



African American History Month:

Members of LBC share personal stories of family migrations to Albany County



Legislative Black Caucus Chairman William Clay speaks during the African American History Month Celebration on Feb. 21 in the Cahill Room.

Members of the Legislative Black Caucus shared personal stories of their family’s migrating to Albany County during an event held Feb. 21 to celebrate African American History Month.

This year’s theme for African American History Month focuses on Black Migrations, which follows the continuous movement of African Americans during the 20th Century from farms to cities, and from the south to the north and west, as well as the impacts those movements had on the area.

Deputy Chairwoman Wanda Willingham shared her first-hand experience of growing up in the south and her encounter with the “line for whites” and the “line for blacks.”

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Legislature approves relocating Board of Elections to former DMV site

The Albany County Legislature on Monday, Feb. 11, voted 28-10 in support of relocating the Board of Elections to the former Department of Motor Vehicles site at 260 South Pearl St., Albany.

“Moving the Board of Elections facility is an opportunity for Albany County to provide residents access to a necessary resource in a centralized location while saving taxpayer money and creating a potential driver for



District 5 Legislator Christopher Higgins speaks in favor of the BOE move during the Legislature meeting on Feb. 11 in the Legislative Chambers.

economic development in the neighborhood,” Chairman Andrew Joyce said.

The Board of Elections is currently located at 32 N. Russell Road in a building that costs the County approximately \$375,334 in rent, utilities and other costs. The move to the county-owned building on South Pearl Street is estimated to provide a savings of \$100,000 in 2019 and 2 to 3 times that in 2020 and beyond.

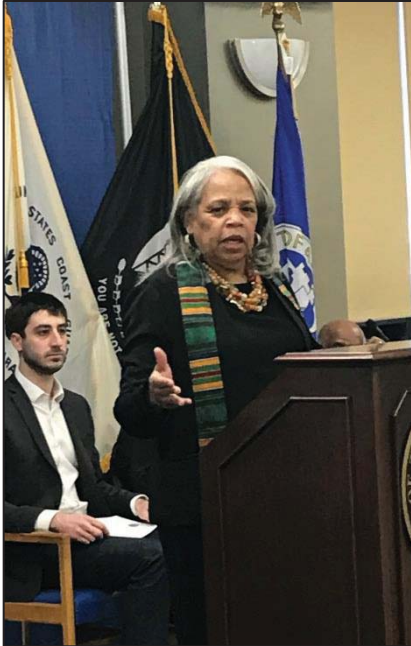
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Members of the LBC drop off donated food to food bank

Members of the Legislative Black Caucus delivered two full boxes of donated food to the Regional Food Bank of Northeastern New York on Feb. 14 and toured the facility, which serves 2,000 agencies throughout the state. The food was donated through the Martin Luther King Jr. Food Drive held through January and into February. ABOVE: Legislators contribute to the food bank during the monthly meeting on Feb. 11. RIGHT: Mark Quandt, executive director of the Regional Food Bank, speaks with LBC Chairman William Clay and Deputy Chairwoman Wanda Willingham. BOTTOM LEFT: LBC members walk through the warehouse. BOTTOM RIGHT: LBC Chairman William Clay and Legislator Samuel Fein listen to Mark Quandt.





Deputy Chairwoman Wanda Willingham speaks about growing up in the South.



Pastor McKinley Johnson speaks about African American families migrating to Albany County.

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LBC Chairman William Clay shared his experience of riding in the back of a segregated city bus in Arkansas.

Pastor McKinley Johnson talked about assisting families who migrated from the south into the north, specifically those who moved to Albany County.

The event also highlighted the African American Cultural Center of the Capital Region, which displayed artwork from local artists, and Allie B's Cozy Kitchen, a local minority-owned business, who provided lunch.



LBC Member Samuel Fein speaks on the history of black migrations in the US.



LBC Member Norma Chapman shares her family story.



Travon Jackson, executive director of the African American Cultural Center, speaks about the center.

BOE continued from page 1

According to a preliminary space analysis by engineering firm, CT Male Associates, the former DMV site is slightly smaller than the current site on Russell Road but provides more than enough space for the BOE to conduct its operations. The location is also equipped with a sprinkler system and a handicap accessible toilet, which the current BOE site does not.

“Based upon a program analysis of each space, while there is a modest difference in the overall footprint between the two facilities, it is our opinion the DMV building, with some minor alterations, will readily accommodate the BOE program, and in some respects improve conditions which they currently face in their present facility,” CT Male states.

Many legislators in support of the resolution cited the benefits the Board of Election move would have on the community.

“We welcome the County Board of Elections in my district,” District 1 Legislator Lucille McKnight said. “People are excited about the fact that they are going to have someplace in close proximity where they can go and register to vote. I think what we are doing is a very smart thing.”

Legislative Black Caucus Chairman William Clay stated “The Legislative Black Caucus supports the move 100 percent and I support this even though my district is on the other side of town. It just makes economic sense.”



District 14 Legislator Alison McLean Lane speaks in support of moving the Board of Elections to South Pearl Street during the Legislature meeting on Feb. 11.

“This makes a lot of sense because it’s right in downtown Albany,” District 6 Legislator Samuel Fein said. “This is a real opportunity to increase accessibility. This is a real opportunity to increase voter turnout which is beneficial to everyone and ultimately good for democracy.”

Albany County Legislators

District 1 – Lucille M. McKnight	District 21 – Brian Hogan
District 2 – Merton D. Simpson	District 22 – Peter B. Tunny
District 3 – Wanda F. Willingham	District 23 – Paul J. Burgdorf
District 4 – Norma J. Chapman	District 24 – Peter R. Crouse
District 5 – Christopher T. Higgins	District 25 – Joseph E. O’Brien
District 6 – Samuel L. Fein	District 26 – Patrice Lockart
District 7 – Douglas A. Bullock	District 27 – Frank A. Mauriello
District 8 – Lynne Lekakis	District 28 – Dennis A. Feeney
District 9 – Andrew Joyce	District 29 – Mark E. Grimm
District 10 – Gary W. Domalewicz	District 30 – Charles E. Cahill
District 11 – Frank J. Comisso	District 31 – Travis Stevens
District 12 – William M. Clay	District 32 – Paul Miller
District 13 – Raymond F. Joyce	District 33 – William Reinhardt
District 14 – Alison McLean Lane	District 34 – Joanne Cunningham
District 15 – Robert J. Beston	District 35 – Charles S. Dawson, Jr.
District 16 – Sean E. Ward	District 36 – Richard M. Mendick
District 17 – John E. Frainier	District 37 – Richard N. Touchette
District 18 – Gilbert F. Ethier	District 38 – Victoria Plotsky
District 19 – Todd A. Drake	District 39 – Christopher H. Smith
District 20 – David B. Mayo	

Save the date!

Albany County Legislature
to celebrate

Women’s History Month

March 22

Details will be announced
soon!!

Did you know?

HEAP available for heat-related emergencies

Albany County Department of Social Services offers the Home Energy Assistance Program to help residents with heat-related emergencies, such as lack of fuel, a utility shut-off or inoperable/unsafe heating equipment.

For more information about eligibility and to file an application, log on to mybenefits.ny.gov/mybenefits.

To apply in person for HEAP benefits in Albany County, visit:

- CHOICES, Route 9, W. Plaza, Ravena. 518-756-8650.
- Cornell Cooperative Extension, 230 Green St., 3rd Floor, Albany. 518-765-3500.
- Cohoes Multi-Service Senior Center, 10 Cayuga Plaza, Cohoes (only Tuesdays from 1 to 3:30 p.m.)

The Albany County Department of Social Services phone number for HEAP is 518-447-7323 or email energy@albanycountyny.gov.

Veterans Miracle Center

Albany County Veterans Service Bureau (ACVSB) partnered with the "Veterans Miracle Center" as an authorizing agency to screen veterans and issue a voucher and "needs" list and offer that veteran the opportunity to schedule an appointment to visit the VMC.

As an authorized representative, the ACVSB will verify the veteran status by witnessing the DD214 of the veteran.

Vouchers are not transferrable to non-veterans. Albany County Veterans Service Bureau will not guarantee any of the items on the Veteran's Needs List. The ACVSB takes no responsibility for scheduling veterans for their visit to the VMC. The Veteran's Needs List must be completed and returned to the Veterans Miracle Center before an appointment will be scheduled. Listing of items and acceptance of needs list does not guarantee the items will be available.

Crime Victim and Sexual Violence Center Services

Crime Victim and Sexual Violence Center provides crisis counseling to rape victims over a 24-hour hotline and provides advocacy and support for victims in area emergency departments and police stations.

The center also provides community education on a variety of topics including personal safety, healthy relationships, communication skills, stalking, sexual assault/consent, domestic violence, bullying and bystander intervention.

24-Hour Sexual Assault Hotline
518-447-7716

Need a Ride? Transportation Available for Seniors

Albany County Department for Aging's transportation provider /coordinator is CDTA Access.

Seniors in most areas of the county who have no other means of transportation and need a ride to vital services (Dialysis, Medical appointments, Adult Day Services, Congregate sites (when available) or a weekly grocery shopping trip (when available) can call 437-5161.

Transportation is limited and prioritized. Call at least 24 hours in advance of the appointment. Contribution for rides are accepted but not required.

Seniors in the towns of Colonie, Guilderland and Bethlehem should access their town transportation by calling:

- Town of Colonie, 518-459-6064
- Guilderland, 518-356-1980 x1048
- Bethlehem, 518-439-5770 or 439-4955 x4.

For more information about programs and services in Albany County, visit www.albanycounty.com.