



THE ITHACA YOUTH BUREAU

HAPPENINGS NEWSLETTER

Spring 2024

Upcoming Dates

- Summer Program Registration is now open!
- April 19 - City of Ithaca Job Fair at IYB
- April 20 - Healthy Kids Day at the YMCA
- May 3 - Ithaca Bike Rental opens
- May 10 - Friday Night Roller Skating begins
- May 23 - YES Summer Jobs Program application closes
- May 23 - Friends of IYB Meet the Director Event
- June 18 - Playdate in the Park with Child Development Council at Stewart Park



We're Hiring!

We are hiring a wide variety of positions for our summer programs. If you or someone you know is looking for a fun opportunity, we hope you can help us find caring, friendly, compassionate people to join our dynamic team.

[Summer Jobs Flyer](#)

From the Director's Desk

It's hard to believe that it's already been 4 months since starting as the Youth Bureau Director. I feel so fortunate to be part of such an incredible team of staff and volunteers that are so invested in creating safe, supportive opportunities for our local youth. As I started this new adventure, retired Director, Liz Klohmann, graciously provided me with her guidance and support as we navigated the transition in leadership. I want to thank Liz for her years of service to our City. She has made a lasting contribution to this community institution, and we all wish her the best in her well-earned retirement!

As we look to the future, there are a number of opportunities to grow and evolve our programs and services. Part of that process has been to reflect on where we've been and where we're currently at. I've met with all of our full-time staff, some of our long-time seasonal staff, volunteers, and partner organizations and have received an incredible amount of feedback. Next, we will be gathering input from our local youth and families to identify their needs and begin exploring ways that the Youth Bureau can meet those needs through our programs and services. All of this feedback will be utilized to evaluate, update, and further develop our policies, procedures,



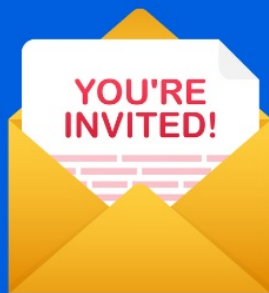
Congratulations, Rockett!
College Discovery Program staff member, Daquan Rockett, was recently honored as the City's Employee of the Quarter and was recognized by Mayor Cantelmo at the March Common Council meeting. Thank you, Rockett, for all you do for CDP and the Youth Bureau. We are proud to have you on our team!

programs, and facilities to better serve the Greater Ithaca community.

If you are interested in partnering with or supporting the work of the Youth Bureau, have thoughts or ideas about our current and future work, or are interested in learning more about us, please feel free to reach out to me at ghouck@cityofithaca.org.

In Service,

Gregg Houck, IYB Director



Meet the Ithaca Youth Bureau's
New Director,

Gregg Houck

Thursday, May 23

4:00-6:00 pm

Stewart Park Pavilion

Light Refreshments will be served.

Remarks planned for 5:00pm.

Contact friendsiyb@gmail.com

with any questions.

Please RSVP
by May 20

RSVP HERE

What we're celebrating this month...

April is Celebrate Diversity Month! At the Ithaca Youth Bureau, we model inclusive collaboration, recognition, and restorative practices with participants, families, volunteers, and employees, so that people from all identities and lived experiences feel valued, heard, included, and celebrated. Last year we incorporated a DEI vision statement and formed a task force that meets regularly to update DEI policies and procedures at the YB.

April is also National Volunteer Month. Volunteers are a vital and powerful part of all of our programs. Many Youth Bureau programs need volunteers to mentor, lead, coach, encourage, referee, share, plan, guide, tutor, and more. We want to thank all of our past and current volunteers for the impact they have had on our program participants!

[Learn More About Volunteering with IYB](#)



In Loving Memory

Our Youth Bureau community was saddened to learn of the recent passing of [Martha Schreurs-Bonjerno](#). Martha and her late husband, Jan, created a fund in memory of their son, Paul, who passed away in a tragic accident while attending Cornell University. The fund was intended to provide educational opportunities for youth who, without assistance, might be unable to pursue their education beyond high school. That fund evolved into the Paul Schreurs Memorial Program (PSMP) which provides academic, personal, emotional, and social support by promoting relationships and offering programs that inspire underrepresented youth in our community to be successful confident life-long learners.

We are so grateful to Martha. She turned tragedy into a legacy of love that has transformed many lives. We send our love and condolences to the entire Schreurs family. At the family's request, gifts in remembrance can be made to: Paul J Schreurs Memorial Fundc/o Friends of Ithaca Youth Bureau1 James Gibbs DriveIthaca, NY 14850
[View Martha's Obituary](#)

Advocating for Our Local Youth

In February, Big Brother Big Sister Program Coordinator Joe Gibson went to Washington, DC as part of the Big Brothers Big Sisters of America Advocacy Day. Joe was part of several congressional visits to advocate for bills related to mentoring, mental health, and workforce readiness. He also had a chance to visit with US Representative Marc Molinaro.



Cass Park Pool Renovations Update

Work is progressing on the Cass Park Pool Renovation project. With the arrival of warmer weather, our contractors are kicking into high gear with the goal of being open for the season by the end of June. Be sure to follow our website and social media accounts for more details as we get closer to opening day!



College Discovery Program cohorts have been busy this spring!

College Discovery Program (CDP) middle schoolers have had a variety of Peer Advocacy and Leadership activities with community partners like Ithaca College. CDP high schoolers are starting to hear back from colleges. We're proud to share that CDP students have been accepted at these schools: SUNY Buffalo, University of Rochester, Hartwick College, and others. Congratulations, seniors!



Teens: Apply for The Summer Jobs Program

Youth Employment Service is accepting applications for the [2024 Summer Jobs Program](#), which offers subsidized work and support to eligible teens in Tompkins County in July and August. Worksites include summer camps, farming and gardening venues, business offices, retail locations, and more.



Youth Council Ambassadors Advocate for Teen Mental Health

Last month, Youth Council Ambassadors presented an overview of their work on supporting mental health to Ithaca's Common Council. Ambassadors have also distributed their Mental Health booklet, which provides resources and how to support those experiencing a mental health crisis, to local schools and organizations.



[View YCA's Guidebook, "10 Ways To Support a Friend's Mental Health"](#)

Creating a Sense of Community and Belonging



The Paul Schreurs Memorial Program provides academic, personal, emotional, and social support to underrepresented youth in the community. PSMP after-school and Saturday programs have provided participants with enriching and engaging activities!

Whether they are doing homework, roller skating, bowling, cooking, or being creative together, unbreakable bonds are being created.

Are your kids ready for summer fun?

YB Rec staff have been busy prepping for amazing spring and summer programs for youth, such as Day Camp, Expressive Arts Camps and Classes, Tennis Lessons, Paddleboarding, and so much more!

See what great spring and summer programs are available in Community Pass.



[View the Program Catalog](#)

The City of Ithaca invites
you to visit our

SUMMER SEASONAL JOB FAIR!

Friday, April 19th from 11am to 2pm
at the Ithaca Youth Bureau:
1 James L Gibbs Dr., Ithaca, NY 14850



RSS Offers Fun and Friendship

Recreation Support Services provides recreation programs for children and adults with disabilities. As the weather turns nicer, participants have been enjoying arts and crafts, bingo and bowling, monthly dances, a new cooking program, and lots of time outdoors at D&K Ranch, local parks, and hiking areas.



Empowering Youth Through Adventure Programs

The goal of the Outings Program is to encourage teamwork, build self-confidence, and foster personal growth. Through Outings this year, youth have learned new skills like shelter and fire building, map and compass reading, and nature appreciation while exploring local natural areas.

Where is your favorite place to bike in Ithaca?

Ithaca Bike Rental staff have been preparing for the upcoming rental season by tuning bikes, ordering parts and new equipment, and conducting inventory. Mark your calendar: IBR opens on Friday, May 3!



FIYB: Friends of the Ithaca Youth Bureau

Friends OF THE Ithaca Youth Bureau

Your Support Helps Youth in the Greater Ithaca Community



(Pictured above: The Youth Bureau was able to purchase new furniture for the Atrium with part of the \$75,000 gift from FIYB in celebration of 75 years of service to the community. We'll be sharing more exciting program additions made possible by this gift in our next issue.) Friends of the IYB (FIYB) is an independent nonprofit that is dedicated to supporting the IYB in fulfilling its mission: to provide recreation and youth development programs

to promote the health, happiness, and well-being of all youth and families in the Greater Ithaca area. Your support of Friends of the Ithaca Youth Bureau helps to ensure that our community's children and youth have access to safe and healthy recreational and youth development opportunities. You can donate online at the [FIYB website](#).

February Anniversaries

- ✓ **Brandon Lynch-Jacobson**
Recreation Support Services
- ✓ **Brent Triolo**
Youth Employment Service
- ✓ **Joe Gibson**
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Ithaca and Tompkins County
- ✓ **Keith Wolf**
Maintenance
- ✓ **Rane Bullion**
Youth Employment Service
- ✓ **Suki Tabor**
Deputy Director



March Anniversaries

- ✓ **Anne Brenna**
Outings Program/Ithaca Bike Rental
- ✓ **David Menard**
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Ithaca and Tompkins County
- ✓ **Ever Stokes**
Youth Employment Service
- ✓ **Nathalie Bessou**
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Ithaca and Tompkins County
- ✓ **Thomas Personius**
Cass Park
- ✓ **Yolanda Marion**
Recreation Department



April Anniversaries

- ✓ **Alex Reynolds**
Outings Program/Ithaca Bike Rental
- ✓ **Caitlin Lawrence**
Youth Employment Service
- ✓ **Jody Hallett-Harris**
Front Office



The Ithaca Youth Bureau
strives to be a
welcoming & inclusive community
for youth and families who:

- come from all walks of life
- have a variety of ethnic & racial identities
- practice different faiths & religions
- live with a variety of disabilities & abilities
- have diverse gender experiences & sexual orientations
- come from a variety of family structures



Ithaca Youth Bureau | 1 James L. Gibbs Drive, Ithaca, NY 14850

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