoffice@troyny.gov

518.270.4401
fax 518.270.4609
www.troyny.gov

MAYOR'S COLUMN

Election Day has come and gone. I would like to congratulate and welcome to the Troy City Council the new members and wish all the best to the departing members. A good campaign was waged by all and the voters made their decision. After the ballots are cast and counted, we can return our full focus on governing.

First, is the pending City Hall move to the Verizon building. Every journey begins with a first step, and this step has had its share of opposition and delay. The elevator has been installed and the building is being reviewed to make sure it is code compliant before we move in. We had hoped to be in sooner and were faced with situations beyond our control; situations you face when you are a tenant, not the owner.

We lived up to our contractual obligations and are confident that we will be reimbursed for our lost time and rent. I believe that in the end it will have been worth it.

With that move comes the ability to redevelop the current City Hall property into a residential and commercial property that promises to inject new life and lights into our current downtown. An internationally recognized firm, Sasaki Associates, has been hired to fine tune our vision for one of the most important economic redevelopment sites in our City and we are excited to see what plans are made.

Continuing the theme of development is the work currently being performed on the Lower Congress-Ferry Street project. This is a major project that has been brought from the drawing board to planning board and into construction with guidance and expertise of City staff.

Intersections and streets are being realigned and traffic signals are being updated to update this area with a more intelligent traffic pattern. Motorists will now be able to drive down Sixth Ave and continue on to Ferry Street as contractors begin the task of installing and updating utilities. Planning for the construction of new retail and residential buildings continues and will include the preservation of the original site of Uncle Sam's home.

Furthermore, we began construction of the fishing pier at Madison Street; that project is nearing completion. To enhance this area, we are planning a launch site for canoes and kayaks to complement the amenities of the expanded fishing pier. Next door at the site of the old Scolite and Rensselaer Iron Works buildings, the City has entered into an agreement with the Beacon Institute to construct a state-of-the-art research and educational facility. This new facility will allow international scholars to collaborate with local institutions, including RPI, in examining the Hudson River as it recovers from years of neglect to become a cleaner and more accessible waterway.

Finally, there's an old adage that says "the more things change, the more they stay the same" but nothing indicates that must always be the case. I am always willing to work with the Council Democrats on any number of issues. Very rare was the phone call or email I received to schedule such a meeting. Instead, what we got was obstruction and partisan sniping through the press.

I realize the Council position is a part-time job that demands a lot of time after work. However, this is the responsibility they chose. My hope is that I will receive more communication from them now than I have in the past. We can govern together by working together, instead of legislating through the media with partisan sound-bites as has been the case for the past two years.

The choice is theirs and their decision remains to be seen.

###